



# ADVANTAGE

QUARTER 3 (JULY - SEPTEMBER)

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 03A/2011

## SPECIAL EDITION

### *2011/2012 JUNIOR RULES AND REGULATIONS*

### *SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS*

### *EFFECTIVE FROM 1 DECEMBER 2011*

Dear Parent, Coach and Player,

The SATA Junior Committee recently met to discuss various rules and regulations pertaining to Junior Tournaments. The committee comprised of SATA Board and staff members as well as Provincial appointed representatives as approved by the respective Provincial Executive Committees. The committee is:

Clark Coetzee	(SATA Board Member – Junior Tournaments)	
Riad Davids	(SATA Board Member – School Tennis)	
Iain Smith	(SATA Technical Manager)	
Leon Freimond	(SATA Coaches and Performance Manager)	
Ephraim Motsiane	(SATA Tournament and Officiating Division Assistant)	
Claire Smithard	(SATA Membership and Tournament Assistant)	
Pierre Montgomery	(Boland)	Anthony Meuleman (Border)
Andus Brewer	(Eastern Province)	Chris Lessing (Eastern Province)
Gustav Fichardt	(Free State)	Clive Watkinson (Gauteng Central)
Ken Smith	(Gauteng East)	Paresh Joshi (Gauteng North)
Annette du Plooy	(Gauteng North)	Vernie Nair (Kwa-Zulu Natal)
Charl Basson	(Mpumalanga)	Lizelle Fourie (South Western Districts)
Riaan Jordaan	(Western Province)	

Provinces that did not send a representative were:

Limpopo, North West Province and Northern Cape

The following Rule Amendments were recommended by the Committee to the SATA Board for ratification and have been approved, effective from 1 December 2011:

1. Junior Interprovincial:

- Will remain as an u18 event only
- Team will comprise of 4 boys and 4 girls, of which 1 boy and 1 girl must be from the Previously Disadvantaged Community (as per current rule)
- All players must be South Africa Citizens, as per the Open and Junior Nationals eligibility rule
- Provinces to seek ways of having other inter-Provincial friendly matches during the year
- Junior Interprovincial will be awarded to Provinces on a tender process

2. Tournament Calendar:

- Government School Holidays will be used as the major determining factor for positioning tournaments
- Provinces to consider hosting tournaments during Private School Holidays and encouraged to do so. This should be incorporated as part of the Provincial tournament plan prior to applying for tournaments
- KeyHealth Series events to be given "prime" consideration when compiling the calendar, ahead of Junior ITF events
- Junior ITF's to fall at the end of the school holidays and within the first week following school holidays
- December Junior ITF's will generally rotate between Eastern and Western Cape. Date of these events are generally determined by the ITF in terms of office closure in London over the festive season
- Any Province may apply for an ITF tournament, provided that a sponsor can be guaranteed at time of submitting tender
- The Junior Nationals, played in September, in Bloemfontein will be the only Junior Tournament to be allocated a guaranteed strength 8
- The Eastern Province KeyHealth Event, taking place in December 2011 will receive strength 8 status for this year only, thereafter all KeyHealth events will be a guaranteed strength 7, with Junior Nationals in October being the only junior strength 8 event on the calendar
- Junior Nationals in October 2012 will comprise of a 32 Qualifying and a 32 Main Draw event. Maximum entry of 56 players per age group/gender
- A separate tournament for players not qualifying for the Junior Nationals will be arranged at the same time, similar to the 2011 event

3. One Tournament Per Week Rule:

- The current rule as being implemented will remain
- Players can only compete in one event during a particular week. Where there is overlapping of tournaments (weekends) players will have to decide which event they wish to enter and withdraw from the other accordingly
- This rule will not apply to tournaments that overlap with the finals and qualifying (KeyHealth events)
- Where an ITF event may overlap with a local tournament, players need to be aware of the various withdrawal dates. If a player is on the acceptance list of an ITF event (main Draw or Qualifying) they will remain committed to this event, unless they withdraw within the specified timeframe
- Players found to be participating in two events, will lose both events points and face a 1 month automatic suspension

4. Doubles Entry Procedure:

- Doubles entries will close at 5pm (17:00) on the first day of the tournament. Note the first day of the tournament and NOT the first day of Main Draw

- Players will be able to enter online as per the singles entry system, up until 5pm
- Both players will have to enter online. In the case of a player entering with a partner, the partner will receive an email requesting him/her to go online and verify the doubles entry. Only once both players have accepted will the combination appear on the entry list
- Players will still be able to sign-in at their respective venue. Sign-in closes at 5pm (17:00) on the first day of the tournament
- Players can enter online or sign-in, provided this is done prior to 5pm
- If a partner withdraws, the team is automatically withdrawn from the doubles, unless the remaining partner can find a replacement prior to the 5pm deadline

5. Separation of Players within a Draw:

- Where possible, players competing from the same Province will be separated from competing against one another in the first round of all KeyHealth events. This includes qualifying and main draw
- Separation of players will only be done at the KeyHealth events, all other ranking tournaments and the Nationals will have regular draws with no separation rules being implemented

6. Age Groups:

- The current age group system will remain. Players change age groups on their birthday
- An u10 age group will be created with online entry. KeyHealth tournaments to offer an u10 section. Players competing in the u10 section will do so with the Play & Stay tennis balls (Green dot ball). All tournament organisers are encouraged to consider hosting u10 events. This falls in line with the general rules and regulations as per the International Tennis Federation (ITF)
- An u10 ranking list will not be produced

7. Playing Out of Age Group (Playing Up):

- U12's can only play up as high as u16
- U14's cannot participate in Open sections (as per current rule)
- Players must be 14 years old to compete in Open section events (as per current rule)
- Over and above these restrictions, players are free to play in any age group they may, provided their age permits.
- Players will however, only earn points relative to their actual age group value. E.g. A player is u12 and enters u16, finishing 5th overall. The player will earn the relative points from the u12 points table as if they finished 5th in u12.

8. Tournament Strengths:

- Junior and Open Nationals will be the only two tournaments that will receive a guaranteed strength of 8
- KeyHealth series events will remain as guaranteed strength 7 events
- All other ranking tournaments will have their strength calculated based on the individual age group rankings of the top 8 players as determined at entry deadline
- Strengths will be relative to each separate age group and gender within a tournament
- The maximum strength that any mini-series event can be is a 4
- All mini-series Masters events will be a guaranteed strength 5
- The maximum strength that any other ranking tournament can achieve is a 6

9. Doubles and Mixed Doubles at Mini Series:

- Provinces to allocate one mini-series event to be a doubles and mixed doubles tournament
- The doubles event will receive the 100% portion of the singles points table and the mixed doubles will be rewarded with 25% of the doubles points table

10. General:

- Wild Card applications to be submitted to SATA. SATA will collate and liaise with Tournament Organisers on the final awarding of the wild cards
- Parents, players, coaching wishing to lodge complaints about a tournament, must do so directly to the Provincial Association, with a copy to the organiser. In the event that the complaint does not receive the necessary attention, then the complaint can be directed to SATA, provided that it can be proven that the complaint was submitted within the time allowed as per SATA Code of Conduct
- SATA will be compiling a general guide for tournament organisation and player, parent and coaches Do's and Don'ts at events. This will be available on the SATA website
- A separate Nike Race table will be created to allow easier awarding of points when players compete in Nike events. Nike Masters form 2012 will comprise of 6 players accepted based on their Nike Race position and 2 wild cards, unless otherwise determined by Nike
- The Mini Masters selection criteria remain the Provincial Association prerogative. However, players will have to consider the timing of the masters in relation to when they may change age groups, as players will not be permitted to qualify for a lower age group if they change during the course of the year e.g. progress to u14, but qualify for u12
- Players will have to carefully plan which age group they should compete in if they wish to qualify for the Masters
- Application for SATA sanction of a tournament will be declined where the Tournament Director or organisers are deemed to not be in good standing with SATA, e.g. a coach that is found to be unregistered with SATA. In cases where it is discovered after the tournament is placed on the calendar, and where sufficient time is available, the said coach will be given seven calendar days to rectify the matter, failing which the Provincial Association will be requested to re-assign the tournament; or, SATA will run the event internally. In cases where there is not sufficient time, the said coach will not be awarded a tournament in the future. Any coach working for the tournament organiser or involved in an academy or coaching programme, must also be in good standing with SATA (registered, qualified and updated)

***IAIN SMITH***  
**Technical Manager**