



# **2014 EUROPEAN SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

  

## **REGULATIONS**

# THE COMPETITION

## 1. Title

The competition will be called European Senior Club Championships

## 2. Ownership

The competition is owned by, and under the direction and control of, Tennis Europe. Ownership will include, but not be limited to, the following national and international rights: registered trademarks of Tennis Europe; commercial exploitation of the Competition; international sponsorship of the competition; television, radio, film and video recordings, plus new media and internet coverage. The Board of Management may assign rights to the Host Organiser in accordance with detailed guidelines issued by Tennis Europe consistent with these regulations.

## 3. Clubs Eligible

The competition is open to Clubs of the 49 Tennis Europe Member Nations.

The criteria for entry acceptance are:

- a. A maximum of two clubs per country may be entered in the competition
- b. The Champion and Runner-up of the national team championships from the previous year. If the winner and/or runner up is/are not entering, their National Association may nominate a club or clubs to replace them.
- c. Two nominated clubs from affiliated countries that do not hold national club championships.

Automatic entries which are allowed in addition to the above numbers are:

- a. The Holder (i.e. the winner of the preceding European Senior Club Championship) is eligible to enter the Championships. If the Holder decides not to participate, the runner-up is eligible to replace them.
- b. The club organising the event during the year of the competition. If this club cannot line-up a strong enough team, a club invited by the organising club, but which must be from the same country, may enter the competition if approved by Tennis Europe
- c. A club being allocated a Wild Card by Tennis Europe.
- d. Tennis Europe retains the rights to limit the number of participants.

## 4. Format

The competition will be played at one venue unless the Senior Committee decides to approve an application to play in zones.

The competition is divided into 15 categories.

Men	35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75
Women	40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65

Tennis Europe reserves the right to amalgamate the age categories in cases where the number of entered teams in some age groups is not sufficient.

## 5. Prize Money

No prize money shall be awarded unless approved by the Tennis Europe.

## 6. Travelling and hospitality expenses

Each team is responsible for its own travelling and hotel expenses.

## **7. Rules to be observed**

The competition will take place in accordance with these Regulations, the Constitution of Tennis Europe, the Rules of Tennis adopted by the ITF, and the approved Code of Conduct. In submitting an entry, a Club and its team members including the Captain automatically undertake to abide by and fulfil all its obligations under the above Rules and Regulations. Any Club, and its team members, including the Captain, failing to honour this undertaking will be subject to penalties.

In submitting an entry, a Club, its officers, directors, employees and its team members agree, as a condition of entry, that they for themselves, their executors, administrators, heirs and personal representatives, waive all claims of any kind, nature and description, including past, present or future claims and injuries, if any, sustained in travelling to or from, or participating in, the Competition, against Tennis Europe, the Host Nations, the host Club and Sponsors of the Competition.

## **8. Management**

The Board of Management has authorized the Tennis Europe Senior Committee to organize, issue and amend the Regulations of the European Senior Club Championships.

## **9. Tennis Europe Representative**

For the venue staging the Championships, Tennis Europe shall appoint one Representative who will arrive at least one day prior to the start of the Competition.

The Tennis Europe Representative will be consulted on all matters and his/her duties shall include:

- a) To supervise the championships in order to ensure the smooth running of the event
- b) To support/advise the organizers on site
- c) To chair the captains meeting
- d) To cooperate with the referee
- e) To present the trophy and the medals to the players on behalf of Tennis Europe at the Prize Giving Ceremony

## **10. Sponsorship and ownership rights**

All rights and properties in respect of the Competition are owned by Tennis Europe and include the following:

- a) The Title
- b) The use of any mascot symbol, legend or device associated with the Competition
- c) Advertising within the court area. It is understood however, that Tennis Europe shall not acquire the rights to any permanent advertising/signs at the venues, except during the week of the Competition
- d) Appointment of companies as "Official Suppliers" or "Sponsors"
- e) Television
- f) Recordings

# **ENTRIES AND TEAMS**

## **11. Application to Stage the Competition**

Any National Association wishing to stage the Competition shall submit its application in writing to Tennis Europe.

## **12. Financial Arrangements for On-Site Organisation**

The financial arrangements for the on-site organisation shall be negotiated between Tennis Europe and the host nation/organiser.

## **13. Entries and entry fee**

Tennis Europe must receive the entries before 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014. Entries must be signed by the National Association and the participating club. No entry will be accepted unless the entry fee of €250 per club has been paid and transmitted to Tennis Europe. The entry fee can only be reimbursed when a withdrawal is submitted before the entry deadline (~2 months prior to the start of the competition).

#### 14. Default in Payment

Any default in payment in respect of its team's participation in a previous Competition, shall render the club liable to have its entry refused for any future Competitions until such payment has been made in full.

#### 15. Withdrawals

All teams shall abide by the rules for entries included in the Regulations, and any club withdrawing from the competition other than as specified in the Regulations, will be subject to the following fines:

Withdrawal less than 2 months before the competition	No reimbursement of the entry fee
Withdrawal less than 1 month before the competition	€ 250 + entry fee
Withdrawal less than 1 week before the competition	€ 500 + entry fee
No show	€ 750 + entry fee

All teams are required to stay on-site as long as they are in the competition.

#### 16. Number of entries

The competition (age category) shall be played only if there is a minimum of four (4) teams per age category.

The maximum of accepted entries per category is ten (10) however, if more entries are received, the Senior Committee can decide to increase this number.

#### 17. Facilities

The organiser shall provide sufficient facilities for the Competition to be completed over a period within which:

- a) a maximum of seven (7) days shall be allocated for the purpose of conduct of matches within the Competition, unless decided otherwise by Tennis Europe;
- b) practice courts one day (1) day prior to the commencement of play shall be available to competing clubs.

For the purpose of these Regulations, the Competition shall be deemed to commence on the first day of the period agreed between the organiser and Tennis Europe.

#### 18. Composition of teams

##### a. Men's

Each team must consist of a minimum of four (4) players and a maximum of seven (7) players, one of whom is designated captain. Alternatively a non-playing Captain can be nominated in addition.

##### b. Women's

Each team must consist of a minimum of two (2) players and a maximum of five (5) players, one of whom is designated captain. Alternatively a non-playing Captain can be nominated in addition.

#### 19. Nomination of teams

When deciding the order of merit, clubs shall take into account the strength of their players considering all available criteria: the ITF ranking, their national ranking list, current year regional and national championship results, as well as head to head records. All above shall accurately reflect the player position on the nomination list.

In the event of obvious fault in the order of merit becoming apparent after play has begun, the Referee will consult with the Tennis Europe Representative over any action to be taken, with the Tennis Europe Representative's decision being final.

#### 20. Players Eligibility

- a. A Player shall have reached the minimum age limit by December 31 of the year in which the competition is held.

- b. Only players who are genuine members of the club which they are representing may play in the European Senior Club Championships. If they have represented another club in the same age group, in the same country, in the year in which the ESCC is taking place then they are NOT eligible to play. Proof can be requested.
- c. It is the responsibility of each participating club to ensure that all of their nominated players are eligible to play. Clubs will be required to declare that their players are eligible on the entry form and also on the final team nomination form at the competition venue. The entry form must be endorsed by the National Association.

If a club plays with an ineligible player, both the club and the player will be prohibited from playing in the European Seniors Club Championships for the following two years.

## **21. Change of Nominations and Order of Merit**

The order of merit submitted by the Clubs must reflect the standard of the players and ensure that the best player is included at No1 regardless of National and/or ITF rankings.

The nominations submitted at the entry deadline may be changed until one week before the scheduled first day of the Competition. The **final order of merit** is to be sent by the **National Association** to Tennis Europe on the following deadlines:

<b>15 September 2014</b>	for week 1 (22 – 27 September 2014)
<b>22 September 2014</b>	for week 2 (29 September – 4 October 2014)

Thereafter no change may be made except for reasons of health, injury or bereavement and any such changes must be authorized by Tennis Europe. Players nominated after this date must be placed in the final team position in the order of merit for singles, unless otherwise decided by Tennis Europe.

## **Captain's Meeting Day**

In the morning, the final seeding of the teams will be determined; the draws will be made and will be posted together with the final team nominations on-site. Any comments to the posted draws may be submitted to the referee by 14.00 hours, however must be supported by written documentation from the relevant National Association. Changes of order of merit must be based on recent tournament results. The Tennis Europe Representative must change any clear mistake in the order of merit. If the captain does not notify any amendments before the start of the Captain's meeting (16.00 hours), the final nomination will apply.

## **22. Waiver of Claims**

In submitting an entry into the European Senior Club Championships, all players agree, as a condition of entry, that they for themselves, their executors, administrators, heirs and personal representatives, waive all claims of any kind, nature and description, including past, present or future claims and injuries, if any, sustained in travelling to or from, or participating in an Tennis Europe Seniors event, against Tennis Europe and the National Association sanctioning such events.

## **23. Insurance**

The Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all members of their team(s), and any accompanying officials in their delegation, are fully and adequately covered by medical and travel insurance for the purposes of attending and participating in the event. Tennis Europe, the title sponsor, the host association and the host venue cannot accept any liability for any participant or visitor in this respect.

## **24. Publicity / Promotion & Player images**

Each player grants and assigns to Tennis Europe the right in perpetuity to make, use and show from time to time and at its discretion, motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television and other reproduction of him/her during the event and in connection with the promotion of the event without compensation for him/herself, his/her heirs, devisees, executors, administrators or assigns. Such promotional activities by Tennis Europe shall not be identified as or represented to be an endorsement by the player of any product or company.

## **25. Related Regulations**

To the extent not covered herein the Rules of Tennis shall be applicable to the Competition.

## **26. Decisions and Appeals**

The Seniors Committee shall make all decisions and interpretations concerning the Regulations. Any appeal against the decision or interpretation of the Seniors Committee shall be referred to the Board of Management, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties. Any appeal shall be in writing and shall be received by Tennis Europe not later than one month after the decision has been received by the appellant. The Board of Management shall conduct any appeal in whatever manner they deem to be appropriate.

## **27. Failure to Abide by the Rules and Regulations**

Any competing Club that fails to conform to the Rules and Regulations may be immediately disqualified and/or shall be liable to have its entry refused for future Competitions until assurances of compliance with the Regulations are given, and subject to any further penalties set out in these Regulations.

For offences, which do not justify disqualification, Tennis Europe may decide that a fine will be imposed.

# **COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

## **28. Conduct of Event – Local Organising Committee**

An Organising Committee shall be appointed. The Organising Committee shall keep Tennis Europe informed of the arrangements for the event.

## **29. The Captain – Eligibility to sit on court**

The Captain shall be allowed to sit on court beside the chair of his/her team but he/she may not move away from that area and in particular may not cross the net to the opposite side of the court. The Captain is the only member of the team permitted to talk to the chair umpire and, in case of an appeal on a question of tennis law, only the Captain may request to talk to the Referee. If the Captain is unable to fulfil his/her duties on court he/she may be replaced only by one of the nominated players who shall be allowed to sit on court and who shall under these circumstances be permitted to talk to the chair umpire and/or request to talk to the Referee.

## **30. Captains' Meeting**

An initial Captains' Meeting shall be held on the day preceding the commencement of match play at which the Tennis Europe Representative shall be Chairman. Without prior approval of the Tennis Europe Representative, **only Captains** or their appointed delegates may attend the Captains' Meeting. Additional Captains' Meetings shall be arranged at the discretion of the Tennis Europe Representative. Should the captain of a team or the appointed delegate fail to attend the Captains' Meeting without having notified Tennis Europe in advance, the team shall be fined half the amount of the entry fee. All teams must arrive on site prior to the meeting.

## **31. Arbitration**

### **a) Settlement of On-Site Disputes**

The Referee shall decide on any on-site disputes or interpretation of the Rules of Tennis. He or she shall also be the final arbiter for penalties imposed under the Code of Conduct unless the Code provides for an appeal to Tennis Europe for that offence.

## **32. Officials**

The Host Nation/Organiser shall appoint a Referee and an Assistant Referee, the exact number to be confirmed with Tennis Europe.

The Referee as a minimum standard must be Silver Badge Referee certified, unless otherwise approved by Tennis Europe.

## **Duties of the Referee**

The Referee shall:

- a. send the results daily to the Tennis Europe office
- b. prior to the event, conduct such training sessions and meetings as may be necessary to familiarise thoroughly all officials with all applicable Rules and Procedures.
- c. ensure the teams' eligibility;
- d. be responsible for all aspects of play;
- e. assist the Tennis Europe Representative in conducting the Captains Meeting and in making the Draw for all events;
- f. prepare the daily order of play and ensure that it is posted on the official notice board;
- g. ensure that all courts are fit for play
- h. ensure that all courts are properly equipped;
- i. decide if a match shall be moved to another court
- j. decide when play should be postponed or stopped because of weather conditions, inadequate light or other conditions;
- k. be the final authority for on court disputes in respect of the Code of Conduct and interpretation of the Rules of Tennis; the Referee's decision shall be final;
- l. be responsible for arranging the round robin groups;
- m. ensure that all results are accurately recorded on the official draw sheet;
- n. designate the official visible timepiece at a fixed location as the official clock of the tournament;
- o. and be present at all times during the playing of matches.

## **33. Seeding**

The seeding shall be done by the Referee and the official Tennis Europe Representative in the morning at the Captain's meeting day. Only players listed on the final nomination form shall be taken into consideration for the selection of seeds.

The seeding shall be done based on merit using all available information in establishing such order of merit. Seeded clubs shall be selected based on consideration of players' head to head results, the results from ITF Seniors Circuit Tournaments and results of the Competition in the previous year. In the event of clubs appearing to be equal preference shall be given to the club with better performances by its team in that specific Championships. In case of disagreement, the Tennis Europe Representative's decision shall be final.

The number of seeds will depend on the number of entries however, only one seeded team will be placed in each group. At the discretion of the referee and with the agreement of the Tennis Europe Representative extra seeds may be drawn into each group

## **34. Format of play**

Teams will be placed in round robin groups according to the below order with one seeded team in each group:

- |          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| 4 teams  | → | 1 group                                    |
| 5 teams  | → | 1 group                                    |
| 6 teams  | → | 2 groups of 3 teams                        |
| 7 teams  | → | 1 group of 3 teams and 1 group of 4 teams  |
| 8 teams  | → | 2 groups of 4 teams                        |
| 9 teams  | → | 3 groups of 3 teams                        |
| 10 teams | → | 2 groups of 3 teams and 1 group of 4 teams |
| 11 teams | → | 2 groups of 4 teams and 1 group of 3 teams |
| 12 teams | → | 4 groups of 3 teams                        |

After the initial groups are completed further groups will be played so that all events are played to a conclusion with teams in order of merit from winners to last place.

## **35. Match format**

Singles matches must be played over the best of three tiebreak sets. The seven (7) point tiebreak shall operate at six games all in each set. Doubles matches shall be played as two tie-break sets and a ten (10) point tie-break game instead of a third set.

In the event of unavoidable disruption, such as bad weather, should the score reach one set all, the referee may decide that one (1) ten (10) point tie-break game only shall be played to determine the winner, or alternatively adopt any of the approved alternative methods of scoring as laid out in the Rules of Tennis, adopted by the ITF.

### **36. Draw**

The Draw shall be made by the Referee, under the supervision of the Tennis Europe Representative.

The Draw shall be made no later than twelve (12) hours before the commencement of the Competition. Once the draw has been made there can be no change unless a team retires or is forced to retire from the time the draw is made until the daily nomination deadline on the first day of play. If this occurs the Referee at his discretion and in agreement with the Tennis Europe Representative may remake in part or in full the draw of that Category.

Teams from the same country will not be drawn in the same first stage group.

### **37. Daily Order of play**

The order of play for each day shall be published and displayed at a reasonable time at the venue and/or hotel or otherwise made available to the competitors.

It is each team's responsibility to ascertain his or her times of play and when their match is called.

### **38. Composition of tie**

#### **a. Men**

Each tie shall consist of 3 singles and 2 doubles.

#### **b. Women**

Each tie shall consist of 2 singles and 1 doubles.

### **39. Order of play**

Each club scores one point for each match won. The club with the highest number of points at the end of the Tie is the winner. When a result has been obtained after the singles matches, the doubles match must still be played to obtain the full results for the tie. After taking into account such factors as weather, spectators and television, the Referee has the authority to decide that the doubles match will not be played.

The order of play shall be as follows:

#### Men

1 <sup>st</sup> Match	player no. 3 vs. player no. 3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Match	player no. 2 vs. player no. 2
3 <sup>rd</sup> Match	player no. 1 vs. player no. 1
4 <sup>th</sup> Match	Doubles match (Weaker doubles team)
5 <sup>th</sup> Match	Doubles match (Stronger doubles team)

Doubles pairs must play in order of merit, with the doubles players ranked 1 to 4 (i.e. the lowest ranked singles player nominated for doubles will be number 4 for the doubles even if ranked number 7 for singles). The pair with the lowest total must play first e.g. 1&3 must play above 2&4. In the event that 1&4 and 2&3 are selected the team captain may choose the order in which to play the pairs.

#### Women

1 <sup>st</sup> Match	player no. 2 vs. player no. 2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Match	player no. 1 vs. player no. 1
3 <sup>rd</sup> Match	Doubles match



#### **40. Court Surface**

The surface of the courts to be used shall be subject to the approval of the Seniors Committee.

#### **41. Balls**

The balls to be used in the Competition must conform to the specifications in Rule 3 of the Rules of Tennis and must have been approved by the ITF.

A minimum of three new balls will be provided for each match.

Balls shall be provided for practice, but it shall not be obligatory to give new balls for this purpose.

#### **42. Notification of Singles and Doubles Players**

30 minutes before the start of each Tie, the captain of each team shall submit in writing to the Referee the list of the singles players, taking into account the established Order of Merit. The players must be chosen from the Players on the Final Nomination List.

Any member of the nominated team may play the doubles match. The nominations of the doubles pairs must be submitted to the Referee by the Team Captain not later than 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the first doubles matches of a tie.

#### **43. Composition of the Doubles pairing**

Any two (2) members of the team may be nominated by the Captain to play any of the doubles matches.

#### **44. Entitlement to rest**

If a player is called upon to play more than one (1) round in one day, the Referee shall decide his or her entitlement to rest.

#### **45. Substitutions**

If a player is unable to play his/her match due to health or injury or bereavement following notification of his/her name to the Referee, a substitution may be made by the Captain from the final nominated team. The Referee's decision to allow or not allow substitution shall be final.

#### **46. Interval between matches**

There shall be a break of maximum ten (10) minutes between the singles matches. There shall be an interval of thirty (30) minutes between the singles and doubles rubbers, unless decided otherwise by the Referee.

#### **47. Relocation of Doubles Match**

The Referee shall have the discretion to transfer a doubles match to another court.

#### **48. Absence of Players (no show)**

If a player does not show up on court 15 minutes after the match is called the player is defaulted and the score will be recorded 6-0 6-0.

#### **49. Method of Determining Positions in Round Robin Events**

The Club, which wins the majority of the matches in the Tie, shall be declared the winner, and shall be awarded one point.

- If two Club score an equal number of points, the head-to-head result between these Clubs shall decide the winner.
- If three or more Clubs score an equal number of points the following procedure shall be used:
  - The number of matches won shall decide the winner.
  - If matches won are equal, the percentage of sets won of sets played against the teams tied shall decide the winner.
  - If percentage of sets won are equal, the percentage of games won of games played against the teams tied shall decide the winner.

When three or more Clubs are tied head-to-head results are never used to determine the positions in the group.

If any match is stopped and not completed for reasons of injury, etc, the full score shall be recorded. Example: Player A leads over Player B by 6-1, 2-0 when Player B is injured and unable to continue. Player A's victory shall be recorded as 6-1, 6-0.

If a team retires in a round-robin group, it will lose the rest of the scheduled ties in that particular group by 3-0 (women's categories) and 5-0 (men's categories).

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **50. Code of Conduct**

The ITF Code of Conduct shall apply.