

The Asia/Oceania junior boys and girls U16 & U14 qualifying team's events for the world finals later this year, have recently been played.

Each team was made up of three players with two singles and a doubles being played. The #1 singles players and #2 singles players played against their counterparts from the opposing side, with a doubles to determine a win if it was 1-1 after the singles.

There were 16 teams in each age group, with 4 pools of 4 teams and a round robin was played. The top two teams from each pool went into a quarterfinal draw determining the 1-8 positions. The bottom two teams from each pool also went into a quarterfinal draw determining positions 9-16. Each team played six matches overall during the six days of competition

Below, is a table of how each team performed, in the different events and their average placing combined overall.

Australia and Japan were the two strongest performing teams overall with New Zealand finishing a rather disappointing 11th place, with an average placing of 9.5.

The positives were the girls U14 team finishing 4th which qualifies them for the world finals, later this year in Europe, no other New Zealand team qualified. It will be interesting to follow the results of the U14 girl's team on clay against the heavy weight nations from Europe and the USA, the first week of August in the Czech Republic.

The New Zealand number ones from each age group were all competitive in their singles matches, however, our number two players all struggled, and based on their results, were the majority of the time dominated by their opponents.

The experience and results, allows the players, coaches, sponsors, federations and others, the possibility to realistically see where the level is at, in terms of national teams and individual performances in the Oceania/Asia zone. It clearly becomes more interesting, when all the international nations come together for the world finals, which then gives a true international benchmark for players at this age.

**Our ASB/SEED scholarship player Emily Fanning** played at #1 in the girls U16 team and was undefeated in her singles matches. Emily put together this report after the event which was in India before leaving for an ITF junior event in Romania.

***I had mixed feelings about travelling to India as part of the NZ Junior Fed Cup Team because I had played there 4 years ago in a very challenging environment and had got very sick. Whilst the heat of 40-42 degrees every day was a factor, the biggest challenge was to avoid getting sick again! On the positive side however, was my excitement in representing NZ, and having a lot of excellent match play. I noticed that Delhi had improved dramatically since my trip there in 2007, which was due to the 2010 Commonwealth Games. The streets were cleaner, the homeless were less visible and***

*the RK Khanna Tennis Stadium had been re-developed and was much improved. The NZ team was seeded 4, and finished top in its pool with Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Philippines.*

*The playoff against Thailand for qualifying for the world championships was very close. I won my singles as number 1 player, but Thailand won the number 2 singles, so the tie came down to the doubles. It was so close, and we had our chances and had two set points in the second set, but went down 5/7 6/7. This was a great disappointment for all of us, particularly for me as this was the closest I had ever come to qualifying in my 5th (and last) year of representing NZ in junior tennis.*

*After the 4th day, I did not play as I was getting ready to leave to play a tournament in Romania, where I am presently. When I am finished in Romania, I travel to Austria for 2 tournaments, then onto Paris for the Junior French Open. I reached the quarterfinals in Romania and I'm still trying to adjust to the clay. As my junior ranking is 89, I am hopeful of reaching the qualifying list for the French Open Juniors. I am looking forward to the next 4 weeks of tennis on clay. I return to New Zealand on 5th of June. Thanks, Emily.*

Country/Team	Boys U16 Final Place	Girls U16 Final Place	Boys U14 Final Place	Girls U14 Final Place	Total	Average Placing
1. Australia	1	1	5	1	8	2
2. Japan	2	2	2	5	11	2.75
3. Korea	6	5	1	2	14	3.5
4. Thailand	4	4	6	8	22	5.5
5. China	5	14	4	3	26	6.5
6. Chinese Taipei	8	3	7	9	27	6.75
9. India	13	9	3	6	31	7.75
7. Hong Kong	3	10	8	11	32	8
8. Uzbekistan	7	12	9	7	35	8.75
10. Indonesia	10	7	10	10	37	9.25
11. New Zealand	15	8	11	4	38	9.5
12. Malaysia	11	15	13	12	51	12.75
13. Sri Lanka	14	16	16	14	60	15

### **Our ASB/SEED Scholarship Players**

**Sacha Jones has been in Europe and is now in Asia competing in ITF events and is currently ranked #210.**

**Katherine Westbury has been competing in Asia and is currently ranked at #585.**

**Michael Venus is at #315 and Sebastian Lavie at #1431.**

**Marina Erakovic** lost in three sets last week to Sabine Lisicki (GER) in the quarterfinals of a \$50,000 ITF event in Italy. Marina had won 17 matches prior to the loss and is now ranked inside the top #175. She will play the French Open qualifying this week and then two \$100,000 tournaments on grass in England before Wimbledon qualifying. If she can maintain the good form, we could see her cracking the top 100 soon.