

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to host the 2026 & 2027 Closed Country Championships

Overview

The NSW Closed Country Championships is a premier regional tennis event run annually that brings together the most talented regional players from across the region to compete at the highest level. Tennis NSW invites expressions of interest to host this prestigious event for a minimum of two years (2026 & 2027).

The championships take place each year from the Friday to the following Friday during the first week of the Term 2 school holidays, spanning a total of 8 days. This event not only showcases the athletic prowess of regional players but also fosters community spirit and engagement in the sport of tennis along with the ability of the host to showcase their venue and region to a broad and diverse audience

Event Details

- **Event Duration:** 8 days, from Friday to Friday
- **Timing:** First week of Term 2 school holidays (2026 dates: 3 – 10 July)
- **Expected Participants:** Approximately 500 players, 40 coaches, and 750 spectators
- **Audience:** Families, tennis enthusiasts, Coaches, Operators, TNSW Staff, local small business

Criteria to host Closed Country Championships

The following criteria outline the requirements to ensure the success and smooth operation of the Closed Country Championships.

Essential:

- Applicant must be a financial member of Tennis NSW or commits to becoming a member of Tennis NSW.
- Applicant must demonstrate adequate and appropriate insurances and compliance measures in line with relevant Tennis NSW and Tennis Australia Policies (i.e risk management, working with children checks, first aid, Code of Behaviour etc.)
- Access to a minimum of **30 tennis courts** within a **30-minute drive** of the main venue, ensuring each court is captured under Tennis NSW membership requirements and insurances.
- At least **15 courts** must be equipped with **working lights** to facilitate night matches.
- Each venue must have catering and / or canteen facilities available, offering a selection of food and drink options, accepting both cash and digital payment options.
- A dedicated space for a tournament office or room at the main venue is required along with a working PA system at the main venue and any additional venue of over six courts.
- Adequate toilet facilities must be available at each venue.
- Adequate affordable accommodation available within a 30-minute drive from the main venue.

Highly Desirable:

- Demonstrated ability in hosting major community sporting events, in particular tennis events, and a commitment to resourcing the event with personnel with appropriate and relevant experience and skill sets in delivering sporting/tennis events.
- Commitment to ensuring playing conditions and ancillary facilities are safe for play and in excellent condition for participants, staff and spectators visiting the event.
- Disability accessibility is preferable at all venues to meet Tennis NSW's commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that all individuals can participate and enjoy the event.
- Additional financial and / or in-kind contributions and investments into the event. This may include sponsorships or partnerships (ie with Local Council or suppliers etc).
- Provision of extra facilities for the purpose of off-court entertainment and activations to boost the event's profile and participant experience.
- Commitment to ongoing investment in the future growth of community-based tennis within the locality and region, in partnership with Tennis NSW and Tennis Australia.
- Demonstrated economic benefit and market analysis.

Submission of EOI

Expressions of interest are now open, and submissions should include the completed covering [application form](#) plus an additional written proposal addressing the above criteria.

Submissions should include key contact details and any further information which could strengthen the EOI is welcomed.

All submissions must be received by **5pm on Friday 6 June 2025**. Submissions should be sent via email to the following address: NSWTournaments@tennis.com.au

Evaluation and Awarding of Event

All submissions will be evaluated against the criteria outlined above, with any additional information provided by the applicant taken into consideration.

The successful applicant will be awarded the Closed Country Championships for 2026 and 2027 and Tennis NSW retains the right to extend the arrangement for a further period of its choosing without a further expression of interest process.

The announcement of the successful applicant is expected to be made at the 2025 Closed Country Championships or shortly thereafter (July 2025).

For enquiries, please contact:

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