



News Flash! Further Cooperation between Connacht & Munster Tennis: Winter Tennis League Phase 2 (Mens & Women's Teams) in Connacht and beyond.

A Chairde,

Following further recent discussions and contact between the Presidents of Munster Tennis & Connacht Tennis we are again delighted to be able to issue this official correspondence which includes some more important news for clubs in Connacht:

Connacht Tennis League

Phase II of the **Connacht Tennis Winter League** is now open for entries. After a significant entry in Connacht and record entry in Munster for **Phase I** of the League we expect to get another large entry for **Phase II**. Munster Tennis is committed to expanding the league further and also we are hoping to introduce a new **Munster & Connacht Junior Tennis League** in Spring 2023. To do this takes significant resources and time. Trying to manage payments manually is very difficult especially when dealing with hundreds of individual Teams. We need your continued cooperation at this very busy time to meet our commitments to you. Therefore while we were able to show flexibility to some clubs in **Phase I** (where certain payments were not taken online with entries) for **Phase II** we will not be able to accept any payment other than online. All payments via Tournament Software are through **PAYPAL** only just like most of the open events. If a club has a genuine problem with **PAYPAL** before the entries close we will allow **EFT Transfer** to the **Munster Tennis** account for up to 2 days after the entry is submitted online.

As mentioned above all entries and payment is by online only at: <https://ti.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/league?id=C8E9DEDD-1E8E-42C0-9F1A-1322F000AB13>

As per Phase I following the League finals it is planned that the top Teams in Connacht in each division/grade will playoff against top Teams in Munster for the overall Title in the inaugural **Interprovincial Champions Cup**. The final format, details and dates for this will be announced again shortly most likely once entries are in.

Background Work:

Again the Munster Tennis Competitions Committee headed by Convenor **Paul O'Callaghan** have put in significant work in to setting up the **Phase II** of the League and are working hard on finalising remaining matters. Their work and the continued work of our Administration Manager **Triona Buckley** in this regard has been and is invaluable.

Again in Connacht significant background preparations have also taken place and **Mark Smyth** will be the official liaison for Affiliated Connacht Clubs to help support the Munster Branch Office/Convenor and provide insight into entries that come in etc.

As this is all new to Connacht Clubs it is important to read all the League rules carefully.

The Munster Tennis Winter League

Last year the expanded **Munster Tennis Winter League** was highly successful with over 330 Teams competing over 2 Phases. It is now the Largest Tennis League in Europe! Phase II last year was Mens Doubles Teams & Women's Doubles Teams; which proved very popular and we have retained this format again this year.

World Tennis Number (A reminder)

The new **World Tennis Number (WTN)** <https://worldtennisnumber.com> that was launched last year by the ITF (International Tennis Federation) and Ireland was one of the first 10 nations to launch with them. The WTN for each player is going to be monitored for all Teams in Phase 1 along with our normal Munster grading and we are hoping to utilise the WTN system for Phase 2 of the league next year. We hope to do a seminar or two about this and other related competition matters and details for those will be announced in due course. It is a very exciting development as it will mean that the power of modern computer technology (and associated algorithms) are utilised and it is this which will be what calculates your Rating (Grade) based on your results and the strength of the players you faced. It will no longer be a manual exercise. It will also take the score of each particular match into account. If you do well and win matches your rating will get better, if you have a bad run and lose a series of matches your rating may drop back. It will also help highlight players that are too strong for a particular grade or division. Exciting times are upon us.

Outline of Format

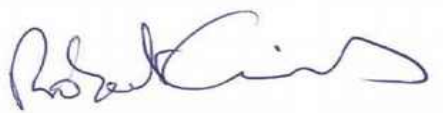
For Phase II of the League the general format is a **Team of 4 Men or a Team of 4 Women**. Each tie is played with entirely in Doubles. Please consult the rules issued. Please consult the League rules! As mentioned above all entries and payment is by online only at: <https://ti.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/league?id=C8E9DEDD-1E8E-42C0-9F1A-1322F000AB13>

We are again confident that the continued cooperation between the Branches and the work that has been carried out thus far will provide dividends to Clubs in Connacht and in Munster and we will be able to announce more details shortly as entries come in. **We encourage as many Affiliated Clubs & their teams to enter as possible.**

Over and in!...

Go raibh míle maith agaibh

Is mise le meas




Robert M Cummins

President Munster Tennis : Uachtarán Leadóige na Mumhan



Go raibh míle maith agaibh

Is mise le meas



Gerry Smyth

President Connacht Tennis : Uachtarán Leadóige Chonnacht

