

TENNIS EUROPE JUNIOR TOUR

2026 MAJOR RULE CHANGES

Note: changes are underlined.

1. WORLD TENNIS NUMBER (WTN) - TENNIS EUROPE JUNIOR TOUR 14/16 & UNDER

The ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) will be adopted as a secondary acceptance criterion for the Tennis Europe Junior Tour 14/16 & Under. The implementation involves integrating the WTN to the Tennis Europe Junior Tour platform. It will be displayed on player profiles, Tennis Europe Ranking pages (for players with rankings), and acceptance lists.

Singles acceptance will continue to follow the current procedure with the Tennis Europe Rankings, National Squads (OA selections) followed by players without a Tennis Europe ranking to be ordered according to the WTN.

WTN will be applied exclusively to singles events (not used for seedings). The acceptance criteria for doubles events remain unchanged. For the avoidance of doubt, WTN shall not be used for doubles acceptances.

WTN will not be displayed or used for players in the 12 & Under age group.

Further information is published [here](#)

2. NEW FORMAT - ROUND ROBIN WITH PLAY OFF AT 14/16&UNDER CATEGORY 2 AND CATEGORY 3 TOURNAMENTS

An **optional** Round Robin with Elimination Draw format will be introduced for 14/16 & Under Category 2 and 3 tournaments. The aim is to provide more playing opportunities for participants.

This new format is offered in addition to the existing Direct Elimination draw format.

A Round Robin with Elimination draw format will be introduced optional for the 14/16 & Under category 2 and category 3 tournaments to provide more playing opportunities. This new format is to be offered in addition to the existing Direct Elimination format.

Details:

- Draw sizes - Main Draw: **32 Round Robin (8x4)**
- Draw sizes - Qualifying: **16 Round Robin (4x4) or 24, 32, 48 Direct Elimination**
- Doubles: 16 Direct Elimination
- No Bonus Draw
- Number of match courts required: **5 match courts minimum**
- Number of matches per day: maximum 3 matches per day (example: 2 Singles and 1 Doubles)

- [Match formats – 14/16 & Under Cat. 2 and Cat. 3](#)

Singles Main Draw:

- **Round Robin Stage:** Matches will be played in a best-of-three format, consisting of two tie-break sets and, if necessary, a 10-point match tiebreak.

- **Play-off Stage:** Matches will follow a best-of-three format, with all three sets played as tie-break sets.

Qualifying: Matches are played in best of three sets (2 tie-break sets and a 10-point Match tiebreak).

Doubles: Matches are played with two (2) tiebreak sets with NoAd-scoring and, if required, a 10-point Match Tiebreak. No rest shall be allowed after the second set.

No Bonus Draw

The NoLet service rule will be in operation at all Tennis Europe Junior Tour tournaments in Singles and Doubles.

- [Ranking Points - new Round Robin to Elimination draw](#)

<u>MAIN DRAW 14&U</u>	Cat. 2	Cat. 3
Group Winners' play-off		
Winner	<u>80</u>	<u>60</u>
Runner-up	<u>65</u>	<u>50</u>
Semifinalists	<u>50</u>	<u>30</u>
Quarterfinalists (1st Round Play-off)	<u>30</u>	<u>20</u>
Players finishing #2 in their Group	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>
Players finishing #3 in their Group	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>
Players finishing #4 in their Group*	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>

**Ranking points are awarded in #4 if at least one main draw match is won.*

<u>MAIN DRAW 16&U</u>	Cat. 2	Cat. 3
Group Winners' play-off		
Winner	<u>160</u>	<u>120</u>
Runner-up	<u>130</u>	<u>100</u>
Semifinalists	<u>100</u>	<u>60</u>
Quarterfinalists (1st Round Play-off)	<u>60</u>	<u>40</u>
Players finishing #2 in their Group	<u>40</u>	<u>30</u>
Players finishing #3 in their Group	<u>30</u>	<u>20</u>
Players finishing #4 in their Group*	<u>20</u>	<u>10</u>

**Ranking points are awarded in #4 if at least one main draw match is won.*

3. DOUBLES FORMAT WITH 5 OR FEWER TEAMS - TENNIS EUROPE JUNIOR TOUR

The round-robin format for doubles may be used at 12, 14, and 16 & Under Tennis Europe Junior Tour tournaments when there are five or fewer teams. The use of this format is optional.

DOUBLES Round Robin – New Ranking points allocation

For 14/16&Under category 2 and 3 tournaments, ranking points will be allocated from position 1 to 5.

<u>DOUBLES 14 & UNDER</u>	<u>Cat. 2</u>	<u>Cat. 3</u>
Winners	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>
2 nd pos	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>
3 rd pos	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>
4 th pos	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
5 th pos*	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>

**Ranking points are awarded in #5 if at least one main draw match is won.*

<u>DOUBLES 16 & UNDER</u>	<u>Cat. 2</u>	<u>Cat. 3</u>
Winners	<u>40</u>	<u>30</u>
2 nd pos	<u>30</u>	<u>20</u>
3 rd pos	<u>20</u>	<u>10</u>
4 th pos	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>
5 th pos*	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>

**Ranking points are awarded in #5 if at least one main draw match is won.*

DOUBLES 12 & UNDER starting points – Current rule applies

<u>DOUBLES</u>	<u>Cat 1</u>	<u>Cat 2</u>
Winners	11	5
Runners-up	7	3

4. COACHING AND COACHES

Off-court coaching will be included only in the following events according to the procedure outlined below:

- **14/16 & Under Super Category**
- **14/16 & Under Category 1 Tennis Europe Junior Tour tournaments.**
- **12 & Under Category 1 Tennis Europe Junior Tour tournaments.**
- **14/16/18 & Under European Junior Championships**
- **14/16 & Under Tennis Europe Junior Masters and Carlos Moya 12 & Under Festival**

Trial implementation for 14/16 & Under Category 2 and category 3 and 12 & Under Category 2 tournaments.

This applies to all rounds where chair umpires are present.

- Off-Court Coaching will only be permitted from rounds where matches are intended to have Chair Umpires.
- A coach authorised by the player to sit in the 'designated coach seats' must comply with the conditions below. In this circumstance they are deemed as a 'coach'.
- Any coach who sits in the designated coach seats must be accredited and wear the official tournament accreditation.
- Before the start of the match, the Chair Umpire shall reconfirm and verify the identity of the authorised coach with the players.

Off-Court Coaching

During play, Off-Court Coaching will be allowed in a nondisruptive manner under the following conditions:

- Coaching is only allowed from the designated coach seats.
- Best efforts will be made to locate the designated coach seats near the baseline or back area of court on the same end as the player's seat.
- Brief and discreet verbal coaching is allowed only when the player is at the same end of the court as their designated coach seats.
- Subtle, non-verbal coaching, defined as hand signals or gestures that do not hinder the opponent is allowed when the player is at the same or the opposite end of the court as their designated coach seats.
- Coaches may NOT speak to their player when the player leaves the court for any reason (except as permitted during a rain delay).
- Players may NOT approach their coach or engage in conversation with their coach at change overs or set breaks. Exceptions – players may approach their coach or engage in conversation with their coach ONLY during the opposing player's medical time out (including the time period when the Physiotherapist was called, and the player is waiting for the Physiotherapist and during the evaluation time) or a Bathroom break / change of attire break or during the last 90 seconds of a heat break.
- If a Coach's verbal coaching, hand signals, or gestures begin to interrupt play or become a hindrance to the opponent(s), the Supervisor will notify the coach of the escalation prior to action being taken against the player. Should the distractions persist, the player may be subject to coaching penalties.

NOTE:

- Coaches are expected to dress professionally, in appropriate and clean tennis attire, when seated in the designated coach seats.
- A coach can coach more than one player during a tournament, but coaching is only allowed from the designated coach seats of the relevant court.
- A player may be penalised under the Code of Conduct if there is failure to meet the trial procedures. Off-court coaching is not permitted where an off-court official is required to go on court to umpire the remainder of a match.

5. BONUS DRAW SCHEDULE

Current rule: 1 Singles and 1 Doubles

New from 2026: 2 Singles and 1 Doubles with resting periods will be permitted per day.

Match formats in this case:

Matches may be played either as

- two (2) tiebreak sets with 'traditional' scoring and a 10-point Match tiebreak, or
- best of three (3) Short Sets.

6. SIGN IN PROCEDURES – ALTERNATES

Current rule: players on alternate lists can sign-in by phone or on-site.

New:

Players on the alternate list may also sign-in online. If players are accepted into the qualifying draw, they will be considered committed to the tournament, and late-withdrawal and no-show penalties will apply accordingly.

7. END OF WEEK SUPERVISOR

National Associations may, subject to Tennis Europe approval, appoint a different end-of-week supervisor in cases where scheduling conflicts occur between tournaments.

The originally appointed supervisor shall not depart from the tournament site prior to Thursday (end of day) of the tournament week.

Any substitution shall be subject to Tennis Europe approval and shall ensure the continuous presence of a qualified supervisor, in accordance with the applicable Tennis Europe Regulations, for the duration of the event.

8. MEDICAL

The sports physiotherapist serves as the final medical authority regarding on-court medical conditions and their treatment. If the event category does not require a sports physiotherapist, a player may, with supervisor approval, take a medical time-out as outlined in the medical regulations. The treatment will be administered by the player themselves, with any necessary medical supplies or advice provided by the accompanying person, parent, legal guardian only upon the supervisor's approval. No other authority will be permitted, as this may be considered a breach of medical procedure.

9. ITF - 16&U WTN REGIONAL RESERVED PROGRAMME (PREVIOUSLY NAMED 16 & UNDER REGIONAL RESERVED PROJECT)

From 1 January 2026, the programme will be renamed the “16&U WTN Regional Reserved Programme”.

At entry deadline, an automated process will occur which will provide reserved places in main draws of tournaments for 16&U players from the same region as the tournament, as follows:

- J30, J60 & J100 - Two (2) WTN feed-up places to be awarded in each tournament Main Draw, to be filled by two (2) 16&U players from the region where the event is being played, who have the best ITF WTN (50% confidence level or better), and are not already accepted into the Main Draw.
- J200 - Two (2) WTN feed-up places to be awarded in each tournament Main Draw, but with a minimum WTN required to earn the main draw position based on WTN to ensure satisfactory playing level ahead of ITF Ranked players.
- J300 - One (1) WTN feed-up place to be awarded in each tournament Main Draw, but with a minimum WTN level required to earn the main draw position based on WTN.

The following table outlines the number of WTN Feed-Up places available at each Grade. The number of Junior Ranking Direct Acceptances will reduce accordingly.

WTTJ tournament grade	Number of 16U WTN Regional Reserved places	Minimum WTN required at Entry Deadline
J500	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
J300	1 place	15.99 (Boys) / 17.99 (Girls)*
J200	2 places	17.99 (Boys) / 19.99 (Girls)*
J100	2 places	N/A
J60	2 places	N/A
J30	2 places	N/A

**Players must achieve the minimum WTN at the time of entry deadline to be considered for a 16&U WTN Regional Reserved place.*

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

10. EUROPEAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 14/16/18 & UNDER

Ball change

Apply 11/13 ball change from the quarterfinals onwards.

Line umpires

Line umpires shall not be required for European Junior Championships held on clay surfaces. Line umpires shall continue to be required on any other surface.

11. 2026 TENNIS EUROPE WINTER CUPS BY DUNLOP

Entry fee

Every effort is made to ensure reasonable entry fees for the Winter Cups. However, in 2026, an increase is necessary to enable Tennis Europe to guarantee the securing of organizers and venues for this European Indoor Team Championship event, a task which has been increasingly challenging in recent years.

This adjustment – just the second in 20 years - is essential to allow us to invest in the venues and deliver a high-quality competition, creating memorable experiences for all participants.

The new fee is €850 per event (€250 entry fee + €600* accommodation/hospitality expenses).

**From 2026, Tennis Europe will provide qualifying round organizers a contribution of €600 per team towards accommodation costs. This amount may vary depending on the number of participating nations in each qualifying group.*

Final Rounds - host nation

The Final Rounds host nations automatically qualify for the Final Rounds (required to play the Qualifying Round).

New for 2026: a qualifying group draw will be conducted before the start of the qualifying rounds. A draw will be conducted online by the Tennis Europe Junior Committee panel well in advance of the event to determine the conditions under which only the team finishing in 1st place will qualify if the host nation does not secure a spot by finishing in 1st or 2nd.