



Tennis Queensland Secondary School Team Tennis Competition

2026 Rules and Guidelines

COMPETITIONS

The Tennis Queensland Secondary School Team Tennis (QSSTT) is a state-wide initiative inviting all Secondary Schools to play competitive tennis at a regional level and culminate at a State Final. Winning teams of the Open QSSTT Competition will also be invited to represent Queensland at the Australian Schools Tennis Challenge.

Year 7 - 9 students can still play in the QSSTT Open competition, however may only represent one division at Regional & State Finals. Players who represented their school in the Regional Years 7-9 Competition may represent their school in the Open Team should their school be successful in the State Finals.

Year 7-9 students should play in the competition that matches their ability level.

1. ELIGIBILITY

OPEN QSSTT Competition

- 1.1. Players must be in Years 7-12 and nominated as a member of one team.
- 1.2. Each school will be eligible to nominate unlimited teams, each consisting of 4-5 players.
- 1.3. The Winning school from each regional final will be invited to compete at the State Finals event.
 - 1.3.1 Should the 1st placed school be unable to attend, the second placed school will be invited to compete at State Finals.
- 1.4. In the State Finals, all students in each school, including those from defeated B teams, and the QSSTT Years 7-9 Competition will be eligible for team selection.
- 1.5. Team members must be enrolled as full-time students at the school in which they are representing. This is to be verified by the Principal of the school.
- 1.6. Students can only compete for one State Final Team.
- 1.7. Please note there may be an age eligibility requirement that aligns with the ISF World Schools Tennis Championship to compete in the national finals.
- 1.8. All schools which nominate must compete in their Department of Education sporting region.
- 1.9. Team Managers are required to be a representative of the same school entered and provide duty of care for participants.

Years 7-9 QSSTT Competition

- 1.10. Players must be in years 7-9 and nominated as a member of one team.
- 1.11. Each school will be eligible to nominate unlimited teams, each consisting of 4-5 players.
- 1.12. Players must only compete in one regional competition (Years 7-9 or Open QSSTT Competition) at the Regional and/or State Finals.
- 1.13. In the State Finals, all students in each school, including those from defeated Division 1 B teams, and the QSSTT Open Competition will be eligible for team selection.
- 1.14. Team members must be enrolled as full-time students at the school in which they are representing. This is to be verified by the Principal of the school
- 1.15. Students can only compete for one State Final Team.
- 1.16. All schools which nominate must compete in their Department of Education sporting region.

2. TEAM LIST/ ORDER OF MERIT

- 2.1. Each team will consist of minimum four (4) players and maximum of five (5) players at regional finals.
- 2.2. Players are to be ranked in order of singles ability 1-6 based on their singles UTR Rating (as displayed on the scoresheets). The playing order is recommended to be based off each player's UTR and ranked highest to lowest.
 - 2.2.1. In the case of a Provisional or Unrated player in singles, the Tournament Director will discuss and finalise a confirmed singles position with the relevant team manager.
- 2.3. If teams have more than four (4) players, playing order substitutions can be made within a match as per *Annex 1*.
- 2.4. Team player rankings must stay in the same order for the entirety of the Regional Final but can be changed prior to the State Finals should the team/school qualify.
 - 2.4.1. Changes may occur up until the pre-regional final managers meeting.
- 2.5. Doubles pairings can be in any combination but the highest ranked singles player playing doubles must play in the number 1 doubles combination.
- 2.6. If a team plays out of order, the team will forfeit the rubbers for those players who played out of order.

3. COMPETITION FORMAT

- The competition will consist of four (4) separate events – Girls' Open QSSTT, Girls' Yrs 7-9 QSSSTT; Boys Open QSSTT & Boys' Yr 7-9 QSSTT.
- If only one team is entered in the division during the Regional Final, they are automatically invited to State Finals to represent their region.
- The committee will organise the draw for each respective regional final.

3.1. Each school must have the commitment to a full school day of 8:30am – 3pm.

MATCH FORMAT

3.2. A match will be played over six (6) sets in the following order:

- a) Four sets of Singles
(1v1, 2 v2, 3 v3, 4v4) / two sets of doubles (1v1, 2v2)
- b) Each set will be played using **Fast4** format. *See Annex 2.*
 - a. The committee reserves the right to alter match formats for the betterment of the competition.
- c) Single sets may be called in any order.
- d) Doubles must be played following Single Sets.
- e) The committee reserves the right to alter rubber order for the betterment of the competition.
- f) The right to serve or receive first in each set will be decided by the spin of a racquet.

3.3. Following the pools stage and round-robin matches, if any teams are tied on points, sets and games then a count back will be used and the team with the most sets head-to-head will be deemed higher on the ladder. If the head-to-head sets are tied, then the team with the higher total games head-to-head will be deemed higher. (games or sets) If both sets and games are tied a tie breaker will be played to determine who will finish higher on the ladder. *See Annex 3.*

3.4. In all pool or non-finals match, the winner of a match will be determined by the most sets won. If the sets are tied, then the winner will be determined by the most games won. If the games are tied, then the match will be declared a draw.

3.5. In all rounds of Finals (Including cross over, Preliminary and Semi-finals), the above will apply except if the sets and games are tied. In this instance a knock-out doubles' tiebreak will be played. Any two players from a team may combine to contest this 'shoot-out'.

3.5.1. A spin of a racquet will determine who serves first in the tie-breaker

- 3.5.2. A first to 7 advantage tiebreak will be used as a match decider
- 3.6. In all pool or non-finals matches, the winner of a match will be determined by the most sets won. If the sets are tied, then the winner will be determined by the most games won. If the games are tied, then the match will be declared a draw.
- 3.7. All sets will be played as non-umpired matches in accordance with the Tennis Australia Guidelines.
- 3.8. The scores for all sets must be recorded during the sets on the scorecards provided.

Withdrawal of a player

- 3.9. In the event of the withdrawal/retirement of a player due to illness or injury during a rubber, the rubber is then lost.
- 3.10. Following a retirement of a player, the team list order must be remained unchanged as discussed in the pre-regional final managers meeting.
- 3.11. At no time can a substitute player be added to the team list once the competition commences. All team additions/changes must be announced at the pre-regional final managers meeting.

Postponement of Play

- 3.12. If matches are postponed due to inclement weather, those matches must be completed before the next round of matches commence.
- 3.13. The Competition Director reserves the right to alter conditions above due to extreme extenuating circumstances.
- 3.14. All decisions made by the match committee and/or Competition Director are final. Penalties can be handed out at any time including retrospectively as seen fit by the match committee and/or tournament director.
- 3.15. With the inclusion of these rules all matches will be conducted in accordance with Laws of the Game & all Regulations and Code of Behaviour for tournaments and competitions as adopted by Tennis Australia and Tennis Queensland.

4. Costs

- 4.1. Schools Nominating for the QSSTT Competition will be responsible for all costs associated with travelling to the applicable Regional Final and/or State Final
- 4.2. Entry fee per team is \$80inc GST.
- 4.3. Costs for travel to the State Finals is borne by each individual team.

5. General

The Match Committee reserves the right to:

- 5.1. Change the above rules at any time as they see fit if deemed to be in the betterment of the competition.
- 5.2. Interpret the rules as they see fit if deemed to be in the betterment of the competition.

Annex 1: Order of Merit

1. At all times, unless substituted, the highest ranked player on the team list must play in the 1 singles and doubles.
2. If the highest ranked player is substituted for the 1 singles and/or the 1 doubles rubbers than the 2nd highest ranked player on the team list will be required to play that rubber(s).
3. Players can play in any order for doubles rubbers, but Rule 1 & 2 must be followed at all times.
 - 3.1. Strongest Player in Team A must player Strongest Player in Team B Doubles with any player combinations.
4. If a substitution is made, than the team ranking list will need to be re-ordered according to the player rankings.
5. No player can play above a higher ranked player in a singles rubber.
6. See table below for reference on substitutions and match ranking order.

Not Playing	1 st Ranked	2 nd Ranked	3 rd Ranked	4 th Ranked	5 th Ranked
Singles Rubber 1	2 nd	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st
Singles Rubber 2	3 rd	3 rd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd
Singles Rubber 3	4 th	4 th	4 th	3 rd	3 rd
Singles Rubber 4	5 th	5 th	5 ^h	5 th	4 th

Annex 2: FAST4 Format

1. All matches will be played using the FAST4 Format (first to 4 games) with a short tiebreak (first to five (5) points, sudden death at four (4) points all) played at three (3) games all.
2. A short tiebreak is a tiebreak played as the first to five (5) points, sudden death at 4-4. The player whose turn it is to serve at the commencement of the tiebreak (Player A) will serve two (2) points. The opposing player (Player B) will then serve two (2) points. Player A (or team mate of Player A in doubles) will then serve two (2) points. Player B (or team mate of Player B in doubles) will then serve the following two (2) points. If the score reaches 4-4, Player B (or the team mate of Player B in doubles) will serve the final point of the tiebreak with Player A

choosing which side the ball will be served. Players will change ends only after the first four (4) points have been played in the tiebreak.

3. All singles and doubles matches will be played using no-advantage scoring, with the receiver choosing the service side when the game reaches deuce.
4. No service lets will be played, meaning if the ball hits the net cord on a serve and lands (bounces) within the correct service box, play will continue. In doubles, if the ball hits the net cord on the serve and lands (bounces) within the correct service box, either player can return the ball (e.g.; the ball hits the net cord and drops over the net, the non- receiver can move across and return the serve).

When the players change ends at the end of a game and during a tiebreak game, play shall be continuous, and the players shall change ends with players having to be ready to play within 60 seconds of the previous games' completion. Players are not permitted to sit down during the change of ends during a set.

Annex 3. Ladder Sorting Format

1. Premiership Points

- Total Premiership Points

2. Relative Set Difference %

- $100 \times (\text{Sets for/ by} / (\text{Sets For} + \text{Against}))$

3. Relative Games Difference %

- $100 \times \text{Games For} / \text{by} / (\text{Games For} + \text{Games Against})$



Tennis acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, rest and play, and pay our respect to Elders past and present.