

Summary and Major Changes

Below is an outline of the major rules and regulation changes currently being discussed for implementation in the 2014 AR Tournament year:

1. OVERLAPPING TOURNAMENTS / ENTERING TWO TOURNAMENTS AT THE SAME TIME

Proposal: Clarify that athletes cannot play two events on the same day

Outcome: Agreed – TA to investigate setting an exact time the day before that the player needs to be eliminated from the overlapping tournament, e.g. 5pm. This always enough time for tournaments to undertake the administration changes.

Additional Outcome: Add in that no penalty will be applied if the athlete needs to withdraw from the second event due to performance in the first event. E.g. Athlete making a final of the first event, which causes the overlap should not be penalised.

2. EXTENDING THE MAIN DRAW SIZE

Proposal: Give discretion to increase size of Main Draw and allow extra players into Main Draw consolation event.

Outcome: Junior Tournaments can extend the size of their main draw if total event entries fall within 33-39 players for an event advertised as a 32-player main draw, plus qualifying.

Additional Outcome: Discretion will also need to be given for tournaments advertising a 24-player or 64-player main draw event.

3. JUNIOR TOUR CONSOLATION

Proposal: To make singles consolation events non-compulsory.

Outcome: Not agreed to – however, all 18/u events are sign-in consolation events.

4. LUCKY LOSER PROCEDURE

Proposal: To eliminate the lucky loser priority order being randomly drawn.

Outcome: Agreed – The lucky loser priority order will be determined by the Australian Ranking of the athlete. This will occur at all AMTs and Junior Tour events in 2014.

5. SCHEDULING – MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SETS / MATCHES PER DAY

Proposal: Confusion in current wording of the rule

Outcome: TA to consider rewording the rule to eliminate confusion

6. PRIZEMONEY

Update: TA to investigate modifying the AMT prizemoney breakdowns for 2014. TA will also come up with wording about handling of prizemoney when a tournament is abandoned.

7. ROLE OF REFEREES

Update: TA to appoint expert referees/staff in some states to ensure draws are correct before the start of the tournament. This will allow an easier transition for officials to become referees from court supervisors. However, on-site referees will need to have an understanding of draw procedures to handle withdrawal and qualifier situations on-site.

8. MAIN DRAW RELEASE DATES

Proposal: Release main draw and schedule as early as possible or at least provide early information to players about the draw

Outcome: Main Draws to be released at the same time as Qualifying draws, which is 3 days before the start of the event

9. PLAYING IN APPROPRIATE AGE GROUPS

Outcome: Athletes must play in their appropriate age group for the State Championship events, but can apply to move up an age group if they have previously won a State Championship event (reword current National Championship rule).

10. SCORING FORMATS

Proposal: Change scoring format for all Junior Tour doubles events to No-Ad Scoring

Outcome: Agreed

Proposal: Add additional match reduction formats into the 2014 regulations, such as Short sets (first to 4)

Outcome: Agreed

11. CHANGE OF MATCH FORMAT TO FIT ENTRY NUMBERS / COURTS

Proposal: In the of qualifying draws greater than 64 entrants, two set and match tiebreak format can be utilised from the first rd event, even if weather is not a factor.

Outcome: Agreed, but the event should try to return to the correct format as soon as possible and where court availability allows

12. PROTECTED RANKINGS

Proposal: Allow use of protected ranking for seeding purposes

Outcome: Agreed – Rule to be updated

13. MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

Proposal: Tidy up inconsistency with wording

Outcome: Agreed, all medical certificates must be submitted no later than five days after the end of the tournament, regardless of withdrawal date.

14. LATE ENTRY FEES

Proposal: NSW will continue to provide feedback about their late entry fee pilot program where athletes are allowed to enter late, but no later than 10 days prior to the start of the tournament for an extra 50% cost.

Outcome: Victoria and Western Australia will look to pilot a late entry fee system for some of their tournaments in the second-half of 2013. Tasmania and South Australia expressed interest in trialling an early-bird system for some of their events later this year. A brief summary of how the trials went should be submitted to TA prior to the End of October, with recommendations for 2014 to follow.

15. INCREASE OF AMT DRAW SIZES

Proposal: Increase main draw sizes in AMT's to 28 or 32 players

Outcome: TA to further investigate and provide recommendation for 2014.

16. SMALL DRAW POINTS REDUCTIONS

Proposal: Eliminate small draw reduction formula

Outcome: Not agreed to, but TA to investigate changes to Australian Ranking points tables and update all stakeholders as soon as possible.

Please also note that Tennis Australia reserves the right to add/modify major rule changes for 2014 before the release of the final version.

Kind Regards,
Tournaments Team – Tennis Australia