



## Appendix 1. Guidelines for Hosting Rogers First Set Tour

### Rogers First Set Tour – Rookie & Rising Stars

The Rogers First Set Tour – Rookie & Rising Stars is a national program designed to bridge the gap between entry-level tennis and the provincial junior competitive circuit. These fun, non-elimination events give young players an exciting introduction to competition while encouraging them to stay on the tennis pathway.

#### WHAT THE EVENTS LOOK LIKE

##### Rookie Tour

Format:

- Non-elimination, with each player guaranteed multiple matches
- Events may be half-day, full-day, or spread over a weekend (flexible in 1.5-hour blocks)

Categories:

- 8U Mixed Singles – Red Ball, Mini Court
- U10 Mixed Singles – Orange Ball,  $\frac{3}{4}$  court
- U12 Mixed Singles – Green Ball, Full Court
- U14/U16/U18 Mixed Singles – Regular Ball, Full Court

Match Format and scheduling:

- Red Ball: Round robin, 3–4 matches guaranteed. Timed matches of 15 minutes. Scoring = first to 4 points wins a game, server alternates each game.
- Orange, Green & Regular Ball: 1.5-hour tournament block (3 x 25-minute matches). Players are guaranteed 3 matches. Format can be compass draw (only for 4 court format) or round robin. Scoring = as many games as possible within time limit, NO-AD (deciding point played on deuce).

Acceptance Process

- Guaranteed acceptance: for players entering a Rookie tournament for the first time
- Random lottery for all players
- Note: after 3 Rising Stars events, players are no longer eligible for Rookie to keep the level recreational

Tournament Timeline

- *Entry Opens*: Thursday 2 weeks before the event
- *Entry Deadline*: Thursday 1 week before the event – wildcards need to be assigned on this day
- *Acceptance Lists*: Managed and Posted by Tennis BC (Friday 1 week before the event)
- *Withdrawal Deadline*: Sunday night 1 week before the event
- *Schedule Posted*: Monday 1 week before the event
- *Scheduling*: Managed by the host club, or by Tennis BC for a \$50 scheduling fee
- *Late withdrawals and Swaps*: Managed by host club



## Rising Stars

### Categories

- U9 Mixed Singles – Orange Ball,  $\frac{3}{4}$  court
- U10 Boys Singles – Green Ball, full court
- U10 Girls Singles – Green Ball, full court

### Match Format

- Round robin or compass draw, 3 matches guaranteed
- Timed matches of 35 minutes or one regular set (whichever comes first)
- Tiebreak at 6–6 (deciding point played at 6–6 in the tiebreak)
- No-AD scoring (deciding point at deuce)

### Scheduling

- Matches scheduled in 3 x 40-minute blocks (2 hours per round, including transitions)
- Compass draw on 4 courts with 8 players; round robin for other player/court numbers
- Events may be half-day, full-day, or spread over a weekend (flexible in 2-hour blocks)

### Acceptance Process

- **Eligibility:** Players to have competed in a minimum of 3 Rookie Tours. Players not meeting this are placed on the exclude list. This helps keep rising stars more advanced and rookie tour more recreational.
- Acceptance is by **random lottery** among all eligible players
- Wildcards can be assigned by host club 1 per 8 players

### Tournament Timeline

- *Entry Opens:* Thursday 2 weeks before the event
- *Entry Deadline:* Thursday 1 week before the event – wildcards need to be assigned on this day
- All entries are considered equally until the deadline. The acceptance list is posted the day after entry closes
- *Acceptance Lists:* Managed by Tennis BC (Posted the Friday 1 week before the event)
- *Withdrawal Deadline:* Sunday night 1 week before the event
- *Scheduling:* Managed by the host club, or by Tennis BC for a \$50 scheduling fee
- *Schedule Posted:* Monday 1 week before the event
- *Late withdrawals and Swaps:* Managed by host club

## SUPPORT AND BENEFITS

- Clubs keep entry fees (minus PayPal setup/processing if applicable)
- \$50 sanction fee to Tennis BC
- Optional \$50 scheduling support if managed by Tennis BC
- Flexible event categories and scheduling
- Prizes and Signage provided courtesy of Tennis Canada (*more details below in FAQ*)
- Wildcard benefit: 1 guaranteed entry for every 8 players, reserved for club members



## ENTRY FEES

- Rookie Tour: \$40
- Rising Stars: \$45
- Recommended: clubs collect fees via their own PayPal/Interac (PayPal setup with VR = \$60 each TP file)
- Other options:
- Cash/debit/cheque on-site
- Tennis BC PayPal (setup \$60 + 5% transaction fee, ~1-month transfer delay)

## HOST CLUB EXPECTATIONS

### **Facilities**

- Good condition courts (minimum 2 courts accepted, typically 4 or 6 courts is best)
- Washrooms and water station nearby
- Tournament desk with banner/poster (provided)

### **On Court**

- Scorecards, benches/chair for changeover, and basic court setup
- If orange ball:  $\frac{3}{4}$  court to be taped. Yellow strips can be used if necessary, but since they can shift during play, taping is highly recommended.

### **Staffing**

- A Tournament Director who manages the tournament file, lead tournament intro/orientation, keeps time, swaps rounds, resolves disputes, collects scores, inputs these into tournament planner, hands out prizing.
- Supervisors (1 monitor for every 2 courts) who can be coaches or volunteers, to monitor matches, collect scores, and ensure smooth flow
- *Important note for supervisors: Parent Volunteers may not supervise or officiate their own child's court.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: What event categories should we host?**

A: Clubs may choose the rookie / rising star event they want to host based on member demographic. Most popular is typically U10 Orange Ball Rookie and U12 Green Ball Rookie

### **Q: Do we need exactly 4 courts to host?**

A: No. Minimum 2 courts; most clubs run on 4.

### **Q: What does red and orange ball require for court set up?**

- Red Ball: Played on a mini court (service box dimensions). Use cones, put down lines, or tape to mark boundaries
- Orange Ball: courts must be taped to  $\frac{3}{4}$  (60 feet long by 21 feet wide). Allow 30 minutes in your schedule to tape  $\frac{3}{4}$  if permanent lines do not already exist.



**Q: How long should we plan for the event?**

A: Rookie = 1.5-hour blocks. Rising Stars = 2-hour blocks. Events can be half-day, full-day, or multi-day.

**Q: What support does Tennis BC provide?**

A: Sanctioning, signage package, event listing on the Tennis BC website, tournament website setup (TP file), and promotion through the monthly First Set Tour newsletter (if posted in time).

**Q: What prizeing is provided?**

Rookie: certificates and participation prizes for every player.

Rising Stars: first-time player packs, sticker sheet for player passport, medals (compass draws), pins for players who win all matches in round robin, sportsmanship pins

**Q: Is training available for Tournament Directors?**

A: Yes. Complimentary training is available for Tournament Planner. Please ask for this if needed.

**Q: What is a wildcard and how does it work?**

A: For every 8 players in the draw, 1 spot is reserved for a club member. Example: in a 24-player draw, 3 spots are guaranteed for your members.

**Q: How far in advance should we apply?**

A: Apply 4–6 weeks before your event. Entries open 30 days prior to your event.

**NEXT STEPS FOR CLUBS**

To get started, you will need to provide:

**Club Information**

- Venue Name:
- Venue Address:
- Tournament Director (name & email):

**Event Details**

- Date(s):
- Time:
- Number of courts available (minimum 2 courts, no maximum number of courts. Typically, on 4 courts):
- Type of Event (Red Rookie, Orange Rising Stars, Green Rising Stars, etc.):

**Entry Fee Collection Method (one of)**

- Club PayPal (note: \$60 connection fee to TP) (recommended)
- Club Interac
- Club cash/debit/cheque onsite
- Tennis BC PayPal (note: \$60 setup fee, 5% transaction fee, ~1 month transfer delay)