

**ITF/CAT Southern African Junior Individual & Team's Championships 2026**  
**9 – 12 January 2026 & 13 – 17 January 2026**

**Organized by the Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) in conjunction with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the Botswana Tennis Association (BTA)**

**I. INVITED NATIONS**

All countries of the Southern African Region are invited to participate at these events.

Any nation wishing to enter players **must** have an approved valid 5 year-plan and **fully updated with its affiliations towards the ITF and CAT**

**II. CATEGORIES AND ENTRIES**

Each nation is entitled to send a team comprising **a maximum** of 12 players (3 boys and 3 girls each for the 14 and 16 & under events). **Each** age's Group and Gender **Team** composed of **3 players** is allowed to have **1 coach**.

The **maximum** number of players that a country can enter **in each event** is detailed below :

A.	Boys 16 & Under Singles	Born in 2010 or after	<b>3 BOYS</b>
B.	Boys 14 & Under Singles	Born in 2012 or after	<b>3 BOYS</b>
C.	Girls 16 & Under Singles	Born in 2010 or after	<b>3 GIRLS</b>
D.	Girls 14 & Under Singles	Born in 2012 or after	<b>3 GIRLS</b>

NB: The host nation is allowed to enter in individual competitions up to 6 players only per age group and gender

**III- COMPETITION'S FORMAT - 14 and 16 & Under**

**Individual**

**Competition: Singles**

**Events**

The singles will be run over 4 full days using the feed-in system, thus allowing the competition to progress as normal but ensuring that every player win or lose, plays a match every day.

***It is important to note that the 14 & U individual Tournament will count as a Grade (2) Tournament for the ITF/CAT Circuit of 2026.***

**Doubles Events**

There will be open doubles events in both age groups. The doubles events will be run on a knock-out basis, **No Add** and a Super Tie break as final set.

All players playing in the singles event are eligible to participate. Doubles pairings must be from the same nation but with the agreement of the Tournament Committee, nations with odd numbers of players may form doubles pairings. Individual doubles points will be awarded to players.

**The Teams' Championships:**

**1- Ages' Groups at the Teams' Championships**

The Teams' Championships will be played over 1 event of 5 full days, and will offer competition as follows:

- Boys' Team 16 & Under
- Girls' Team 16 & Under
- Boys' Team 14 & Under
- Girls' Team 14 & Under

**2- Participating Teams & Format of the Competition:**

All the teams entered by their National Association, under the condition that the team has to be composed of 3 players (as mentioned above). The Format will be set up on site based on the number of entered teams. The host nation is allowed to enter **only one team** per age group and gender.

**It is important to note that only one (1) team per age group and per gender will be automatically qualified to the Final Event of the African Junior Teams' Championships which will take place in May 2026 (14&U) and July 2026 (16&U).**

**IV- Junior Championships Team Trophy**

At the end of the Junior Championships, a final country ranking will be determined on the basis of accumulation of points in the boys' and girls' singles and doubles events.

Only the four best singles results and the four best individual doubles results of each country will be counted to reach a total and to determine the rankings of the countries for the zone and consequently, the winner of the Junior Championships Team Trophy.

The best nation in the country ranking will win the Junior Championships Team Trophy.

**V- POINT TABLES – All events**

1. The tables below will be used for both boys' and girls' events in all age groups.
2. A player can win points based on their final position in the event. However, to qualify for points, a player must have won at least one match either in singles or doubles (byes and walkovers do not count as matches won).
3. A player with a bye losing his/her 1<sup>st</sup> match in the main draw will play the feed-in of the losers of 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Main

Draw (when option 1 format is used).

4. As host nation of the Southern African Junior Championships, Botswana may enter three additional players in each age group and gender. Team members must be nominated in advance. However, only the A Team's points will count towards the Zonal Team Trophy

SINGLE POINTS				DOUBLE POINTS PER PLAYER	
Winner	300	17 <sup>th</sup> Place	15	Winner	50
Runner-Up	200	18 <sup>th</sup> Place	14	Runner-Up	35
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	150	19 <sup>th</sup> Place	13	Semi Finalists	25
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	120	20 <sup>th</sup> Place	12	Quarter Finalists	15
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	90	21 <sup>st</sup> Place	11		
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	80	22 <sup>nd</sup> Place	10		
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	70	23 <sup>rd</sup> Place	9		
8 <sup>th</sup> Place	60	24 <sup>th</sup> Place	8		
9 <sup>th</sup> Place	50	25 <sup>th</sup> Place	7		
10 <sup>th</sup> Place	45	26 <sup>th</sup> Place	6		
11 <sup>th</sup> Place	40	27 <sup>th</sup> Place	5		
12 <sup>th</sup> Place	35	28 <sup>th</sup> Place	4		
13 <sup>th</sup> Place	30	29 <sup>th</sup> Place	3		
14 <sup>th</sup> Place	25	30 <sup>th</sup> Place	2		
15 <sup>th</sup> Place	20	31 <sup>st</sup> Place	1		
16 <sup>th</sup> Place	17	32 <sup>nd</sup> Place	0		

**VI- THE ITF/CAT AFRICAN INDIVIDUAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (AJC) 2026 (14&U and 16&U)**

The Individual Zones' Championships for 14 and 16 years & under will serve as an evaluation for an eventual selection for potential players to take part at the 1<sup>st</sup> AJC for 14 & U 2026 and for the AJC for 16 & U 2026.

**VII- THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** will include:

- The Referee of the Southern African Junior Championships
- One (1) coach representing Botswana Tennis Association
- Two (2) accompanying team coaches (one each from an English speaking and a French speaking nation).
- The ITF/CAT representative.

This committee will make the seeding, conduct the draw for the tournament and will thereafter meet to establish the tournament program and settle any disputes. It will also decide on all matters concerning the rules. The Committee reserves the right to amend the format according to the number of entries and weather conditions.

**VIII- RULES**

1. The ITF Junior Circuit Code of Conduct will be in force at the events and the tournaments played in accordance with the Rules of the ITF.
2. All draws must be conducted in accordance with the ITF Junior Circuit Rules and Regulations.
3. A default will be given if a player fails to appear 15 minutes after his/her match is called.
4. Customary dress code will be enforced.
5. In entering the tournament, a player automatically grants to the ITF/CAT and/or host nation and/or (sponsors) the right in perpetuity to make, use and show pictures of him/her in motion or still, taken during the competition without compensation.
6. Prior to the draw being made an identity card or passport showing the date of birth for each player must be presented to the referee. Any player not complying with the age eligibility outlined above will not be accepted. Any country found to be in breach of this age eligibility rule will be eliminated from these Championships and will face disciplinary action from the ITF.
7. Entry forms with the name and date of birth of each player must be received by the CAT by no later than **Friday 19 December 2025.**
8. Any withdrawals must be submitted in writing directly to the CAT Office **at least 7 days prior** to the scheduled start of the Championships. Replacement players will only be accepted if the withdrawal is made for reasons of health or bereavement. In the event of withdrawal due to illness or injury, a medical certificate must be received

by the CAT within 7 days of the player's withdrawal.

#### **IX- COACHING**

Coaching will be allowed during all teams' events. For the individual event, it will be allowed for the only 14 & under events, where a coach may sit on the court and offer advice to players when changing ends. Under no circumstances can the coach interfere with the flow of the match or enter into a discussion with an on-court official. If a question of tennis law arises the coach would be free to seek the judgement of the referee, but in no case, can he or she speak directly to the Chair Umpire. In the event that two or more 14 & under players from one country are playing at the same time, the coach may designate one other player from his delegation to sit on the court in his/her place during a match. The coach can change courts provided he/she does it at change over. For the 16&U individual event, off court coaching is allowed under the ITF Rules of Tennis.

#### **Nomination of Coaches**

We strongly recommend that you nominate a qualified coach (Level 1 / Level 2 or an equivalent certification) to travel with your team to these Championships.

#### **X- TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

**Host Federation:** Botswana Tennis Association

**Email:** [office@tennisbw.org.bw](mailto:office@tennisbw.org.bw), [jtbotswana@gmail.com](mailto:jtbotswana@gmail.com)

**Venue:** National Tennis Centre

**Surface:** Hard; **No. of courts:** 8

**Tournament Director:** Wellington Sibanda; **Tel:** +26774672548 **Email:** [office@tennisbw.org.bw](mailto:office@tennisbw.org.bw) [jtbotswana@gmail.com](mailto:jtbotswana@gmail.com)

**Tournament Referee:** Gaone Poane **Tel:** +26777009906 **Email:** [poane.gaone@gmail.com](mailto:poane.gaone@gmail.com)

**Travel Coordinators:** Sehudi Nkge

**Accommodation:** Hotel: **Cresta Hotels** \*\*\* **Address:** Samora Machel Drive

**Distance from venue to the official hotel :** 7 km

**Hotel rates for additional persons not concerned by the free hospitality:**

Single room: **\$90** Double room: **\$44** Triple room: **\$130**

Breakfast: included in the room rate and served at the hotel

Lunch served at the club & Dinner served at the hotel

Coaches will be accommodated 2 per room and players 3 per room. Boys and girls will be accommodated separately within the hotel. There will be no exceptions to this. All team coaches must stay with their team in the hotel and they are ultimately responsible for their team's supervision and behavior.

#### **XI- HOSPITALITY**

Full hospitality (lodging and meals) will be provided for all official players and coaches.

Accommodation and meals will be provided for official players and coaches from dinner of **8 January 2026** until breakfast on **13 January 2026** for those participating at the only Individual Championships.

The players and coaches participating at the Teams' Championships will be accommodated until the breakfast of **18 January 2026**.

Teams arriving before the official arrival date or leaving after the official departure date will have to pay for their accommodation and meals.

**Priority on accommodation at the hotel will be given to official players and coaches. Additional persons will be responsible for the payment and arrangement of their own accommodation. Please contact the Tournament Director for assistance. Should a nation wish to send any additional coaches, it will be at the Federation's own expense.**

#### **XII- TRAVEL**

The CAT is providing travel financial assistance for the event. All participating nations must make their own travel arrangements. The assistance may be used only by official players and coaches. In the event that a player or coach for whom the assistance has been awarded does not travel, the money will be refunded to CAT. In addition, failure to take part in the entire event will mean that any money paid will have to be reimbursed to the CAT.

Please confirm your travel arrangements to the CAT and BTA by **Friday 2 January 2026**. Teams which have not sent their arrival details will not be met on arrival and it will result in you having to make your own way to the tournament site. The ITF and the CAT will not reimburse taxi costs. If your travel details change, please make sure that you let the BTA and CAT know at your earliest convenience.

#### **XIII- VISAS**

Travelling teams are responsible for obtaining their entry visas for Botswana in advance of their travel, if applicable. No assistance can be given by the CAT in obtaining visas. If you require visa invitation letters or information related the entry visa, please contact BTA at the contact provided above. E-visa information are provided on the following website <https://evisa.gov.bw/>

#### **XIV- WAIVER OF CLAIMS**

All players entering ITF/CAT Junior Tournaments or Circuits agree, as a condition of their entry, that no claims are brought against the ITF/CAT, the tournament organizers and the Regional Association or National Association sanctioning such events, with respect to any injuries, however caused, or any losses incurred, while travelling to and from, or participating in any ITF/CAT Junior Tournament or Circuit. **It is therefore recommended that all players have adequate travel and medical insurance cover.**

#### **XV- ENTRY DEADLINE**

**Entries must be received at the CAT by Friday 19 December 2025.**

Please return the entry form to:

Mr Hamza Khelassi : [hamza.khelassi@cattennis.com](mailto:hamza.khelassi@cattennis.com)

cc:

Ms Issem Essaï: [issemessais@hotmail.com](mailto:issemessais@hotmail.com)

Mr Hichem Riani : [rianihichem@yahoo.fr](mailto:rianihichem@yahoo.fr)

**Only entries received on the official entry form attached and endorsed by the appropriate national association will be accepted.**

**Players participating at the 14U Category must have a valid CATid prior to the start of the individual tournament. Their CATid fees must be paid to the tournament Referee (25\$ per CATid).**

**Entries from individual players will not be accepted.**

Please complete the entry form, writing clearly in **BLOCK CAPITALS**. Make sure that you enter the players' dates of birth IN FULL in the spaces provided, indicating the day, month and year and check that they comply with the regulations. Players whose dates of birth do not comply with the regulations will be unable to play, and any nations found in breach of age regulations will be eliminated from the Championships and will face disciplinary action from the ITF.