



Western Districts Tennis Association Juniors

Rules

2025-26 Junior Summer Season

- Friday Night
- Saturday Morning

1. Schedule of Matches

- 1.1 15 home and away rounds will be programmed
- 1.2 First round commencing – 17/18 October 2025
- 1.3 Last round before Christmas to be 12/13 December 2025
- 1.4 Break after 13 December 2025, and resuming on 30/31 January 2026
- 1.5 Last minor round to be played on 13/14 March 2026
- 1.6 Finals to be played over 2 weekends, 20/21 March and 27/28 March 2026
- 1.7 Matches will not be played over the Adelaide Cup Long Weekend – 6/7 March 2026
- 1.8 A minimum of 2 courts per match is required for all matches.

2. Start Times

- 2.1 All players are to be ready to play 15 minutes before start time.
- 2.2 Friday night matches are scheduled to commence at 5.30pm (but may commence up to 6.00pm – please notify opposition team as early as possible).
- 2.3 Saturday morning matches commence at 9.00am however some 10.30am matches may be programmed - refer match program. The WDTA Junior Competitions Committee shall determine annually the divisions that shall play in each timeslot.
- 2.4 Saturday morning scheduled finish time shall be 12.15pm (for the 10.30am session of matches) or at the discretion of the Venue Supervisor.
- 2.5 Any team unable to commence a double at 6.00pm for Friday night matches, or within 10 minutes of scheduled starting time for Saturday morning matches, shall forfeit such double, unless a singles match is played by mutual agreement. Doubles will then be played after completion of all singles in this instance.
- 2.6 Major Round matches commence at the same time as during the season.

3. Registration of Players

- 3.1 All players nominated must have registered and activated their own Competitive Player Profile to compete.
- 3.2 Players may be nominated for and play in both the Friday Night competition and Saturday Morning competition. A Friday Night player may play for a different Club in the Saturday Morning competition.
- 3.3 New players into a team who are not in the initial squad list must be approved by Tennis SA. If Tennis SA is not notified before match day, you will have until 7.00pm Tuesday to notify Tennis SA or penalties will be imposed. Newly nominated players, who substantially alter the general standard of the team as originally graded, may not be accepted. **Penalty** if player is not accepted – Loss of sets played by that player. Squads will be locked all season to assist in monitoring requests from clubs.
- 3.4 No player shall play for more than one Club in either the Friday Night or Saturday morning competitions in any one season unless such player has received a clearance from that Club and obtained the consent of the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee. **Penalty** - the team playing such a player shall lose the match. Offending team shall score Nil, opposing team 6 sets 36 games.



- 3.5 No player shall play in another Association Junior Competition conducted at a similar time except by the consent of the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee. **Penalty** - as for Rule 6.1.
- 3.6 Match results will be reviewed by the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee following 4 minor round matches, and a team may be considered for regrading.

4. Age Qualifications

- 4.1 The age for Friday Night and Saturday Morning Junior Summer Competition is 17 years or under at the commencement of the season.
- 4.2 The age for Green Ball competition is 12 years or under at the commencement of the season; Orange Ball competition (where applicable) is 10 years or under at the commencement of the season, unless permission is given by the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee.

5. Match Play

- 5.1 Each Team Captain or Manager must, prior to the scheduled start time of the match, complete the team score sheet showing the order in which their team will play and exchange the score sheet with the Team Captain or Manager of the opposing team. Scoresheet must be signed by both teams at the completion of play.
- 5.2 Friday Night matches - doubles and singles shall be six game tie-break sets (first to seven with advantage of 2 points).
Saturday Morning Boys Division 1 matches - doubles and singles shall be six game tie-break sets (first to seven with advantage of 2 points).
Saturday Morning Girls Division 1 matches - doubles and singles shall be six game tie-break sets (first to seven with advantage of 2 points).
Saturday Morning Boys Division 2-3 and Green Ball matches - doubles and singles shall be a six game set (winner being the first player to win 6 games).
- 5.3 Teams shall consist of four to six players who shall be divided into first and second doubles, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th singles. A player may play a double only, a single only, or both. The player named as 1st single must play in the 1st double. If 1st single player does not play doubles, then the highest position singles player participating in doubles must play in 1st double. **Penalty** shall be 1 set 6 games to be deleted from the score of the offending team (offending player) and added to the score of the opposing team. Tennis SA may report repeated infringements to the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee who shall decide the penalty to be imposed.
- 5.4 Singles shall be played when courts are available for play following the completion of doubles. In finals matches where more than 2 courts are available for singles they may be used, by mutual agreement. Weather affected finals all available courts should be used.
- 5.5 Any sets won by unspecified players will not be eligible for premiership points. The points will not be awarded to the opposition, and the result of the match will be determined as the team that won the most eligible sets and games. If a player name and profile is provided to Tennis SA by the Thursday following the match, the penalty will be overturned.

6. Player Movements

6.1 After the third programmed match no player is permitted to move over more than one player either up or down without the permission of Tennis SA. Absent players when returning shall resume the same position in relation to the other players as vacated, or one position up or down, or in a position as approved by Tennis SA. **Penalty** shall be 1 set 6 games to be deleted from the score of the offending team and added to the score of the opposing team.

Tennis SA may report repeated infringements to the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee who shall decide the penalty to be imposed.

6.2 If a Club has more than one team in a division, a player may play three (3) matches in one team before being bound to that team, unless approved by Tennis SA. **Penalty** - Tennis SA shall report infringements to the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee if a satisfactory explanation is not provided with the results. The penalty shall be forfeiture of all sets played by the offending player.

7. Tennis Attire

7.1 Players shall present themselves for play in tennis attire.

8. Balls

8.1 All balls must be of a type approved by Tennis Australia.

8.2 Friday Night matches - the Home Team shall provide a minimum of four new balls. For Major Round matches each team shall supply four new balls.

8.3 Saturday Morning Division 1 matches – the Home Team shall provide a minimum of four new balls. For Major Round matches each team shall supply four new balls.

8.4 Saturday Morning all other matches - the Home Team shall supply four good quality balls. For Major Round matches each team shall supply four good quality balls.

9. Weather

9.1 Weather cancellations will be made at the discretion of the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee and Tennis SA.

9.2 In the event of extreme weather (including but not limited to rain or excessive heat) a message will be placed on the Tennis SA Website – [Inclement Weather Update](#). Friday Night matches to be updated by 4.00pm, Saturday Morning 9.00am matches to be updated by 7.00am and Saturday Morning 10.30am matches to be updated by 9.00am. Venue Supervisors may cancel matches after a Tennis SA announcement only if they believe their courts will be unsafe for play. If courts can be prepared to enable safe play and weather conditions improve, matches should commence as programmed. No player can be forced to play on unsafe wet courts or when rain is falling.

9.3 Matches will be cancelled when the projected forecast maximum temperature for match time (based on Adelaide West Terrace forecast), as issued by the Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au, is 36 degrees or more. If the said forecast includes a temperature of less than 36 degrees then the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee may still cancel the said round in the manner set out above.

- 9.4 In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather the following will occur:
- (a) On the day set down for such, the matter shall be referred to the Venue Supervisor for decision. Players must remain at the courts until the Venue Supervisor has made the decision to abandon the match. No Friday night match shall be abandoned before 7.00pm and Saturday Morning match before 10.00am (11.00am for 10.30am matches).
 - (b) If neither team is in an unbeatable position, both teams will receive two premiership points, plus one point for each set won, and the unplayed or unfinished sets will be deemed split between each team.
 - (c) If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and given four premiership points, plus one point for each set won, and the unplayed or unfinished sets will be deemed split between each team. For at least a draw, the premiership points will be split 3 and 1.
- 9.5 All venues must have equipment available for wet weather to dry courts. Every effort should be made to sweep or squeegee the courts before considering cancellation. If there has been no cancellation made by the Venue Supervisor, matches shall proceed as scheduled.

10. Recording of Results

- 10.1 Each Team/Club is required to enter and confirm the results of their match on League Manager/Match Centre by Tuesday 7.00pm following the match. **Penalty** - loss of 2 premiership points. Finals results must be recorded by Sunday 10.00pm following the match.

11. Premiership Tables & Points

- 11.1 Four (4) points shall be awarded for a win and two (2) points for a draw, and one (1) point shall be awarded for each set won.
- 11.2 The team winning the greater number of sets, or if sets are equal, the greater number of games, shall be the winner. If sets and games are equal, the match shall be a draw.
- 11.3 Premiership tables to be decided by points and in the case of equality of points at the end of the minor round, the team with the best percentage for and against (sets then games) shall be deemed minor premiers. Second, third and fourth position shall be decided likewise. In Divisions with a bye or 'unplayed' matches the premiership table will be decided by Match ratio. (Match ratio is the Premiership points divided by the number of matches played). If equal on Match ratio then by ratio percentage for and against (wins, then sets, then games).
- 11.4 To decide the Premiership of each division, the first team shall play the fourth team and the second team shall play the third team in the Semi-finals. The winners will play in the Grand Final.

12. Forfeits

- 12.1 A team receiving a forfeit shall receive 10 points, 6 sets and 36 games. Winning team must submit results listing their team players to claim their points and to count towards player qualification for finals. Any Club unable to fill all of its teams on a match day must fill the highest Division teams first. This is not mandatory if the teams are not in consecutive divisions, e.g. Division 1 and 3, or different start time. **Penalty** - if a satisfactory explanation is not shared with the results, a penalty, as decided by the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee shall be imposed.
- 12.2 Except in the case of illness or injury during the match, forfeits of doubles and/or singles must be from the bottom double and/or number 4 single position up. Failure by a team to forfeit in the correct order will result in a **Penalty** - loss of 2 premiership points.
- 12.3 Any present player unable to commence or complete their set or sets due to illness, injury or any other cause, other than postponement of a match, shall forfeit such set or sets or the remaining games to the opposing player. Players do not move positions in these situations.
- 12.4 A team proposing to forfeit a match, or a set, shall notify the opposing team as soon as possible.
- 12.5 Any team forfeiting three matches may be removed from the competition.
- 12.6 If a team is to be removed from the competition or if a club withdraws a team from the competition, their matches and previous results will be replaced with a bye and the ladder will be calculated by match ratio.

13. Major Round Players

- 13.1 A player shall not be permitted to play in any Major Round match unless such player has played five (5) minor round matches in the required division or a lower division in the competition. In the event of 12 or less matches being played during the season, players will be required to play in no less than four (4) minor round matches to qualify for finals.
- 13.2 There are no grounds for appeal for players who have played less than the required number of matches to qualify for finals except that where a club has insufficient players qualified, under Rule 13.1, to fill its lowest Division team in major round matches, applications, stating a case, may be submitted to Tennis SA for approval to play a player. Approval may only be given to registered players of that club of appropriate standard being lower ranked than all players in the team. A player who has qualified to play finals in a competition conducted at a similar time would not be considered for approval.
- 13.3 A player who has played in a Major Round match of one division or team is not permitted to play in a Major Round match of a lower division or other team except by permission of the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee. **Penalty** - the player shall forfeit all sets played.

14. Teams for Finals

14.1 All clubs shall update their playing lists for all teams in League Manager to reflect the correct order of merit for all qualified players by notifying Tennis SA no later than 7:00pm on Tuesday following the second last match for the season. All players not qualified for finals will be changed to Reserve Players. The squads will be reviewed by Tennis SA and the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee. Any changes required will be communicated with the relevant clubs no later than the Friday following. Teams must then play in the approved singles order of merit and this order of merit shall not be altered for the Finals Series. **Penalty** for playing sets out of order – forfeiture of those sets.

15. Incomplete Finals

15.1 Players must remain at courts for at least 90 minutes before making the decision to stop play for the day. In the event of an incomplete Semi-final the winner shall be the higher ranked team. Grand Finals not played or completed to a result will be completed the following Friday or Saturday respectively. Any scheduling/playing issues during finals will be referred to the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee.

16. Drawn Finals

16.1 Friday Night, Saturday Morning Boys Division 1 and Girls Division 1
To decide Major Round draws there will be two tiebreak doubles played. First to 7 points with advantage of 2 points. The doubles shall be played by the same players in the same pairings that played in the drawn match. The highest ranked player in the first double. The scores for each double are to be added together to obtain result. If this is drawn then the same process is repeated until a result is obtained, using the same combinations.
Saturday Morning Boys Division 2-3 and Green Ball Divisions
In the event of a drawn Major Round match, the winner shall be the team that finished higher in the premiership table at the conclusion of the minor rounds.

17. Interference in Match

17.1 The coaching of, or interference with, players during the progress of a match is not allowed. No players or adults are permitted courtside during a match except that, in the Green Ball divisions and the lowest non-Green Ball divisions, an adult may, by mutual agreement, be permitted to assist in the progress of the match.

18. Code of Behaviour Issues

- 18.1 All matches must be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour.
- 18.2 All Code of Behaviour reports shall be lodged by filling out the [Tennis SA Competition Code of Behaviour Report](#) by COB Tuesday following the match in which the incident took place.
- 18.3 Tennis SA, in conjunction with the WDTA Junior Competitions Committee, may meet to consider any alleged breaches of the Code.
- 18.4 Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.

- 18.5 Team Managers are responsible for:
- (a) Educating all players in their team on their responsibilities in the Tennis Australia National Policies (particularly the Code of Behaviour and Disciplinary Policy); and
 - Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship.

19. Disputes and Appeals

- 19.1 All match disputes must be made by the Club Junior Coordinator by email to the Competition Coordinator at Tennis SA by 7.00pm on Tuesday following the match, and the referral must contain a precise statement of the issue(s) in dispute and the relevant facts giving rise to the dispute.
- 19.2 Please be aware that all teams are responsible for following the rules and regulations stated. It is the team's and club's responsibility to dispute a ruling if they believe they have been unduly affected by the result of a rule breach. Penalties will only take place after a dispute has been made and proven true. If teams are to break the rules the opposition has the right to dispute the result.
- 19.3 Tennis SA must, within two days of the date of request for such adjudication by any party, request any response to the dispute from the other party.

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