



Badminton Europe
Brøndbytoften 14
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Brøndby, 19th May 2016

To: Badminton Europe Member Associations
Re: Junior badminton in Europe

Dear Member Associations,

On behalf of Badminton Europe we are hereby sending you a letter to inform you of the latest development and changes connected to junior badminton in Europe, and also as a follow up from our letter sent out February 2015 and a meeting in connection with the European Junior Championships shortly after.

We understand that some of the changes might cause questions from your side, so please be informed that you are always welcome to contact the Badminton Europe office with such.

Junior age groups in Europe

As of 1 January 2016, the international age groups in Europe (for U19, U17 and U15) were aligned with the rest of the World. We have acknowledged that many European associations have already adopted the new age group system. Thank you for your good cooperation.

Exemptions and seeding for EJC2017

As you all know, Badminton Europe gave an exemption to players born in 1999 (U17) and 2001 (U15) to compete at this year's European Championships in Lubin and Kazan respectively. This will also be the case for players born in 1998 for the 2017 European Junior Championships – meaning that not one single year is being “punished” in connection with the transition into the new age group system. Players born in 1998 will therefore be eligible to play at the 2017 European Junior Championships in France – but are not considered as Junior/U19-players in any other international sanctioned tournaments played in 2017.

Due to the above, the seeding for the 2017 European Junior Individual Championships will be made based on the last published World Junior Ranking in 2016 – as when going into 2017, players born in 1998 will be automatically removed from BWF's World Junior Ranking.



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European U17 Ranking

Badminton Europe has over the past 12 months been developing and testing an online version of a European U17 Ranking. The testing phase is still on-going, but the development of the ranking has now reached a stage, where the online ranking can be published. The first edition of the European U17 Ranking will be published on Monday 23 May. The ranking will be continuously tested and evaluated – but the initial plan is to start using the new ranking for M&Q- and seeding purposes (in European U17 Circuit tournaments) as per 1 July 2016. Official confirmation about the actual use of the new ranking will be sent to all European MA's in due time.

We kindly urge all European Member Associations to make sure that all players having played in the European U15 Championships are registered with a BWF-ID, and that these are announced to us for implementation. If players are not allocated with the correct BWF-ID, the tournament result will not be possible to include in the ranking.

New calendar positions for EU17C and EJC

From 2017 onwards, there will be a change in the international junior calendar. The European U17 Championships and European Junior Championships will no longer be played in the spring/Easter-period, but instead in the second half of the year. This due to the new age group system, and due to the fact that the “peak of the season” shall preferably not be played in the early part of the season.

The provisional planning for the coming years is:

European Junior Championships 2017 played in France played 7-16 April 2017 as planned
Next *European U17 Championships* played in 2017 – presumably in August/September

→ this event will be for players born 2001 or later

European Junior Championships played in 2018 – presumably in August/September

→ this event will be for players born 2000 or later

European U17 Championships played in 2019 – presumably in August/September

→ this event will be for players born 2003 or later

European Junior Championships played in 2020 – presumably in August/September

→ this event will be for players born 2002 or later

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Badminton Europe acknowledge that many associations are working across age groups with same staff, and with same players to a certain extent – and therefore we intentionally



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do not wish to “push” the European Championships to October/November, as this will then result in a clash with the annually held World Junior Championships.

For the time being, we are searching for organizers to host the European U17 Championships in 2017 and the European Junior Championships 2018, so should you have interest in hosting either, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Tarcala".

Peter Tarcala
Director

Chairman for Major Events

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Andersen".

Jimmy Andersen
Senior Manager