



BLIND & LOW VISION (BLV)

EVENT GUIDE



Tennis Australia (TA) is committed to embracing diversity by ensuring our sport and events are welcoming, safe and inclusive for everyone. Competitive play is a crucial part in the development of players from grassroots participation to the international stage. Our mission is to ensure everyone has a rewarding tennis experience and this resource has been developed to give stakeholders wanting to run a tournament for blind or low vision players the guidelines to deliver a high quality event.

[Follow this link](#) to watch a video about these fun and inclusive events!

Event Rules & Regulations

The tournament will adopt ITF (International Tennis Federation) rules for standard tennis with the following exceptions: COURT DIMENSIONS AND NET HEIGHT



B1 COURT

- Dimensions: 12.8 m. x 6.1 m.
- Service line = 1.8 m. from the baseline and 4.60 m from the net.
- Net height = 83 cm.
- Tactile lines on all lines except service boxes.



B2, B3 & B4 COURT

- Dimensions: 18.28 m x 8.23 m.
- Service line = 2.74 m from the baseline and 6.40 m from the net.
- Net height = 90 cm.



THE BALL

- A standard audible tennis ball, manufactured by the company Shoei Industry Co. Ltd, shall be used.
- Colour of the ball: YELLOW or BLACK
- Referee should determine default colour prior to event.
- By mutual agreement, if 2 players agree they can choose the colour of the ball for the match they are going to play.



EXAMPLE: Audible tennis ball



RACQUET SIZE

- Any racquet accepted by the ITF in accordance with court sizes.



BLINDFOLD

- B1 players must wear a standard Paralympic approved blindfold.
- The blindfold may be removed only once per game and during change of ends.
- Players should signal to the umpire if they need to move the blindfold in any way.



BOUNCES

- B1 & B2 = Up to 3 bounces.
- B3 = Up to 2 bounces.
- B4 = Up to 1 bounce.



VOLLEY

- Volley is allowed for all the categories.



SERVE & RECEIVE

- Before starting the service motion the server must call “**ready?**” and wait for the receiver to reply “**yes**”. The server then has up to 5 seconds to serve the ball but when served must say ‘**Play**’. The server may not alter their position on the court.
- The server must shout “**play**” immediately before hitting the ball.



EXAMPLE: Blind tennis blindfold

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SERVER & RECEIVER

- Both the server and the receiver may ask umpire or ball people about their own position on court, in order to orientate themselves.

PLAYER LOSES POINT

- A **B1 or B2** player loses the point if s/he does not return the ball before the fourth bounce (3 bounces allowed).
- A **B3** player loses the point if s/he does not return the ball before the third bounce (2 bounces allowed).
- A **B4** player loses the point if s/he does not return the ball before the second bounce (1 bounce allowed).

Note: At all times the first bounce must be within the court or, in the case of a serve, within the appropriate service court. Any additional bounces may be **inside or outside** the court.

- If the ball hits the player inside the court before the first bounce, it is a point for the opponent (all categories).
- If the ball hits the player when they are outside the court before the first bounce, it is a point for the player (all categories).
- If the serve hits the player inside the service box before the first bounce, it is a point for the opponent (all categories).
- If the serve hits the player when they are outside the service box before the first bounce, the serve is a fault (all categories).

CATEGORIES

- B1: men & women
- B2: men & women
- B3: men & women
- B4: men & women
- 18/U Junior (mixed classifications)

CLASSIFICATION & CATEGORIES

- **B1:** Only B1 players can play in the B1 category. B1 players can also play in the B2, B3 or B4 categories, but must follow the rules for that particular category.
- **B2:** B2 player can play in a B3 or B4 category, but must follow the rules for that particular category.
- **B3:** B3 player can play in a B4 category, but must observe the B4 rule of one bounce.
- **B4:** players may not play in a B3, B2 or B1 category.

SIGHT CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

- Please refer to [Tennis Australia's Blind & Low Vision Classification Guidelines](#) for further information on classification requirements.
- Alternatively email blindtennis@tennis.com.au or call **1800 PLAY TENNIS** (1800 752 983)

