

## **BORN TO PLAY**

Your Guide To Junior Round Robins and Team Tennis at DPTC



### Overview-

- Opportunities To Play
- How Much To Play
- Team Tennis & Round Robin Structure
- Short Deuce or Advantage?
- Prizes
- Orange & Green Lines
- Tennis Ireland Tour Line
- World Tennis Number
- Tournament Software
- DPTC Junior Tennis Calendar
- Useful Resources



### **Opportunities To Play:**

To play is one of the greatest things in life. Sports should provide a safe space to engage brain and body in a creative, learning and productive manner that can bring joy to a 9 year old child and a 90 year old adult alike and tennis has proven to be a sport for life for many.

In Donabate Portrane Tennis Club we want to provide opportunities to play for all levels of ability and interest. Our junior and teen socials provide an opportunity to mix with others in a relatively non-competitive environment, where scores are not recorded and enjoyment is the goal.

Since the formation of the club we have also entered teams into various tournaments whenever possible and we have run junior championship events and junior team round robin events.

Our Team Tennis & Round Robin events are for all juniors in the club, from competitive players with matchplay experience to those looking to gain experience of the game and our club.

In all sports, there are games or matches to be played on a regular basis and our Team Tennis and Round Robin events will run 12 months of the year so that there are always matches available to our juniors if they want to sign up to play.

### **How Much To Play:**

The Tennis Ireland player development pathway suggests particular amounts of matches for each age category in order to develop.

Starting at 9-10 years with 45 matches per year (minimum 15 singles matches), increasing to 60 matches per year by under 14s. A player who then intends to attain an international ranking would dedicate fully to tennis from age 14-18, playing 80-100 matches per year. A more detailed breakdown can be found in the resource link for the player development pathway.

For those who wish to continue to play multiple sports, 60 matches per year should remain an attainable target and Team Tennis and Round Robins will be structured in such a way as to help that happen.

### **Team Tennis & Round Robin Structure**

The doubles matches take place in the regular round robin format - you are in a group with other doubles teams and must play each team once. If you top your group, you will get to move up into the next highest group in the next round. The results of the matches are sent to the organiser of the Team Tennis & RR events and are uploaded to TI tournament software.

The singles matches take place in a team setting, so each game won in a match counts towards your teams overall score (e.g. 6-3 1-6 scoreline equates to 7 games won for your team).

Players play against the same number seed in the other teams.(e.g. seed 2 plays all other 2s)

Sets are played first to 6 games (no need to win by two clear - can win a set 6-5).

If players are level in games after 2 sets (eg. 6-4 4-6, a super-tiebreak shall be used to decide the contest. Tiebreak shall be first to 10 points but you must win by two clear points at least (can not win 10-9, must get 2 points clear).

To see a super tiebreak in singles you can click the following link [\(2\) TIE BREAK TENS 2018 - Rafael NADAL vs Lleyton HEWITT - Full Match - YouTube](#)

To see a super tiebreak in doubles you can click the following link [\(2\) Mixed Doubles Final: Super Tiebreak between Babos/Bopanna v Dabrowski/Pavic | Australian Open 2018 - YouTube](#)

The scores of singles matches will not be recorded on Tournament Software with the exception of the the top ranked player in each team. We would like to encourage those who are not experienced in competition to have the freedom to play without their results being published.

With each new round of matches the teams will change a bit. Players who were most successful on their line will get to move up to the next line and vice versa. New entries will also be accommodated to allow for players to dip in and out of the competition as necessary.

### **Prizes**

There are prizes awarded at the end of each round. Prizes are given to:

- The members of the team with most points
- The individual with most points on each given line
- The winning doubles team in each group
- The runner-up doubles team in each group
- The player/s to complete most matches in a calendar year will also be given a participation award.

### **Court Bookings For Team Tennis & Round Robins**

Matches are not scheduled for a specific time or date. It is up to players/parents to organise matches and book courts via Acebook. This will hopefully allow for our juniors to compete by having flexibility over 4-6 week periods to organise matches rather than having to play on certain days and at certain times. Contact details needed will be made available to parents - via a WhatsApp group if preferred.

As always, matches are expected to take place in a spirit of fair play. How you conduct yourself on court is more important than the result.

### **Short Deuce Or Advantage**




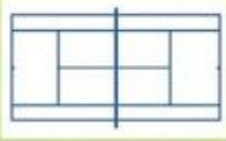
The default scoring system is to play advantage after deuce (ie a player must win two consecutive points from a scoreline of 40-40 in order to win the game). Games with many deuces are often an important point in a match as many game points and break points come and go.

With that being said, playing the advantage system does take longer. With that in mind, while advantage scoring is preferred, should both parties agree to playing short deuce (perhaps due to time constraints) then that is also acceptable. For orange and green ball matches, short deuce is recommended.

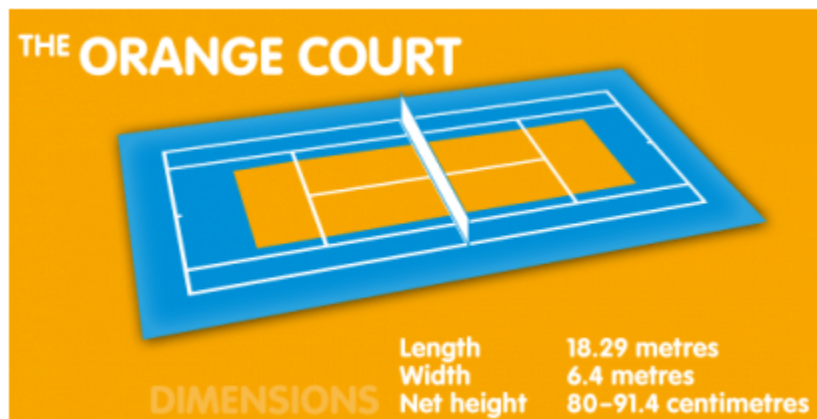
In the event of playing short deuce in a doubles match, the receiving team can choose who the serve is directed to. (e.g. the returner on the advantage side can ask to receive the serve).

In the event of playing short deuce in a singles match, the receiver can choose which side of the court to receive the serve on.

## Orange & Green Lines

STAGE	RED	ORANGE	GREEN
AGE	8 and under	9 - 10	11 and up
BALL	 <p>Red Moves slower and bounces lower than orange ball</p>	 <p>Orange Moves slower and bounces lower than green ball</p>	 <p>Green Slightly reduced bounce from yellow ball</p>
COURT SIZE	 <p>36' x 18'</p>	 <p>60' x 21' singles 60' x 27' doubles</p>	 <p>78' x 27' singles 78' x 36' doubles</p>
NET HEIGHT	2'9" center	3' center, 3'6" at net posts	3' center, 3'6" at net posts
RACQUET	Up to 23"	23" - 25"	25" - 27"

Depending on the number and age of entrants, the bottom line of each time will either be the orange line or the green line. The orange line matches would be contested using an orange ball, on a court marked out by the roll our lines located in the cabin inside the press marked 'Orange and Green Ball Equipment' to the following dimensions:



The next line up (or in the event of there not being enough entrants aged 10 or under, the bottom line) will be the green line. Matches in the green line are to be played using the green

tennis balls. Green and orange balls can be located inside of the press in the cabin for orange and green ball equipment.

The green court consists of the same dimensions as the regular tennis court used by yellow ball players.

For more information on the red, orange and green courts, see the Tennis 10s link in our useful resources section.

### **Tennis Ireland (TI) Tour Line**

The top player in each team will be on the 'Tennis Ireland Tour line'. This line is named after the Tennis Ireland tour for juniors, featuring tournaments throughout the years where players compete for ranking points. The most prestigious of the events - The Irish Junior Open at Fitzwilliam LTC - carries 2000 points. There are also national level events worth 1500, 1250 and 1000 ranking points and provincial events worth 500 points. Regional events are the entry level to the TI Tour where there are 250 and 100 point events.

While there are no regional or national ranking points available for team tennis, we would recommend that players who are consistently winning matches on the TI tour line enter Tennis Ireland tournaments to further test themselves and enhance their experience of the game by playing against players from other clubs in tournaments.

The Tennis Ireland Junior Calendar and relevant information will be shared in the 'useful resources' section of this guide.

### **World Tennis Number**

2021 has seen the introduction of the World Tennis Number (WTN). With the WTN ranging from 1 (professional) to 40 (complete beginner), it allows players to find evenly matched opponents in their club, country and around the world should they move abroad or look to play on vacation. Players aged over 10 are eligible for a WTN. In order for players to have as accurate a WTN as possible, their results need to be logged on Tennis Ireland tournament software. All of the doubles Round Robin groups are run through tournament software. To allow as pressure free a transition to competitive tennis as possible, most of the singles results in team tennis will not be recorded online - however the TI Tour Line and the second line will have their results logged on Tournament Software, as in a regular round robin group. This will allow players to develop their WTN and prepare them for playing Tennis Ireland tournaments and league tennis..

## Tournament Software

Entry to the Team Tennis and RR events are done via tournament software. Once you/your junior has registered on the Tennis Ireland Tournament Software site you can enter into any of the tournaments listed which you are eligible for. A link to sign up to the DPTC Team Tennis & RR will be sent via email at the start of each round but can also be found via searching the TI Tournament Software site.

A link to the website can be found in the Useful Resources section of this booklet.

## DPTC Junior Tennis Calendar

The **team tennis** events and junior **club championships** are our in-house competitive events. There is also junior **social tennis** every Saturday where you can play in a relaxed, fun environment with a mix of players. There are also other one off **social events**, such as parent and child events, organised each year by the junior committee and junior development team.

Throughout the year there are also various inter-club events where players can represent Donabate Portrane Tennis Club against other clubs. There are home and away fixtures.

**Stars and Stripes** is the introductory competition for juniors playing in team tennis and there are u12 and u14 sections in Spring and Autumn.

There are also u12, u14 and u18 **leagues** organised by bodies such as Leinster Tennis and the Dublin Lawn Tennis Association which are more competitive in their nature.

Once a player has turned 14 (by Jan 1st of a calendar year) they are also eligible for the DLTC adult league teams, adult club championship and adult round robins.

A link to our Junior Calendar can be found in our useful resources below..

## Useful Resources

Tennis Ireland's Long Term Player Development Pathway pdf  
[8-Long-Term-Player-Development-Pathway.pdf \(tennisireland.ie\)](#)

Tennis Ireland Junior Tour  
[Tennis Ireland | Junior Irish Rankings – Junior Tour](#)  
[Tennis Ireland | Tournament Calendars](#)  
[Tennis Ireland | TENNIS 10s: Tennis for Players Aged 10 and Under](#)

World Tennis Number  
[World Tennis Number - Powered by ITF](#)  
<https://www.donabatetennis.com/news>

TI Tournament Software  
[Tennis Ireland \(tournamentsoftware.com\)](#)

DPTC Junior Calendar  
<https://www.donabatetennis.com/junior-competitions>



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