

# **PAKISTAN TENNIS FEDERATION**

## **Advisory 2024**

### **Review of Age Categories for National Ranking Events**

Please ensure that the updated PTF Tournaments Advisory is followed strictly, especially the age eligibility criteria. It has been observed that although upper age limits are observed, lower age eligibility guidelines are sometimes overlooked. Please find below the age eligibility guidelines for 2024. These will remain in force until further notice.

These Rules shall supersede all previous advisories on the subject, & shall be enforced with immediate effect from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024, and will remain enforced till further notification.

- 18&U: Born between 1st January 2006 & 31st December 2011 (Player must be 13 on or before the first day of the event)
- 14&U: Born between 1st January 2010 & 31st December 2013 (Player must be 11 on or before the first day of the event)
- 12&U: Born before 31st December 2012. (Player must be 10 on or before the first day of the event)
- ITF Age Eligibility restrictions are to be applied strictly in all junior age groups; 12&U, 14&U, and 18&U (Players MUST possess NADRA issued Form-B or Smart Card / CNIC or Passport)
- **All players must mention their name, date of birth, age category, and PPIN when entering National Ranking tournaments; without all of these, the entry will not be accepted.**

A player will only be allowed to enter an event in his/her age group and in the age group immediately above if they meet the minimum age requirements as shown above (e.g. 12&U)

- Doubles events shall be mandatory in all age groups, i.e. 12&U, 14&U, 18&U in national Juniors tournaments.
- 12&U events will have separate draws.
- No prize money will be awarded in ANY Juniors events. **Only** Tennis Balls are to be awarded instead of cash prizes. Organizers are encouraged to provide nutritional lunches to junior players to facilitate them.
- All players MUST have their PPIN Registration (PPIN is mandatory for All players, Professionals/Juniors, males/females), and enter tournaments using their PPIN. No player shall be allowed to participate in a National Event if he/she does not have a PPIN. If a player, for any reason whatsoever, gets to participate in a National Ranking Event without a PPIN, he/she shall NOT be awarded National Ranking Points for such event(s).
- As per ITF rule change, the 'no-let' rule will continue to be applied on 'serve' till further notice.
- ITF and PTF (if additional) Codes of Conduct will be strictly enforced, and players will be penalized for any disciplinary infractions.
- International Events: In respect of age categories, all ITF / ATF / IOC events shall be strictly in line with rules and regulations provided by the ITF/ATF/IOC, from time to time.

The decision regarding 10&U being excluded from National Ranking was taken after detailed meetings of all the PTF officials, and was unanimously approved by the Special General Council Meeting 2024. The reason behind not including 10&U in national ranking events is based on the following reasons:

1. To ensure age-appropriate competitive formats for 10&U children, which allow maximum participation.
2. To keep in mind the overall long-term development of the players, rather than a focus on results or rankings only.
3. To separate the 12&U (normal tennis balls) and 10&U (red, orange, green balls), as playing with different tennis balls in the same tournament, or regularly otherwise, limits and complicates the technical, tactical, physical, and psychological development of the player; it is also to limit the risk of injury that may be caused because of competing and training with different tennis balls.

However, Associations may hold 10&U events, all categories, as many times as you would like at a local or provincial level for the promotion of tennis at the grass-roots level.

**THIS ADVISORY ISSUES WITH APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT – PTF**