The IC Rod Laver 16 & under Junior Challenge
amended July 2019

Event Title
The event will be called (dependent upon where it is played):
“The IC Rod Laver South American Junior Challenge”
“The IC Rod Laver North American Junior Challenge”
“The IC Rod Laver Asia/Oceania Junior Challenge”
“The IC Rod Laver European Junior Challenge”
“The IC Rod Laver African Junior Challenge”
“The IC Rod Laver Junior Challenge Worldwide Finals”

Event Jurisdiction
The event has been developed by the Council of International Lawn Tennis Clubs, who own the rights and are responsible for the rules and regulations under the Rules of Tennis adopted by the ITF and the approved Code of Conduct.
The event will be overseen by a member of the IC Council and appropriate people co-opted for the promotion of the event.
Each Challenge will be an official IC event, under the jurisdiction of the local IC and must be marketed and advertised as a specific International Club event.
There will be an overall world-wide event coordinator and an on-site venue Tournament Director and Referee, responsible for the promotion and organisation of the event and the rules and regulations on a local basis.

Event Format
Up to 5 events to be played as qualifying regional challenges every two years, one on each continent. The finals to take place every other year consisting of the winners of the previous year’s regional challenges plus a team from the host country.
If the host country of the finals wins the regional challenge, then both the winner and runner-up of the European Challenge go forward to the finals.
Composition of each team is 2 boys, 2 girls and an adult captain/coach.
The dress code should be as per ITF Junior Tournaments, which includes permitted logo size and should include “accepted tennis attire”. Clothing can be in the colours of their country with the name of their country/IC displayed unless local dress rules do not allow this e.g. Wimbledon where “all white” is required.
Playing format
Each match will consist of two sets, with a tiebreak at 6-6, plus a final set 10-point champions tiebreak if the match is one set all (instead of a third set). Normally, games will be played out with full advantages. This may be amended if circumstances such as bad weather occur, or if agreed by the referee at a Captains’ meeting in view of other constraints such as time and court availability.
Final positions in any group, will be decided by the number of ties won. (A tie is the completion of all matches against the other side – 4 singles and 2 doubles.)

Example 1:
Final results of the 2016 Compass IC Junior Challenge Finals Monte Carlo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Argentina</th>
<th>Monaco/Fr</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>S Africa</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaco/Fr</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Africa</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the number of sets and games won will not be taken into account to decide wins. The final positions will be decided by tie wins.

Various versions of the event are available:
3-team event where each plays the other on a round-robin basis. The teams can play their doubles matches separately, so that all teams have some matches each day and the result is not known until the final day.
4-team event: Either each team plays the other over a three days round-robin or two play and the winners play for the Challenge result with losers playing for 3rd and 4th place.
8-team event (e.g. European Challenge) where two lots of 4 teams play over three days. If time permits, the winner of Group One plays the runner-up in Group Two and the winner of Group Two plays the runner-up in Group one for the semi-final (and the others play for places). Then the two semi-final winners play the final. If time is a constraint then
the referee can decide to play opposite numbers from each half directly against each other to determine all places.

6 - team event (typically the Finals) where each country plays one of the others over five days on a round-robin basis and the one with the highest number of wins is the Champion team.

It is not preferable to play the event with only 5 teams with one team having to have a day off. In this case a local second team can be fielded by the host.

Each country plays “a tie” against another country which consists of 6 matches:

2 boys’ singles
2 girls’ singles
1 boys’ doubles
1 girls’ doubles

Each match is worth one point and the country with the most points wins the tie.

If the result is 3-3, there will be a mixed doubles Champion’s 10-point tiebreak to decide who wins the whole tie.

Over the course of the event, if two or more teams have won the same number of ties, the following process is to be used to decide the final positions.

a) If two teams are equal one 10-point mixed doubles Champions tiebreak is played to decide.

b) If three teams have equal points, a draw is made for the two to play and one team goes through to the final stage and plays a mixed tiebreak against the winner of the first mixed doubles tiebreak.

c) If four teams have equal points a draw is made and the winners of the first mixed tiebreak play against each other to decide.

Captains may change pairings from one round to another.

The spirit and principle of this method is to ensure that tennis decides and not a mathematical formula. It also makes it both more transparent and dramatic.

Seeding

Only the top two nominated boys and girls players will be taken into account for seeding as the third player is only an optional reserve.

Rules for taking/playing reserves

There is a maximum of two additional players, one girl, one boy, allowed. Maximum total players on a team is 6.
- Reserves count as the number three players in the team before selection.
- A reserve cannot be the highest ranked player.
- Reserves can play doubles without restriction.
- Reserve players can only play singles if the player originally appointed to the team suffers an injury, or extreme exhaustion and this would be at the discretion of the Referee.
- If a reserve player replaces an original player for a singles match, the replaced player cannot play singles or doubles during the rest of that day and he/she would only be allowed to play doubles on the remaining days of the Challenge.
- Reserves can only be present at the expense of the IC or Federation concerned and no extra expense will be borne by the host nation.

**Event Age-group**

The event is for the promotion of the game to the 16 and under age-group. ie. a player has to be 16 or under in the year of the competition. If a team wins through to the finals, the same players are allowed to be 17 at the time of the competition (to encourage teams to field the same players who won the regional Challenge) but if substitutes are required, they must be 16 or under and not have reached their 17th birthday in the year of the final.

**Team selection**

Players will be selected by their ICs usually in consultation with their Tennis Associations/Federations and entered by their IC.

Teams should be nominated at least two weeks in advance with changes possible up to the time of the Captains’ meeting to take account of the previous week’s ITF or Federation ranking.

They must only enter the regional Challenge with the express intention of playing in the finals if they win.

**Entry fee**

There may be an entry fee paid to the host organiser for regional Challenges as laid out in the organisers’ conditions of entry but this is not preferable.
Sportsmanship Awards
A Sportsmanship Award may be presented at the end of the Regional events and the World-wide Finals, to the one boy and one girl player who, in the eyes of opposing captains, supervisors, IC Council representatives and the referee, have shown an exceptional element of sportsmanship and fair play in the true IC spirit during the event. The sportsmanship trophies will be supplied by The Council for the World-wide Finals only. (All regional trophies should be provided by the local IC.)

Sponsorship.
The current donors do not require naming rights and local sponsors/donors can be sought to help hosts fund events. The name of Rod Laver is included in the title of the events and IC banners reflecting this should be displayed. The IC Council world-wide coordinator is responsible for the allocation of funds to hosts per regional and Worldwide Finals event. A subsidy for players’ airfares to travel to the World-wide Finals will also be available.
The event overall is self-financing and any shortfall in staging a Regional or Finals event should be made up with other local sponsorship by the host IC.

Responsibilities of the Host Organiser
· To structure the playing format of the event in agreement with the local Tournament Director and IC Council representatives.
· To be responsible for the organisation of the event including suitable venue with appropriate number and standard of courts, depending upon the agreed number of participating countries.
· To provide a Fact Sheet giving details of dates/venue/surface type/officials’ contacts/any entry cost if applicable. See "Guidance for Staging Major IC Events" downloadable from the Council website www.ictennis.net.
· To work within the prescribed funding agreed by the Council.
· To run the event as approved by the IC Council Junior Challenge coordinator.
· To provide all teams of 2 boys/2 girls and an adult Captain with free accommodation and all meals during the duration of their stay.
· To make every effort to collect and deliver teams to/from the local airport.
· To provide appropriate practice facilities prior to the start of the event.
· To provide 3 or 4 new balls for each match with practice balls and courts available free of charge.
· To help make available physio/medical/first aid services in case of injury or illness
· To provide a restringing service from the day of arrival at the expense of the players.
· To provide free water on court for matches with replenishment where necessary.
· To provide prizes for team members of the winners and preferably also runners-up.
(The Finals world-wide trophy is kept in UK and transported to each finals.) A Sportsmanship Award for one boy and one girl will be provided by The Council.
· To provide a good social/cultural programme for the players. (This aspect is important in differentiating this event from a normal ITF-type tournament). This could also include staging a Pro-am event.
· To encourage team members to mix and make new friends and not to stay within their own team environment all the time.
· To display IC Banners and preferably also flags of competing nations. Local sponsors' banners may also be displayed.
· To provide a printed programme of the event (World-wide Finals only) for players, officials and spectators.
· To provide facilities for a Captains’ meeting before and if necessary during, the event.
· To ensure the event has the appropriate level of insurance cover.
· To ensure the players have sufficient security at the venue and hotel accommodation.
· To stage, for the Finals, a brief opening ceremony with teams and their countries' flags on the first day before commencement of play.
· To stage a prize-giving ceremony at the conclusion of the event.
· To stage a short clinic event for disadvantaged/handicapped kids in which the players and their captains take part. (This is usually on practise day.) Those selected to take part in the clinic should preferably not have had experience playing tennis before.
A separate grant paid after the event is available from IC Philanthropy providing certain conditions are met. This is upon submission of costs, photos and a report.
· To provide good definition images or videos to the overall Junior Challenge coordinator/webmaster for use on the Council website. See Guidance for Staging Major IC Events.
To arrange for the provision of a short report, preferably with photos, on each day’s play to the Coordinator/webmaster. This to go up on IC Council website.

Guidance for Referees

- At the Captains meeting, emphasize the fact that this event should be played in the true spirit of the IC – sportsmanship and fair play.
- Since this an IC event and therefore without umpires, the players should make all decisions and captains should stay out of any line call disputes. The only exception being if confirming a decision against their own player.
- The Captain shall be allowed to sit on the court beside the chair of his/her team, but may not move away from that area. He/she may coach their players only at change of ends, (not after the first game of each set and not during the tiebreak) but can encourage them at any time.
- On clay courts only, and where there is no umpire, ball mark inspection is allowed by the opposing player, who may cross the net with the agreement of the person making the call. If any dispute cannot be resolved amicably, the players should call the Referee, who will make a decision. But in principle, however, it is the responsibility of the player at the end where the ball has landed to make the decision.

However, under ITF rules, if in any doubt the ball is to be called “in” and players should be reminded that calls should be made quickly and audibly enough for the opponent to hear.

- It is mandatory for all players to shake the hand of their opponent/s at the end of each match.
- The referee should post each day’s comprehensive results and provide these to the Junior Challenge coordinator.
- The referee should post a summary results table for everyone, including spectators, displaying the progress during the event (example 1 above) indicating which teams have played against each other and which still have to play and the progressive points tally.

Junior Associate Members

The Council recommends that individual ICs should consider making Junior Associate Members of their own clubs those juniors who have taken part -- but only if they have displayed the necessary IC spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.