

## **BC Junior Tournaments - October 2024 Update**

The purpose of this letter is:

- to review some of the changes that have been implemented for the Junior A Series
- to outline further changes for the Junior A & Junior B Series
- to address some common questions that have been raised

### **Background Information**

In recent seasons, tournaments have been filling up faster than ever before. To meet the demand, in some instances, Host Organizing Committees (HOCs) have accepted more entries than their venues can accommodate and/or have put entry limits in terms of numbers.

Unfortunately, this has resulted in long delays in the overall tournament and some top-ranked players not being able to register for tournaments.

### **Big Goal**

One of the big goals for this season is to create a more meaningful competition environment while ensuring the Host Organizing Committees (HOCs) can handle the volume of athletes, coaches and parents at their venues and can provide a tournament schedule that is more concise per event so that all participants need not spend numerous hours between matches.

It should be noted that this is a situation that Badminton Canada has been dealing with on the National level and has implemented policies to address the same concerns.

To that end, we share the following:

#### **(1) BC Junior A Series:**

##### **(a) Merit-Based Entries**

*Key elements for Junior A are:*

*(i) Entry limits for each age category and gender are as per venue's capacity (# courts and available hours).*

Each HOC will determine its capacity for athletes and matches based on the tables in the Badminton Canada General Competitions Rules AND the modifications Badminton BC has implemented to ensure

timely finishing of tournament days.

*(ii) Entries are determined by the national ranking system.*

*(iii) Gender Equality Cap: Equal numbers of male and female athletes per age category.*

**NOTE:**

1. **NEW** → Consolation rounds for Junior A tournaments will no longer be offered, effective November 1, 2024.

3. **NEW** → If events do NOT reach their caps, extra spots may be re-allocated to other events with priority to those with a large number of athletes on the Reserve List.

**(b) BC Junior A Provincial Championships**

- **NEW** → play a minimum 1 of BC Junior A Series, or BC Junior Elite to be eligible

Note: Athletes must play the 2025 BC Junior A Provincial Championship to be eligible for the 2025 Badminton Canada Junior National Championships.

**(2) BC Junior Challenger Series** (formerly, BC Junior B Series)

**(a) First Come, First Served Entries**

For this season, BC Junior Challenger tournament registration will be based on first come, first served, and NOT Merit-Based.

*Key elements for BC Junior Challenger Series are:*

*(i) **NEW** → There will be an overall entry limit depending on the # courts & available hours).*

Badminton BC and the Tournament HOC will determine the tournament capacity by the same Badminton Canada guidelines as the BC Junior A Series but cap will be an overall entry, not per event/age category.

*(ii) If a player is BC ranked in the Top 8 in an event, she/he may NOT enter that specific event & age category in a BC Junior Challenger tournament.*

*(iii) Consolation rounds, as time permits.*

(b) **NEW** → Semi-finalists & Finalists of BC Junior Challenger Tournaments

Semi-finalists and finalists will earn berths into the next available BC Junior A tournament.

<i>Events</i>	<i>Berths into next available BC Junior A</i>	<i>Number of Berths per event</i>
<i>Boys Singles &amp; Girls Singles</i>	<i>Semi-Finalists, Runner-ups &amp; Winners</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Boys Doubles, Girls Doubles &amp; Mixed Doubles</i>	<i>Runner-ups &amp; Winners</i>	<i>2</i>

**Example:**

The next available BC Junior A tournament after the Wings Junior Challenger tournament, October 18-20, will be the VRC Junior A, November 8-10.

- For U15 Girls Singles at the Wings Junior Challenger, the top 4 athletes, semi-finalists and finalists, will earn berths into U15 Girls Singles at the VRC Junior A.
- For U19 Boys Doubles at the Wings Junior Challenger, the top 2 teams/pairs, the finalists (winner & runner-up), will earn berths into U19 Boys Doubles at the VRC Junior A.

NOTE: Berths are not transferable to another BC Junior A tournament.

(c) BC Junior Challenger Provincial Championships

- *Play a minimum 1 of BC Junior Challenger Series event*
- *Players who are ranked in the Top 8 BC Junior Ranking within the age group & event of U13/U15/U17/U19 are **ineligible** to participate in this event.*

### **(3) Definition of Junior A, B, and C Series:**

**BC Junior A Series**

- Highest performance level in British Columbia.
- Entry is merit-based, relying on National rankings.
- This series provides a pathway to the provincial team.
- Tournaments use feather shuttles.

### **BC Junior Challenger Series (formerly the Junior B Series)**

- Intermediate to Advanced-level competition.
- Open to all

NOTE: If an athlete is ranked in the BC Top 8 in an age category and event, she/he is INELIGIBLE for that age category and event in a Junior B tournament.

- This series offers a pathway to the Junior A series.
- Tournaments use feather shuttles.

### **Junior C Series (Coming Soon)**

- Beginner and recreational level events.
- These events will focus on friendly competition and are ideal for introducing players to tournament play.
- Events will use nylon shuttles.

## **(4) Frequently Asked Questions**

QUESTION	ANSWER
How can my child play a Junior A tournament if my child does not have a high enough ranking to qualify?	If your child reaches the semi-finals or finals for boys singles or girls singles, or finals for boys doubles, girls doubles or mixed doubles of a BC Junior Challenger tournament, she/he will earn a berth in the next available BC Junior A tournament.
My child played U15 girls doubles in a BC Junior A tournament and is currently ranked No. 3 in BC for girls doubles.  Can she play U15 girls singles in a Junior Challenger tournament? She is currently ranked No. 12 in U15 girls singles in BC.	Yes. Your child may play U15 girls singles but not U15 girls doubles in a Junior Challenger tournament.

Can my child who is BC Ranked No. 3 in U15 Girls Doubles play a BC Junior Challenger in U17 Girls Doubles?	Yes.
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We understand that adapting to these changes may take time, but please know that the Competition Committee is doing everything possible to update the tournament structure to ensure meaningful play at all levels. We hope these changes will promote greater participation while offering a more meaningful competitive environment.