



## **ULSTER SPRING CLOSED MATCHPLAYS QUALIFIERS 2026**

Entries are open for the Ulster Spring Closed Matchplays Qualifiers. Please note the following:

1. Matchplays will be run in one of four regions: **Western, Central, Southern and Eastern**.
2. Events will be run at Under 14 and Under 18 age groups.
3. All entries **MUST** be made on-line using the Tournament Software website for the matchplays. **Entries will not be accepted by email or phone or any other method.**
4. There will be an entry fee of £9 per player to cover the cost of facilities and tennis balls. This fee must be paid using a credit/debit card or PayPal when submitting the online entry.
5. The top finishers in each qualifying matchplay will qualify for the Provincial closed matchplays in that age group. The number of qualifiers may vary depending on the particular qualification event.
6. Provincial closed matchplays will be run later, dates will be confirmed.
7. Players must complete all matches in the qualifiers to qualify for the Provincial matchplay.

## AGE GROUPS

1. The matchplays are part of the **2026** season, so players must be under the required age on 31st December 2025
2. Players born in 2016 who have a valid Tennis Ireland passport allowing them to play Under 12 yellow ball may enter Under 14 events.

## MATCHPLAY REGIONS

Qualification events will be run in one of four regions depending on the club you are a member of:

<b>Western</b>	<b>Southern</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Eastern</b>
Butt Hall	Banbridge	ATT	Bangor
City of Derry	Downpatrick	Ballycastle	CIYMS
Dungannon	Downshire	Ballymena	Civil Service
Enniskillen	Hilden	Ballynafeigh	Cloughey
Irvinestown	Lisburn	Boat Club	David Lloyd
Letterkenny	Lurgan	Cavehill	Donaghadee
Limavady	Newcastle	Coleraine	Hawarden
Omagh	Newry	Larne	Helen's Bay
Strabane	Portadown	Malone	Royal Belfast
	Warrenpoint	Ozone	St Patrick's
		Whitehead	
		Windsor	

PLEASE NOTE THE SPLIT OF CLUBS BETWEEN REGIONS

## ENTRY CLOSING DATES

The closing date for entry for each qualification matchplay will be as follows:

Matchplay Day	Closing Date
Friday	Preceding Wednesday at 23:59
Saturday	Preceding Thursday at 23:59
Sunday	Preceding Friday at 23:59

## MATCHPLAY DATES

The following are dates for each matchplay. Further dates will be added when available.

### Western

Age Group	Date	Venue	Time
Under 14 Boys and Girls	TBC	TBC	TBC

Under 18 Boys and Girls	TBC	TBC	TBC
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## Southern

Age Group	Date	Venue	Time
Under 14 Boys and Girls	TBC	TBC	TBC
Under 18 Boys and Girls	TBC	TBC	TBC

## Central

Age Group	Date	Venue	Time
Under 14 Boys	TBC	TBC	TBC
Under 14 Girls	TBC	TBC	TBC
Under 18 Boys	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Windsor	5:00pm
Under 18 Girls	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Windsor	5:00pm

## Eastern

Age Group	Date	Venue	Time
Under 14 Boys and Girls	TBC	TBC	TBC
Under 18 Boys and Girls	TBC	TBC	TBC

Dates will be updated as they become available.

## **MATCHPLAY RULES**

1. Matchplays are open to all Junior **Members** of clubs who are eligible to represent Ulster.
2. Players must enter the region which the Club they are a member of is in.
3. All players must have a Tennis Ireland PIN to play in the matchplays.
4. The maximum number of entries for a Provincial matchplay will be 16.
5. A number of qualifying places will be available in each age group from each qualifying matchplay.
6. In addition, under normal circumstances the top ranked players in each age group will be exempt from the qualifying matchplays in that age group. These players will qualify directly for the Provincial matchplays in that age group. Exempt players will be based on the top players in the UTP rankings who are still in the age group.
7. If the matchplay is a 16-player event (this is dependent on the number of qualifying entries), then further places in each age group may be available to players who played in the qualifying match plays but did not qualify for the provincials.
8. Further places in the Provincial event may also be available if there are insufficient qualifiers from a qualifying matchplay in an age group, or if players who qualify directly through being exempt from qualifying matchplays do not enter that age group in the Provincial event.
9. **Any** additional places will either be determined by the UBTI Junior Seeding Committee or by running play-offs. This decision will be at the discretion of the UBTI Junior Development Committee.
10. In the event that a qualifier pulls out at very short notice the Junior Development Committee may choose a player to fill that position from another qualifying event taking the advice of the UBTI Seeding Committee.
11. The seeding for the Provincial matchplays will be done by the Ulster Branch Junior Seeding Committee and their decision is final.

12. **All** players must register on-line using the Tournament Software online entry facility to play in the qualifying and Provincial matchplays by the dates given on the website. Entries will not be accepted by email or phone or any other method. Entries will not be accepted after the published deadline. **Any** player failing to enter by the published deadline will lose their place in the event.
13. If a player registers to play in the Provincial matchplays and fails to attend the event without prior notice being given to the matchplay organizer, they will lose any points they have accumulated in the qualifying matchplays and be penalized 100 UTP ranking points.
14. Players who withdraw due to injury or illness from Provincial matchplays after the draw has been published will be deducted 100 UTP ranking points, unless they provide a valid doctor's certificate to the matchplay organizer within three days of the tournament completing.
15. Any ranking point penalty will apply even if the player earned no points from the matchplay for which the penalty was issued.
16. All players must complete **all** their matches in qualifying and provincial matchplays. Failure to do so means that they will automatically be allocated **last** position in the matchplay rankings and cannot qualify from the event.
17. UTP Ranking Points will be awarded for all finishing positions in qualifying and provincial matchplays. In the event of there being only 1 entrant to a qualifying matchplay the event will automatically be given a UTP count of 2 and the sole entrant will receive the winner's points of 200 plus entry points.
18. Players who are exempt from qualifying matchplays will receive 200 UTP ranking points plus 10 entry points for the qualifying matchplay if they enter the Provincial matchplay in the corresponding age group.
19. Please note competitors should check in 15 minutes before the start of play at qualifying and provincial matchplays. A competitor arriving late at an event may be scratched from the event.
20. **The Code of Conduct for Players** is in use at all UBTI matchplays and will be enforced by the referee at **all times** and **without exception**, including the use of the penalty point system. Any player who is disqualified from a match will take no further part in the matchplays.

- 21. The Code of Conduct for Spectators** is in use at all UBTI matchplays and will be enforced by the referee **at all times and without exception**. In particular all spectators should note that they are ***not*** to interfere in a match **for any reason** - if such interference occurs, it may result in the child of the parent/spectator who is interfering forfeiting the match.
- 22.** The UBTI Junior Development Committee will appoint a referee for each matchplay and their decision on all matters arising at the event will be final.