



January 2002

**To All Prospective Tournament Organizers,**

I am pleased to invite all member clubs to apply for OTA Sanctioned Tournaments for 2002 and beyond. The sanction process and tournament schedule are now handled on a year-round revolving acceptance basis. Schedule templates have been produced to reduce conflicts, improve the targeting of events to specific player groups and generally enhance the competitive structure in Ontario.

It is our desire to create a vibrant, efficient and reliable competitive structure. Vibrant as it welcomes, inspires and provides competitive opportunities for all levels. Efficient in terms of administration by the OTA, as well as host clubs. We will try to reduce unnecessary stresses in planning and coordination for everyone to present a reliable, consistent schedule.

Higher-level events are limited but open to 'bids' by clubs. Preference will be given to clubs who have successfully hosted such events in the past, with consideration also given to the suitability to host these events. Most other successfully operated events will also be given scheduling preference, in an effort to maintain continuity on an annual basis. It is preferred that clubs wishing to host events do so with a four-year commitment in mind.

As you have probably noticed the OTA no longer prints a seasonal schedule as in the past, instead relying on our web site to provide the information much like many other associations. This technological shift came about to provide the most current information, reduce costs and time associated with such a deadline-driven activity, permit clubs to plan on their own timelines and provide universal access to tournament information via the internet. A new summary listing has been made available on the web site for quick reference.

This application package includes tournament information that should be beneficial to you in planning your events. Please take time to review the enclosed information before applying.

Should you have any questions or feedback regarding the competitive structure please feel free to contact me at the OTA (416) 426-7133. I look forward to working with you to provide a positive competitive experience for all Ontario players. Thank you for your interest in running events and promoting the sport of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Kartik Vyas

**OTA Events Manager**

*& Provincial Assistant Coach*

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## TOURNAMENT SANCTION PROCESS

We suggest that in the planning, you consider offering events that will attract participation and/or involvement from your membership. Organizing an OTA sanctioned tournament is a great opportunity to promote your facility, attract new members to your club and stimulate community involvement.

It is suggested that you **give yourself a minimum of three months between application and the dates of your tournament** to permit proper administrative and marketing lead-time, however, there are no specific deadlines.

The schedule will be published on our web site [www.tennisonario.com](http://www.tennisonario.com) along with event updates in the Ontario Tennis Magazine and the weekly OTA News Release.

The sanction process is as follows:

1. Refer to the tournament templates and complete a separate sanction form for each event you request. This is the information that will be posted on the web site! Please note: **clubs will not be granted new sanctions if there are dues or sanction fees outstanding.**
2. Send applications to Kartik Vyas, OTA Events Manager, by fax: (416) 426-7370, e-mail: [kvyas@tennisonario.com](mailto:kvyas@tennisonario.com) or regular mail.
3. Confirmation of your application and detailed guidelines for operating your tournament will be sent back within seven days of receipt, along with any requests for further information.
4. Sanction will be granted or refused after all information has been reviewed.
5. An official sanction certificate and posting to the web will follow granting of sanctions within seven days.
6. Invoicing of all sanction fees will be done at month-end following operation of the tournament. Sanction fees cover the cost of administering the competitive structure, including the management of rankings.

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## OTA COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE

The tournament schedule is broken down into two general categories: JUNIOR and ADULT. Junior events are those for age groups Under-18 and below. All other events are Adult. Every tournament is given a star value, which represents its general level or importance. The star-value directly correlates to ranking points.

1-star * Rookie Circuits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• local and entry-level players Under-10 through 18</li> <li>• we suggest "circuits" of four, rather than one-time events, to offer players more local opportunities</li> <li>• events may run in many regions simultaneously, as they generally attract local participation</li> </ul>
2-star ** Regional Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mostly regional entrants with provincial rankings</li> <li>• events can run in two geographically separated regions simultaneously</li> </ul>
3-star *** Provincial Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provincially ranked players from all over Ontario</li> <li>• city / region championships</li> <li>• only one adult and junior event in each category per week with some weeks blacked-out during other higher-level tournaments</li> </ul>
4-star **** Nationals Selection Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nationally and provincially ranked players from Ontario and other provinces</li> <li>• Junior Nationals selection events, adult prize money tournaments up to \$10,000 and other major tournaments</li> <li>• limited number of events open to 'bids'</li> </ul>
5-star ***** Provincial Championships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• closed to Ontario residents with Canadian citizenship or landed immigrant status (must be a resident for at least 6 months previous)</li> <li>• limited number of Ontario Closed Provincial Championships open to 'bids'</li> </ul>
6-star ***** Nationals & International Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• players from across Canada and other countries</li> <li>• Nationals, ITF circuit events</li> <li>• Events in this category require a higher-level sanction (ITF, Tennis Canada)</li> </ul>

Events may include round robins, consolation, feed-in consolation or compass draws, accompanied by a social function. Other very attractive options are junior, senior or combined team events, doubles or mixed doubles-only events. Senior events Over 60-80 can be run during the week, during the day.

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## CATEGORIES and REQUIREMENTS

Juniors by age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The following age groups apply, with the age defined as of January 1 of the year of competition:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Under-18</li><li>○ Under-16</li><li>○ Under-14</li><li>○ Under-12</li><li>○ Under-10</li></ul></li></ul>
Adults by age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The following age groups apply, with the age defined by the year in which one reaches the lower limit (ie. 35)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Over-35</li><li>○ Over-40</li><li>○ Over-45</li><li>○ Over-50</li><li>○ Over-55</li><li>○ Over-60</li><li>○ Over-65</li><li>○ Over-70</li><li>○ Over-75</li><li>○ Over-80</li></ul></li></ul>
Adults by level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The following categories apply based on assessed level, usually by a club pro, or past results. Self-rating, or NTRP, levels are in brackets (ie. 3.5):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Open, the highest level of play</li><li>○ A (5.0-5.5)</li><li>○ B (4.0-4.5)</li><li>○ C (3.0-3.5)</li></ul></li></ul>

Specific guidelines for each type of tournament will be provided upon the granting of sanction. In general, please note that the higher-level events have more technical requirements, while the lower level events should include more of a social atmosphere.

**All OTA sanctioned tournaments are to use the official ball of the OTA, Dunlop (Grand Prix or Grand Prix soft court for clay).**

