



PROVINCIAL COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE AND RANKINGS POLICY FOR 2021

In response to the challenges COVID-19 has placed on the Provincial Competitive Structure and Rankings, Tennis Canada in conjunction with the Provincial Associations has created a policy for returning to competition in 2021. This document outlines the three-part policy which was formulated using the following guiding principles:

- (1) Encouraging competition in accordance with local health and safety protocols;
- (2) Providing the full quota of allotted high level competitive opportunities for players across Canada during the 2021-22 ranking period;
- (3) Maintaining the integrity and accuracy of the Provincial, Regional and National rankings.

PART 1: LOST HIGH-LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES FROM 2020 (*provinces can play these as soon as they open individually*)

The 2021 Competitive Structure and Rankings Policy will allow provinces to carryover any outstanding 2020 4-star and 5-star tournaments into 2021. This carryforward allowance aims to provide juniors across all provinces their allotted high-level competitive opportunities. This in turn will also help improve ranking accuracy across the country. Provinces will have until December 31, 2021 to run these tournaments. A regional breakdown of the outstanding 2020 tournaments is provided in *Appendix A*.

PART 2: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER IN 2021

The 2021 Competitive Structure and Rankings Policy organizes provinces into three groups in efforts to align competitive opportunities. The Policy requires provinces within the same group to move together through the multi-stage return to competition framework outlined below:

LEVEL OF COMPETITION	GROUP 1 (ON, BC, QC, AB)			GROUP 2 (NS, NB, NL, PE)			GROUP 3 (MB, SK)		
	Return to Competition Stage	Majority required to enter stage?	Additional Criteria to Enter Stage	Return to Competition Stage	Majority required to enter stage?	Additional Criteria to Enter Stage	Return to Competition Stage	Majority required to enter stage?	Additional Criteria to Enter Stage
2 Star	1A*	NO	Local health and safety guidelines allow for competitive tennis.	1*	NO	Local health and safety guidelines allow for competitive tennis.	1*	NO	Local health and safety guidelines allow for competitive tennis.
3 Star									
3.5 Star	1B	YES	3/4 provinces have run sanctioned events for the past 2 consecutive weeks						
4 Star	2	YES	3/4 provinces have run sanctioned events for the past 4 consecutive weeks	2	YES	3/4 provinces agree to run 4-star events	2	YES	2/2 provinces agree to run 4-star events
5 Star	3	YES	3/4 provinces have run sanctioned events for the past 8 consecutive weeks	3	YES	4/4 provinces agree to run 5-star events	3	YES	2/2 provinces agree to run 5-star events

*Junior players will only be able to play-up by one age category within this stage.

While moving between stages, provinces must adhere to following guidelines for their respective group:

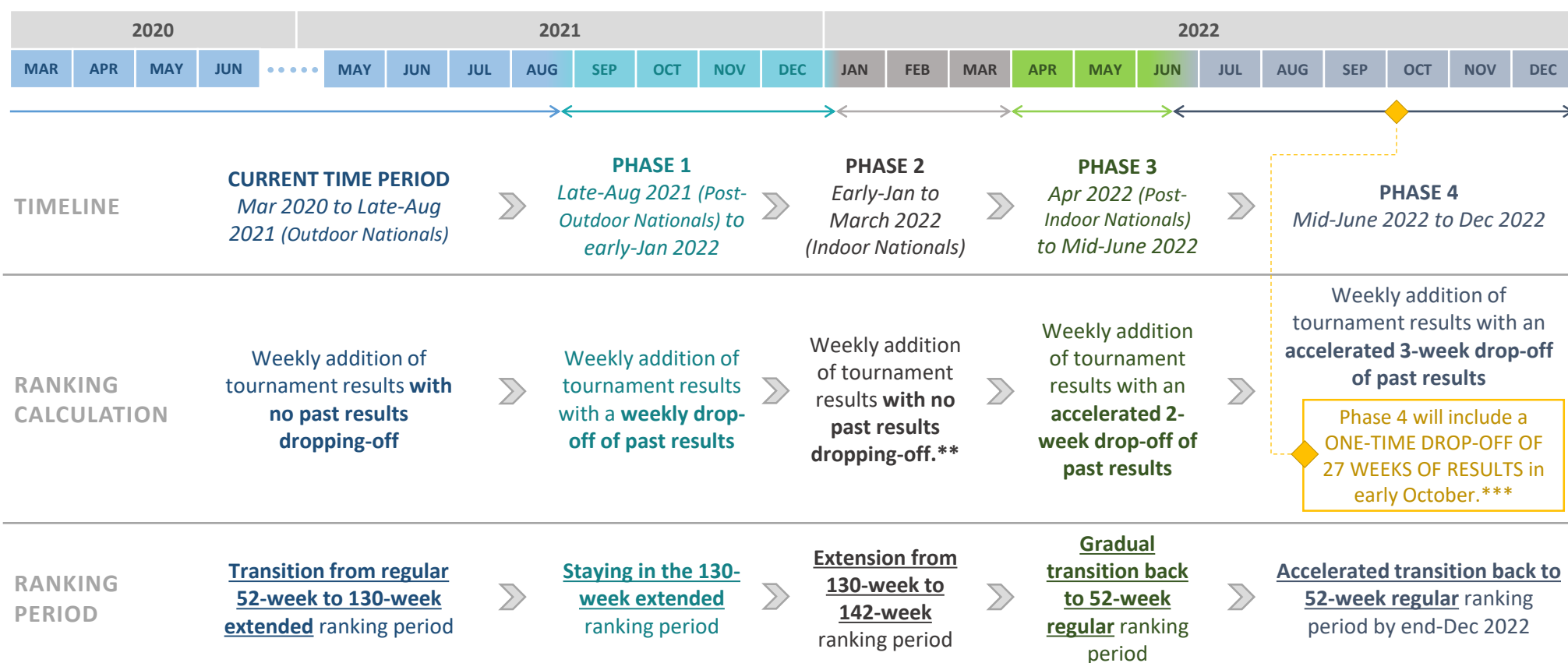
Group 1:

- (1) In order to progress to the next stage, a majority of Group 1 provinces must meet the stage's specified criteria for consecutive weeks of competitive play.
- (2) After progressing to the next stage, if one or more of the provinces required for a majority no longer meet the criteria than all provinces within Group 1 must move back to the first stage.
- (3) Due to scheduling challenges faced by provinces within Group 1 a revised quota for high-level tournaments is provided in *Appendix B*.

Groups 2 and 3:

- (1) In order to progress to the next stage, a majority of provinces within the group must agree to run competition at the next level.
- (2) After progressing to the next stage, if one or more of the provinces required for a majority are unable to continue to run competition at the required level than all provinces within that group must move back to the first stage.

PART 3: THE RANKING PERIOD IN 2021-22*



FUTURE KEY DATES			
Phase 1 Begins – ranking system resumes dropping weekly results. First results to drop will be the 2019 Indoor Nationals.	August 31, 2021	Last results of 2019 drop from the ranking system	June 14, 2022
Phase 2 Begins – 12 weeks leading up to the 2022 Indoor Nationals, the ranking system will pause dropping past results.	January 11, 2022	Phase 4 Begins – ranking system enters a further accelerated drop-off period, dropping 3 weeks of results each week	June 21, 2022
Phase 3 Begins – ranking system begins dropping 2 weeks of results each week starting. First results to drop will be the 2019 Outdoor Nationals.	April 5, 2022	One-time drop of 27-weeks of results (which include the last 2020 results)	October 4, 2022
		Ranking system returns to the regular 52-week system with a weekly drop-off	December 20, 2022

***This plan assumes that Outdoor Nationals will take place in the summer of 2021. If 2021 Outdoor Nationals do not take place this plan will be revised accordingly.**

****For the 12 weeks leading up to the 2022 Indoor Nationals the ranking system will pause dropping past results. This will help ensure the seeding for 2022 Indoor Nationals is completed fairly.**

*****27-week drop will include results from mid-Nov 2020 to early-May 2021 during which the vast majority of competition across the country was suspended.**

Appendix A: Outstanding 2020 4-star and 5-star tournaments across Canada

Region	Outdoor Selections #1 [4-star]				Outdoor Selections #2 [4-star]				Outdoor Selections #3 [4-star]				Outdoor Provincial Championships [5-star]				LEGEND
	U12	U14	U16	U18	U12	U14	U16	U18	U12	U14	U16	U18	U12	U14	U16	U18	
Ontario	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	→	●	→	●	→	→	→	→	<p>● 2020 events completed in 2020</p> <p>→ Outstanding 2020 events that provinces can carryforward into 2021.</p>
Quebec	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
BC	●	●	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	
Alberta	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	
Prairies	All 4 Prairie outdoor 4-star tournaments can be carried forward into 2021												→	→	→	→	
Atlantics	All 4 ATA outdoor 4-star tournaments were completed for 2020												→	→	→	→	

2020 carryforward tournaments can be held anytime during 2021 regardless of what stage a Province is within the return to competition framework. These tournaments cannot be used as selection/qualification tournaments for the 2021 Provincial/Regional/National Championships.

Appendix B: 2021 High-Level Tournaments Quota for Provinces/Regions

Province	4-STAR TOURNAMENTS					5-STAR TOURNAMENTS		
	Original 2021 Quota		Revised 2021 Quota		2021 Total 4-Star Quota	2021 Quota		2021 Total 5-Star Quota
	INDOOR	OUTDOOR	INDOOR	OUTDOOR		INDOOR	OUTDOOR	
Ontario	3	3	2	2	4	1	1	2
Quebec	3	3	2	2	4	1	1	2
BC	3	3	2	2	4	1	1	2
Alberta	3	3	2	2	4	1	1	2
Prairies	4	4	4	4	8	1	1	2
Atlantics	4	4	4	4	8	1	1	2

