

WINTER REGIONAL TOUR PLANNING – THE RATIONALE

Background:

This document was put together to help parents and players better understand the rationale for the location of Winter Regional Tour competitions and the number of competitions at each age group and gender.

Winter Regional Tour Planning Process

The number of events per age group, per rotation of the Winter Regional Tour is calculated based on analysis of the player base. This means looking at the number of players in each age group, of each gender, and their playing standard. We then work out the number of WRT competitions needed to cater for the players that need to compete at Grade 3 level. This means, for example, that this season in the 10U age group we have a total of 16 Boys events, offering 128 playing opportunities, and 10 Girls events, offering 80 playing opportunities. The difference in the number of playing opportunities reflects the difference in the number of players. We are working hard to try and grow the number of girls competing, hopefully the result will be that in the future the difference between the number of playing opportunities for Boys and Girls at this level will reduce. If we ran the same number of Girls events as Boys events now the Girls events would be undersubscribed, or potentially cancelled, or they would not be Grade 3 level events.

The location of events is based on two factors:

1. The court availability offered to us by indoor centres. To run a yellow ball even (e.g. 12U) for one gender we 4 courts for 7 hours on 2 consecutive days. This amount of court time is not easy to come by when venues also deliver coaching programmes and need to have courts available for members
2. Further analysis of the player base to work out where the players identified as Regional Tour competitors are based. It is obviously important to get this right as otherwise we would end up with events in one area of the country being oversubscribed, and events in other areas of the country being undersubscribed and potentially cancelled.

Once we have looked at all of the data we allocate events to the venues that we have available on a regional basis, resulting in there being the relevant number of tournaments per region to cater for the identified players. Obviously this may mean that players still have to travel within their region, and we appreciate this travel time could be significant based on where they live.

We appreciate this is quite a detailed explanation but it is a complex process.

If you have any further comments or questions regarding the Winter Regional Tour you can get in touch [here](#). You can also view the calendars for all upcoming Winter Regional Tour competitions in all age groups online [here](#).