



PRESS RELEASE

TENNISMALAYSIA LAUNCHES NEW JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

KUALA LUMPUR, 12th JANUARY 2024:

The Lawn Tennis Association of Malaysia ("TennisMalaysia") announced the launch of their new junior development program to enhance the ability of young Malaysia tennis players to rise up the world junior rankings. This new program is the culmination of discussions with the International Tennis Federation ("ITF"), other national tennis associations with successful junior programs, as well as affiliates and coaches.

President of TennisMalaysia, Mirzan Mahathir commented, "we felt that after seven years of implementing the existing program, it was time to review the results and address the issues that limited the ability of our juniors to realise their potential. The new program will begin this year. We will brief our affiliates, coaches, players, parents and other stakeholders so that all of us can make this program successful."

The program focuses on early talent identification, transparent player selection through ranking and rating, the provision of a support and incentive structure to encourage performance and reducing costs of participation. Players as young as six years old can learn to play tennis and start their journey to eventually compete for a spot in the national team.

The R-O-G Program

Players aged ten years and below will develop their skills using the red, orange and green balls as stipulated by the ITF. They play using smaller, lighter racquets on mini-tennis courts with lowered nets. Each state affiliate along with clubs under the Junior Tennis Initiative("JTI") program are encouraged to have their players participate in a monthly tennis competition. Those that are determined by the affiliate to be in the top four in each age category can then compete in a regional tournament held every six months. There are five regions, namely, North, South, East, Central and Sabah-Sarawak-Labuan. The top three players from each age category at the regional level are invited to compete in the National Championships held at the National Tennis Centre twice a year after the completion of the regional tournaments.

This ten and under development program called the R-O-G program seeks to increase player participation at the local level. The affiliates can better monitor the progress of each player. Since competition is mainly at a local and regional level, player expenses can be kept to a minimum. The prospect of participating in a regional and then national level serves as an incentive to hone skills, improve fitness and compete aggressively.

The Junior Tennis Program

Players aged ten to 18 can participate in the Junior Tennis Program. As in the R-O-G program, players start at the State level through the coaching organised by the State affiliate, the JTI clubs or independent coaches. All can compete in the national-level TennisMalaysia Junior Tour comprising of six legs, three in the first six months of the year and the rest in the second six months. Boys and girls can compete for national ranking points in the 12 & Under, 14 & Under and 16 & Under age categories. The top eight in each age category are invited to compete in the National Championships to be held in the middle and end of the year.

Those players aged 14 and under are encouraged to enter the Asian Tennis Federation's ("ATF's") 14 & Under tournaments held in Malaysia and the region. By participating, they will experience competitive matches against a variety of opponents. If they reach the semi-finals and finals of these tournaments, support will be given to assist them to compete in more ATF ranked tournaments.

Similarly, *players* who perform well in the TennisMalaysia Junior Tour will be given the opportunity to earn ATF and ITF points through the wild card allocation that come with hosting these tournaments. This year TennisMalaysia is organising six ATF 14 & Under and eight ITF World Tennis Tour Junior tournaments, four of which are the entry-level J30 and J60. These tournaments can give wildcard entries the opportunity to gain ATF and ITF Junior points. Those who reach the semi-finals and finals of these tournaments will be entitled to support and assistance to defray the player's tournament-related costs.

Mirzan added, "we are embarking on this new Junior Development program with the objective of creating future champions. We look to build a pathway for players who want to dedicate their time and effort to realise their full potential in this evermore competitive sport. The support of all stakeholders is vital to ensure success in achieving this goal."

- END -

ABOUT LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA (TENNISMALAYSIA)

TennisMalaysia was established in 1965 with 15 affiliate members comprising 14 state tennis associations and the Malaysian Armed Forces. The main purpose of the establishment of the Association is to promote and be the body responsible for the game of tennis in Malaysia. TennisMalaysia is also responsible for helping its affiliates develop the game of tennis from the grassroots level, organizing national level tournaments, producing and updating the rankings of tennis players in all categories, selecting, preparing and sending top national players to tournaments and providing knowledge and training for coaches. and officers.

President	: En. Mirzan B Mahathir
Vice President	: Dato Patrick CJ Liew
Vice President	: Datuk Seri Farid Ridzuan
Vice President	: En. Zainuddin Osman
Honorary Secretary	: En. Muhammad Shahrul Hafidz Ab Rahim
Honorary Treasurer	: En. Hang Kok Long
Executive Secretary	: En. Mohamad Helmi Mohamad
Committee Member	: En. Mulyadi Jamal
Committee Member	: En. Fazwil b Abdul Wahid
Committee Member	: En. Nurizam b Mohd Khalid
Committee Member	: En. Mohamad Arffendi b Yusof
Committee Member	: Pn. Rozana Mohd Mahfudz
Committee Member	: Cik Maria Fauzana Ghazali
Committee Member	: En Nor Asri Mohd Norman

For further information please contact:

Muhammad Shahrul Hafidz b Ab Rahim (016-655 5291) Honorary Secretary, Lawn Tennis Association of Malaysia
Email: secretary@ltam.my

Or Mohamad Helmi b Mohamad (012-340 9388) Executive Secretary, Lawn Tennis Association of Malaysia
Email: helmiRF08@gmail.com