



TENNIS SA STATE LEAGUE

REGULATIONS
2026-27 season

1. Introduction

The “State League” is the premier weekly interclub tennis competition conducted by Tennis SA involving the best tennis players in South Australia and will comprise both a Men’s State League Competition and a Women’s State League Competition.

2. State League Advisory Group

- 2.1 Please refer to the State League Terms of Reference as found on the Tennis SA Website.
- 2.2 For the purpose of the Season 2026/27 the members of the State League Administration are
- 2.3 Mike Daws (Chair);
- 2.4 Dylan Hicks Tennis SA, State League Coordinator/Recording Secretary;

3. Nomination of State League teams by clubs

- 3.1 A Tennis Club affiliated with Tennis SA may nominate a team to compete in either or both the Men’s State League Competition or the Women’s State League Competition.
- 3.2 The Nominations shall be submitted online via League Manager. The Nomination will require a nominating club to name in Order of Merit the **five to six players** which it proposes to play in its team.
- 3.3 All players nominated must have registered and activated their own Competitive Player Profile to compete.
- 3.4 Team Fee’s will be \$200 (plus GST) per team. Clubs will receive an invoice once teams are final. This fee will cover associated costs of running the competition.
- 3.5 A nominating club must have a signed “Player Undertaking” form for all its proposed players. Forms will need to be sent to the State League Coordinator for the online nomination to be accepted. If a “Player Undertaking” form is not received prior to the close of nominations, the player nomination will be deemed invalid.
- 3.6 A Player Undertaking will include a provision that, if selected by the club, the player undertakes to play for the nominating club a minimum of five matches in the State League season and also a provision that the player acknowledges that the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour applies to the State League competition.
- 3.7 If the team of the nominating club is not accepted into the State League Competition then the player who signed the Player Undertaking is released from the Player undertaking to that club and the Released Player may seek to play for another club whose nomination to play a team in State League Competition has been successful.
- 3.8 A nominating club whose nomination of a State League team is successful may seek to recruit a Released Player. If it does recruit a Released Player, the club is to provide to the State League Advisory Group by a date specified by the State League Advisory Group an amended Order of Merit for its proposed players together with a Player Undertaking to that club signed by the Released Player.
- 3.9 If a player nominated by a club in the top four in the Order of Merit does not play a minimum of five matches, the State League Advisory Group may in its discretion deduct premiership points and prizemoney at the conclusion of the home and away season for each player who failed to play the minimum of five singles matches.
- 3.10 Any breach of the Player Undertaking by either the player who signed the Player Undertaking or the club may be taken into consideration by the State League Advisory Group when considering the nominations to play in State League competition for the following season.

4. Wildcard Qualification

- 4.1 This regulation outlines the process and criteria for clubs to apply for a wild card qualification, allowing a nominated player to qualify for finals by playing three matches instead of the standard five..
- 4.2 Each club is limited to one wild card per team.
- 4.3 Clubs must submit their wild card qualification application in writing to the State League Coordinator. The application must include the player's details, the justification for the wild card request, and any supporting documentation.
- 4.4 The approval of a wild card nomination is the responsibility of the State League Advisory Group. The State League Advisory Group will review all applications and make a decision based on the provided information and the best interests of the competition.
- 4.5 Consideration will be given to the player's circumstances, the club's needs, and the overall impact on the competition's integrity and fairness.
- 4.6 The wild card, if approved, applies only to the specified player and cannot be transferred to another player.
- 4.7 Applications won't be accepted from Round 12 onwards.
- 4.8 Any decision made by the State League Advisory Group cannot be disputed.

5. Selection of teams to compete in State League competitions

- 5.1 The State League Advisory Group in its discretion may determine how many teams and select which clubs compete in the State League Competition (either Men's or Women's) applying the Selection Criteria annexed to these Rules. The State League Advisory Group is not bound to accept any nomination
- 5.2 Clubs may appeal the decision of the State League Advisory Group for review; however the final decision following review will be made by the State League Advisory Group.
- 5.3 As a matter of guidance, the State League will consist of a minimum of six men's and six women's teams and a maximum of eight men's and eight women's teams.

6. Registered players

- 6.1 Any Club who has teams competing in State League must have all players registered in a Tennis Australia approved database management system by the date directed by Tennis SA or penalties will be applied as per below
- 6.2 No Premiership Points will be allocated should players not be registered in a Tennis Australia approved database management system.
- 6.3 Newly added players to a team, must be registered before playing. If a club plays a player who is not registered it will not be entitled to premiership points for any match in which that player plays.
- 6.4 The State League Advisory Group encourages the best players to play when available.

7. Age requirements for State League teams

- 7.1 Each State League team must have at least one player 18 years or over as at 10 October 2026 playing in each match.
- 7.2 In the case that a team is not able to field a player 18 years of age or older in a State League tie, the club will be required to appoint a person over 18 years of age as a Team Manager.
- 7.3 Any player who is 12 years old or younger as at 10 October 2026 must be granted prior permission by the State League Advisory Group to be eligible to play in the State League Competition.
- 7.4 Each team may have a maximum of one 12/u player playing in any one match unless given prior approval by the State League Advisory Group.

8. Media and Promotions

- 8.1 Tennis SA will provide the following media and promotion for the State League:
- (a) Pre-season Tennis SA State League photo shoot
 - (b) Weekly Facebook and Instagram updates
 - (c) Ad hoc Tennis SA website updates
 - (d) Promotion of Tennis SA State League grand finals across all channels
 - (e) Photography of Tennis SA State League grand finals
 - (f) Presentation at Tennis SA Awards Night

9. Prizemoney

9.1	MEN'S	WOMEN'S
9.2	Winner \$3,000	Winner \$3,000
9.3	Runner-up \$1,500	Runner-up \$1,500
9.4	Player of the Year \$500	Player of the Year \$500
9.5	Minor Round Premiers \$1000	Minor Round Premiers \$1000

10. Match Payment

- 10.1 A player will be entitled to a match payment in accordance with this section (**Match Payment**).
- 10.2 Match Payments only apply to Minor Round matches.
- 10.3 Players will receive a performance-based bonus as follows:
- (a) \$70 to the player who wins the number 1 singles rubber
 - (b) \$50 to the player who wins the number 2 singles rubber
 - (c) \$30 to the players who win the number 3, and 4 singles rubbers
 - (d) \$20 each to the players who win the number 1 doubles rubber
 - (e) \$15 each to the players who win the number 2 doubles rubber
 - (f) These payments apply regardless of the overall team result.
 - (g) If a match is not completed, Tennis SA will determine eligibility for payment at its discretion.
 - (h) Payments will be made at the conclusion of the season directly to the eligible players
- 11.3 Tennis SA, in its sole discretion, may amend this regulation (including amending the amount of any Match Payment) as necessary.

11. Player Points Race

- 11.1 A player point's race will be tallied by points earned divided by matches played throughout the year with players accruing points based on wins and singles position played. **Players must have played in two thirds of matches to be eligible.**
- 11.2 Any player receiving a suspension during the State League Season will not be eligible to win the Player Points Race. This includes any suspension received via the Code of Behaviour while participating in any TA/MA endorsed leagues, tournaments, or events.
- 11.3 Winners will receive \$500 each

12. Minor Round Premiers

- 12.1 A prize of \$1000 will be awarded to the Men's and Women's team that finishes in first place on the ladder at the completion of the minor round season.
- 12.2 If two or more teams are tied for first place on the ladder at the completion of the minor round season, the prize money will be split equally among the tied teams.
- 12.3 Tennis SA, in its sole discretion, may amend this regulation (including amending the amount of any Match Payment) as necessary.

13. Fair Play Award

The Fair Play award is awarded to the State League Men's and Women's players who best demonstrate the qualities of good sportsmanship and on court etiquette. The award is determined by Court Supervisors who award votes to players throughout the regular season.

14. Presentations

Presentations will be made to the Winners at the 2026/27 Tennis SA Award Night.

15. Competition Rules for 2026/27

The Competition Rules for State League matches for the Season 2026/27 are annexed to these Regulations.

16. Circumstances not covered

Where any issue arises which is not addressed in the Regulations or in the Competition Rules, there is uncertainty about the application of the Regulations or the Competition Rules or it is necessary to resolve any dispute which has arisen in relation to the Regulations or the Competition Rules, the State League Advisory Group has the power to determine the issue, the uncertainty or the dispute after giving the parties involved the opportunity to provide such information or submission as State League Advisory Group considers appropriate.

17. Amendment of Rules

State League Advisory Group can replace or amend the Competition Rules from time to time.

