



MASTERS DIVISION

INTER-PROVINCIAL CUP – ‘A’ AND ‘B’ SECTIONS AND SHIELD

2026 RULES FOR ALL GROUPS

1) GENERAL

• AGE CATEGORIES

There will be two separate Inter-Provincial Tournaments (IPTs) organized by the National Masters Committee (NMC) each year for the two age categories, the 30 – 59 and 60 – 75+ age groups **over five days**.

The 30 – 59 age category will start play at 12pm on Wednesday and end play on Sunday between 1pm and 2pm. The 60 – 75+ age category will start play on Monday and end play on Friday between 1pm and 2pm. An informal Prizegiving will be held on the last day, the 5th day of each IPT after the results have been finalized by the Referee.

• IPT CUP – A & B

The **IPT Cup** is open to all “A” and “B” teams with each Province/District being allowed to enter **one team** per A Cup. Additional teams will be accommodated where possible, with the host team getting preference. Provinces can enter an **A Cup** or **B Cup in each age group within the age category**, with a maximum of **8 teams** per Cup. The Province will submit the number of **teams** to be entered to the **TSA Masters Coordinator** two months prior to the Inter-Provincial Tournament.

• SHIELD EVENT

The **Shield** is open to **additional** teams in **all age groups** as long as there are at least **five teams** available to play. If there are less than 5 teams then they will be combined with the Shield teams in a younger age group or incorporated into the B Cup if possible. A maximum of **8 teams may enter** with the host province having first option to enter **an extra team**.

• COMBINING & MOVING TEAMS

The final decision with regard to **combining teams** and **moving teams** between the **Cups and the Shield Events** lies with the **Organizing Committee**, which consists of the **Referee, the TSA Masters Co-Ordinator, and members of the Seedings and Selection Committee**.

There may be specific cases where four teams will be allowed to compete. In this case the four teams will play a round robin over 3 days and then will play playoffs between number 1 and 2 as well as number 3 and 4. The playoff result will be the final result.

• BYES

Due to the **transient nature** of the number of teams entered by each province, players need to understand that **A BYE** may be unavoidable on one of the tournament days.

2) TSA MEMBERSHIP

- All players participating must be **fully paid-up members** of **TSA** as well as a **district/provincial masters entity** and must belong to a **tennis club which is affiliated to a district/provincial tennis federation**.
- The **onus is on the Province** when submitting their teams and followed up by the Captain to ensure compliance.
- **A team that fields players who are not members of TSA may be disqualified.**

3) ENTRIES AND ENTRY FEES

- CLOSING DATES for entries **with names** of team members will be **45 days** prior to the first day of the competition, or as determined by the NMC. **The amount of R180 per player must be paid over to the hosting province.** This is a provincial expense and not a player expense.
- IPT PLAYER FEE – An amount of **R700** per player must be collected by **the province** and **paid over to the hosting province**. This amount to be used for the general running of the tournament. Additional players in a team pay only R480 per player.
- WITHDRAWAL DATE
The withdrawal date for teams and players will be **two weeks prior** to the first day of the competition, or as determined by the NMC. **No refunds will be issued after this date.**
- TEAM COMPOSITION
 - **30 - 59 Mixed teams:** Each team shall consist of 6 players–3 men and 3 women with an option of **one or two additional players, one man and/or one woman. If a team wants to add an additional player to a team, all players of that gender must be from the same province.**

- **60 - 75+ Mixed teams:** Each team shall consist of 4 players – 2 men and 2 women **with an option of one or two additional players, one man and/or one woman. If a team wants to add an additional player to a team, all players of that gender must be from the same province.**
- **Excess men's and women's teams:** Each team will consist of 2 players **with an option of one additional player.**
- **If a team feels that they need to add an additional player to their team and a player from that province is not possible, then they may apply for a player from the kitty on condition that that player is of equal strength or weaker than the players in their team. The strength of the additional player will be according to playing ability and not ranking position.**
- **A player needs to play at least three matches in the Inter Pro to be allocated the ranking points.**

- **MEN'S AND/OR WOMEN'S ONLY TEAMS**

Should provinces find themselves in a position of having too many **men and/or women** then those provinces will be able to enter **Men's only or Women's only** teams, but the **first priority** and the best players must be used in the **mixed teams**. This will only take place if there are **enough teams** to warrant it happening.

4) **PLAYER "KITTY"**

- **COMBINATION OF NEIGHBOURING PROVINCES (PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NOW ONLY NINE PROVINCES)**

If players do not make themselves available for their own province, then they may not play for another Province. If Provincial Chairmen are short of players, they may approach their neighbouring province directly without submitting kitty requests.

The provinces would be grouped as follows:

- Gauteng (which includes Gauteng North, Gauteng Central and Gauteng East)
- Free State, Northern Cape and North West Province
- Kwa-Zulu Natal
- Western Cape (which includes Winelands, Cape Town Tennis and Eden)
- Eastern Cape (which includes Buffalo City (Border) and Nelson Mandela Bay (Eastern Province))
- Mpumalanga and Limpopo

If two or more players from a province are in the team, then it is a combined team and that province is mentioned in the team's name and both tracksuits are worn. Provinces may **ONLY** negotiate with the provinces in their group. Thereafter they must work through the "kitty".

- **PLAYING DOWN**

Players **may play down** in a lower age group in the same IPT event (players in the 60 and over age group may not play in the 30 – 59 age group IPT). Provincial Committees may allow players to do so if they wish to. The idea is that the **best team is entered in the A Cup**, regardless of the age of the players who make themselves available. If they are stronger than the correct age group of players, they may be given priority by the selectors in order to submit a stronger team. Provinces are obliged to release players that have not been selected to their neighboring provinces and then to the kitty.

- **EXCESS PLAYERS**

If there are still excess players who cannot be accommodated in teams after consulting with neighbouring provinces as per the groupings above, their names **must be submitted to the kitty by Provincial Chairpersons**, which will be controlled by the **TSA Masters member appointed to handle the kitty**. This "kitty" will be used to assist provinces who are short of players after the entry deadline. Provincial Chairpersons needing players must submit their requests to the **TSA Masters member appointed to handle the kitty** stating the age, gender and strength of player required.

- **ALLOCATION OF PLAYERS**

Players wishing to be placed in the kitty need to put their names and **TSA** numbers forward to their Provincial Chairpersons, who will forward them to TSA in writing for placement in the kitty. **Players cannot be refused to be placed in the kitty on the basis of age.** Provincial requests will then be paired with player requests. Decisions around allocation of players will be taken by the **Masters member appointed to handle the kitty**, if necessary, on a ballot system but players may state their preferred province. **Allocations from the kitty will be made only after the closing dates for entries, which is 45 days prior to the start of the competition. No kitty players will be released before this date.**

- **All requests to be sent by e-mail to the appointed Masters member.**

5) **NUMBER OF COURTS**

- Each tie will be played on 2 courts, **except the 60 – 75+ group and the one gender ties which will be played on 1 court.** Two ties may be played on 5 courts, i.e. two ties will share one extra court if time constraints prove to be a problem. In the 60-75+ group, two ties may be played on 3 courts for the same reason. The men/women only groups will use 1 court only.
- Additional courts may be needed for the first and last day if only half a day is scheduled.
- Players must be prepared to play under floodlights if circumstances (so) dictate.

6) NUMBER OF MATCHES

Age Group	Cup	Men's Singles	Women's Singles	Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles	Mixed Doubles	Total Matches
30 – 59 Mixed	A, B & Shield	2	2	1	1	2	8
60 – 75+ Mixed	A, B & Shield	1	1	1	1	1	5
70 – 75 Mixed	B & Shield			1	1	2	4
Men's only Teams	A & B	2		1			3
Women's only Teams	A & B		2		1		3

- **30 - 59 Masters Age Groups (mixed) A Cup, B Cup & Shield Events played in 10-year age group:**

The tie will consist of: 2 x men's singles; 2 x women's singles; 1 x men's doubles; 1 x women's doubles and 2 x mixed doubles – i.e. 8 matches in total. **Up to four men and four women in each team will take part in each tie in the eight matches.** All matches will be the best of three tiebreaker sets.

60 - 75+ Masters Age Groups (mixed) A Cup, B Cup & Shield Event played in 5-year age groups.

60, 65A and B Cup and shield as well as 70, 75 A Cup:

The tie will consist of: 1 x men's singles; 1 x women's singles; 1 x men's doubles; 1 x women's doubles and 1 x mixed doubles i.e. A total of 5 matches. **Up to three men and three women will take part in each tie in the five matches. All singles matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker in the third set. All doubles and mixed doubles matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker in the third set.**

70 and 75 B Cup and Shield:

The tie will consist of: 1 x men's doubles; 1 x women's doubles and 2 x mixed doubles i.e. A total of 4 matches. **Up to three men and three women will take part in each tie in the four matches. All doubles and mixed doubles matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker in the third set.**

30-75+ Two/three men / women sides A Cup and B Cup: (3 matches)

The tie will consist of: 2 x men's/women's singles and 1 x men's/women's doubles, i.e. a total of 3 matches with each player playing at least one match per day. Up to three men or women will take part in each tie in the three matches. **In the 30 to 59 age group all matches will be the best of three tiebreaker sets.**

In the 60 – 75 age group, all matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker in the third set.

7) METHOD OF PLAY:

- A Round-robin format will be played in all age groups, either in **two sections (7 or 8 teams) or only one (5 or 6 teams)**.
- If there are **two sections with 8 teams** then there will be a **round-robin for three sessions, followed by cross-over on session four and final play-offs on session five.**
- If there are **two sections with 7 teams**, then there will be a **round-robin in each section for three sessions.** To determine positions **1 to 4**, this will be followed by **cross-over matches** on session four and final play-offs on session five. To determine positions **5 to 7**, a **round robin play-off** will be played. In this case, two teams would have already played each other during the first round-robin section, so they will not play again. **Their initial result will be duplicated into the round-robin competition for position 5 to 7.**
- There may be specific cases where four teams will be allowed to compete. In this case the four teams will play a round robin over 3 days and then will play playoffs between number 1 and 2 as well as number 3 and 4. The playoff result will be the final result.

8) POINTS ALLOCATION

- In all tie's each team receives **one point** per set won. The team with the most matches won in a tie wins the specific tie. Five bonus points will be awarded to the winning team. If a team wins all their ties then they will automatically be the winner of the event regardless the number of points. If not, then the winner will be determined according to points allocated.

- If there are **two round-robin groups with play-offs** and a team wins **all** their ties in the initial round-robin group, then they will end as number one in that group regardless of the number of points earned. If no team wins all its matches in either of the two round-robin groups, then the winner in each group will be determined according to points allocated.
- **If a tie ends up with each team having an equal number of matches as well as an equal number of sets and an equal number of games, then a mixed doubles tie-break shoot-out will be played to determine the winner (the best of 3 championship tie-break games i.e. first to 10 or lead by 2).**
- If two teams end up with equal points in a section, the winner of **the head-to-head** match between them will be declared the winner.
- The **computer** is programmed to do all the **necessary calculations**.

8.1 DETERMINATING THE WINNER IN CASE OF RAIN OR OTHER DELAYS

- If a tie cannot be finished because of rain or any other reason (delay) the matches and sets completed will determine the winner of the tie. If a result cannot be determined by the number of matches and then sets completed, then the percentage of games will determine the winner of the tie.
- If in a round robin with play-off matches any tie(s) that could not be completed by the time the play-off round is due to commence, the results at that stage (taking into consideration the completed matches) shall determine the positions for the play-off matches and uncompleted matches will not count.
- In a round robin without play-off matches, any tie(s), matches or sets that could not be completed by the end of the tournament will not be considered and the results available at that stage will determine the winner of the event.
 - Only completed sets will be considered and uncompleted sets will not be captured on the system.
- In a play-off tie the singles matches must be completed to determine a winner. If the singles are not completed the tie will be a draw. In the 70 – 75 B cup and shield the doubles must be completed to determine the winner.
 - If the singles are completed, all completed matches and sets of uncompleted matches will count to determine the winner.
 - If a team has to concede a doubles match due to injury and the tie could not be completed the conceded match will only be taken into account if the singles matches are completed and the other doubles match has started.

9) PLAYING RULES

- All Captains will be required to **fill in their team nomination sheets straight after their tie but by 12h30 at the latest when playing two ties in one day**. The **home team Captains** will also need to collect their **tennis balls** and **scoresheet** for the next tie.
- Each Captain must have completed **the match scoresheet** in full **15 Minutes prior** to the commencement of the tie, with the names of the **singles players** as well as the **doubles and mixed combinations** having been written down.
- Once the line-up has been written down and exchanged with the opposing Captain, it **may not be altered without the consent of the Referee**. **Should rain interrupt play the original line-up will stand, except when the entire format changes**.
- The **singles matches** will be played first in all age groups. In the **30 – 59 age groups** the singles will be followed by either the doubles or the mixed doubles, depending on which one can take to the court without wasting time. In the **60 – 75+ age groups** the doubles must be played before the mixed doubles. (If not done this way a team might have to forfeit two matches in case of injury).
- Any player not ready to play within **15 minutes** of the scheduled time, or after the court becomes available will be reported to the **Referee** who will award the match to his/her opponent, unless circumstances require otherwise.
- The **warm-up** period is a maximum of **5 minutes**.
- The maximum rest period **between a singles and doubles match** is **30 minutes – or as agreed by the Referee**.
- The maximum rest period **between a doubles and mixed doubles match** is **15 minutes – or as agreed by the Referee**.
- All round-robin matches must be completed fully. Teams may be penalized by the Referee for **not completing all matches in a tie**.
- All teams are to be played strictly in **the order of strength** submitted by their Province **and confirmed at the Captains meeting**. **No deviation will be allowed.**

10) DAILY ORDER OF PLAY

- Playing **times** and **court allocations** to be decided by the **Referee** and the host province.
- The **singles will be played first**. In the **30 – 59 age groups** the singles will be followed by either the doubles or mixed doubles. In the **60 – 75+ age groups** the singles must be followed by the doubles and then the mixed doubles.
- **Court allocations** will be made on a daily basis by the **Referee**.

- The **Order of Play** will be published by the Referee as **early as possible** each evening.
- The first team on the “**Order of Play**” is regarded as the home team and is responsible for collecting and returning the **score sheets** and **balls** from and to the Organizers.
- There will be **no deviation** from the scheduled Order of Play – **except by agreement from the Referee**.

11) TENNIS BALLS

The host province will provide the required number of new balls for each tie. Captains are responsible for ensuring that new balls are given to players for each match in the tie and that all balls are returned to the tournament desk. **No new balls will be available for third sets or 10-point match tiebreakers.**

12) SELECTION OF TEAMS

- Teams must be selected **prior to the closing date** of the entries.
- All players must be **registered with TSA** and their **TSA numbers** included on the entry form.
- The team member’s names must be submitted on the entry form in their **correct order of strength**. Any additional team members must also be included strictly IN ORDER OF STRENGTH The NMC must be informed of any changes in the teams or in the order of **strength at least seven days** prior to the start of the tournament.
- Any objections regarding the team order of strength should be made **at least seven days before the tournament**. The Masters Coordinator will distribute the team documents to all captains/provinces in advance. This needs to be done to enable the organizers to print the relevant documents on time.
- Last-minute changes should only be made when absolutely necessary at the captains meeting! The teams as officially submitted by the provinces – the order will stay the same unless there is an objection raised by another province and then this will be discussed at the captains meeting.
- Submitting new names at the meeting should be avoided in order to keep the captain’s meetings as short as possible. These should be submitted to the Masters Coordinator at the latest 24 hours before the tournament commences.

13) AGE CATEGORY QUALIFICATIONS

A player must have reached the minimum age in question by **31 December of the year** in which the tournament is being held. Players may play in a lower age group.

In cases of emergency - if a younger player is required to play in an older age group, with the permission of the NMC, then the following will apply:

- Points will be conceded for both matches in which the younger player participates. Matches must be played.
- The younger replacement may not play singles and can only play in the second doubles and mixed combinations.
- Qualification of players borrowed from another province: See Rule (18) Residential Requirements.

14) CAPTAIN’S MEETING

On the first day of the tournament the host Province must convene a **meeting of all the Captains**. The **Masters Tennis Coordinator** or other designated member of the **NMC** will Chair this meeting. The following points will be covered:

- The **Referee** will be introduced to the meeting.
- All **arrangements** regarding functions, tournament office location and other issues relevant to the tournament.
- The tournament rules will be the **IPT Rules for 2026** as stated in the **booklet** and cannot be changed.
- **Finalization of order of strength** of teams and any other changes to team compositions due to an objection being raised by another province. Any **other issues** relevant to the tournament may be raised.

15) INJURY TO PLAYERS

An injury is defined as “**an injury sustained on court rendering a player unfit to proceed with the match in progress or a scheduled match**”.

30 – 59

The following principles shall apply:

- **One match** (either the one in progress, or if completed, the next match in which that person was to play), **shall be conceded**.
- If a player concedes **during** a match due to illness, injury or any other reason and leaves the court, the match **being played** is forfeited. The score needs to be recorded on the score sheet **as it was at the time**, and the **reason** given for forfeiting, so that it is clear to the Referee why the match was conceded. However, if there is a tie in matches at the end of the tie, then the additional sets and games need to be considered by the Captains when determining the winner of the tie.

- The **lowest ranking member** of the team must replace the injured player in any remaining match of the tie. If the lowest ranked player is injured, the 2nd lowest ranking player will replace the injured player. **This player will then play three matches in the tie if he/she is not an additional team member who was not listed to play. No external substitute may play in the specific tie.** A replacement can, however, be found for subsequent sessions. An injured player may play again on subsequent sessions if **no external substitute** has played in his/her place.
- The situation should **not be abused** to allow stronger players to take the place of weaker players.
- Once the **singles match** is conceded the injured player **may under no circumstances** return to play **doubles** or **mixed** in the **same tie**.
- If two players from the same gender are injured or unable to play and no substitute can be found, then one singles match and the doubles shall be conceded. The remaining player will then play one singles and both mixed doubles matches.
 - If the remaining player is the number one or number two player in the team, then he/she will play the number one singles.
 - If the remaining player is the number three player in the team, then he/she will play the number two singles.
- In all cases where matches could not be completed or played, the remaining set points and game points will automatically be awarded to the opponents by the SportyHQ program when the results are entered.

60 – 75+

- **One match (either the one in progress, or if that one is completed, the next match in which that person was to play), shall be conceded.**
- **SINGLES:**
- If a player concedes **during** a match due to illness, injury or any other reason and leaves the court, the match **being played** is forfeited. The score needs to be recorded on the score sheet **as it was at the time**, and the **reason** given for forfeiting, so that it is clear to the Referee why the match was conceded. However, if there is a tie in matches at the end of the tie, then the additional sets and games need to be considered by the Captains when determining the winner of the tie.
 - **The additional player** can then play the doubles or an **external substitute** can be found if possible for the doubles in the same tie, provided that the substitute is equal in strength or weaker than the injured player. If **the additional team member** plays then the injured player may return to play **the next session** but if a substitute plays, then the injured player may not play again for the remainder of the tournament. If there is no reserve and no substitute is found, the doubles must also be forfeited and indicated as **a w/o** on the scoresheet.
 - If the player completes the singles and thereafter cannot continue playing, the doubles is forfeited and indicated **as a w/o on the scoresheet**.
- **DOUBLES:**
- If a player concedes **during** a match due to illness, injury or any other reason and leaves the court, the match **being played** is forfeited. The score needs to be recorded on the score sheet **as it was at the time**, and the **reason** given for forfeiting, so that it is clear to the Referee why the match was conceded. However, if there is a tie in matches at the end of the tie, then the additional sets and games need to be considered by the Captains when determining the winner of the tie.
 - The **additional or other team member** of the same gender will then play the mixed doubles. If this is the singles player, then he/she will play a third match in the tie if there is no additional team member.
 - If the player completes the doubles and thereafter cannot continue playing, the **mixed doubles** is forfeited and indicated as **a w/o** on the scoresheet.
- An injured player may play again (**on**) **in** subsequent sessions if no external substitute has played in his/her place. A replacement can, however, be found for subsequent sessions.
- The situation should **not** be abused to allow stronger players to take the place of weaker players.
- If a player **retires** from a singles match and **wants** to play the doubles in the same tie then he/she will be allowed to do so, but needs to sign an indemnity form before going on court for the doubles.
- In all cases where matches could not be completed or played, the remaining set points and game points will automatically be awarded to the opponents by the SportyHQ program when the results are entered.

ONE GENDER TEAMS WITH TWO/THREE PLAYERS (ONE IS A RESERVE)

- **One match (either the one in progress, or if that is completed, the next match that person was to play), shall be conceded.**
- If a player concedes **during** a match due to illness, injury or any other reason and leaves the court, the match **being played** is forfeited. The score needs to be recorded on the score sheet **as it was at the time**, and the **reason** given for forfeiting, so that it is clear to the Referee why the match was conceded. However, if there is a tie in matches at the end of the tie, then the additional sets and games need to be considered by the Captains when determining the winner of the tie.
 - The reserve or an external substitute can then be found if possible for the doubles in the same tie, provided that the substitute is equal in strength or weaker than the injured player. If the reserve plays then the injured **player** may

return to play the next session but if a substitute plays, then the injured player may not play again for the remainder of the tournament. If there is no reserve and no substitute is found, the doubles must also be forfeited and indicated as a w/o on the scoresheet.

- If no substitute could be found and there is no reserve for the remainder of the tournament or part there off, the player who is not injured will be allowed to play two singles matches per tie with a maximum of 60 minutes rest between matches. In this case the doubles will be conceded and indicated as a w/o on the scoresheet.

Rules applying to replacements on subsequent sessions:

- If there is no additional player in a team, then in all further ties an **injured player** may be replaced by a **substitute**, who will become the **lowest ranked player** for the remainder of the tournament.
- The replacement must **not be stronger** than the current members of the team.
- The replacement must be **approved** by the tournament referee who may consult with the local masters committee in case of a local player being the replacement.

If there is no additional player in the team and a replacement cannot be found the following will apply:

- All singles matches must be played.
- One doubles match will have to be conceded (men or women depending on which gender is injured).
- The conceded match will reflect as a w/o on the score sheet and the 2 sets and 12 games awarded to the opponents.

16) REFEREE

- The **Referee** will be appointed by **TSA** and will be charged with ensuring that the tournament is run in accordance with the current **Masters IPT Rules** and **General TSA Rules**.
- Other than the Rules described above, the **General Rules of Tennis** as prescribed **by the ITF** will apply.
- The Referee has full authority to amend the playing format if deemed necessary and move matches to different venues in order to achieve results in all events. The Referee’s decision will be final in all matters pertaining to the running of the tournament.
- The **TSA code of conduct** for players will be applicable and strictly enforced by the Referee.
- The **Tournament Management Committee**, consisting of the Referee, the TSA Representative and the local Tournament Organizer, will make all other decisions pertaining to the successful running of the tournament.

17) COACHING

- The Captain may only enter or leave the court **at the changeovers** but **not during tiebreaker changeovers**.
- **(On court) On-court coaching** may only be carried out by the Captain/Manager of a team during (change-overs) changeovers but **not during tiebreaker changeovers**.
- Should the Captain **be playing** a match he/she may **nominate** another member of the team to stand in. The opposition Captain needs to be informed of this nomination prior to taking the court.
- No coaching will be permitted from **outside** the court.
- No captain or any other player is allowed to remain on court while play is in progress.

18) RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- A player must be a **member of a district/provincial affiliated tennis club** (irrespective of where he/she resides).
- A player is available for the Province in whose territory his/her permanent residential address is situated.
- In the event of a player being available and not being selected by the Province where he/she resides (point 2 above), he/she may be eligible for selection by another Province, by making use of the “kitty” system mentioned in point 3) above.
- In the case where a player owns two or more properties in different provinces, the player must choose **one province** for a **full calendar year** on his/her **TSA profile** online.

19) RANKING POINTS

- Every player participating in the Inter-Provincial tournaments will receive **full attendance points** as per the table below, as long as they participate in at least **three** matches.
- Points will be awarded for each player in the team in **singles, doubles and mixed doubles**, irrespective of what matches they play.
- **Players will get attendance points as follows :**

POINTS ALLOCATION	A CUP	B CUP	SHIELD	ONE GENDER
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Attendance points allocated to all players in all age groups regardless of whether they are playing out of their age group or for another province.	100	100	100	100
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A player may **participate** in more than one Inter-provincial but may only **earn points** for **ONE** Inter-provincial Tournament. **Attendance points** earned in 2025 Inter-Regionals will be kept until the next Inter-Regional in that age group is played in 2026.