



TENNIS SA STATE LEAGUE

RULES
2026-27 season

1. Schedule of Matches

- 1.1 First round commencing on 10 October
- 1.2 Last round before Christmas 5 December
- 1.3 Break after 5 December, and resuming 30 January
- 1.4 Last round to be played on 27 February
- 1.5 Women and Men - Finals to be run over 2 weekends commencing 13 March with Grand Final on March 20

2. Matches

- 2.1 Each match will comprise 4 singles matches and 2 doubles matches.
- 2.2 A team may use up to 8 players in each match with persons who played singles being substituted in the doubles matches.
- 2.3 A team must play its singles players in singles Order of Merit. Number 1 or 2 highest ranked player in order of merit on the day must play in the top doubles pairing if they are playing doubles. Other players are flexible to move.
- 2.4 If either the number 1 or number 2 player retires during their singles match, the remaining player (from the number 1 or 2 positions) must participate in the top doubles pairing if they are scheduled to play doubles. If both the number 1 and number 2 players retire, the remaining players may be arranged in any order for the doubles pairing.

3. Manager/Captain

- 3.1 Each team must have an appointed Team Manager (non-playing) or Captain (playing) appointed for each match.
- 3.2 Each Team Manager or Captain must, prior to the scheduled start time of the match, complete the team score sheet by writing a list of singles players on the score sheet showing the order in which his/her team will play and exchange the score sheet with the Team Manager/Captain of the opposing team. The doubles players may be named after the completion of the scheduled singles matches.
- 3.3 Both teams are required to print out a score sheet from Match Centre. In the case one or both teams do not have their scoresheet printed from League Manager with all players listed, as outlined above, the State League Official will report this and a penalty, being a loss of 2 premiership points will be applied.
- 3.4 The Team Manager must attend from the commencement and remain at the State League match until the match is completed and will be responsible for the team abiding by State League Match Rules, Order of Merit and Code of Behaviour and any other policies as referred to in the State League Rules.

4. Balls and Ball allocation

- 4.1 Dunlop tennis balls are to be used. four cans of four Dunlop Balls will be used for the match in total (16 balls in total).
- 4.2 The HOME team is responsible to collect all balls necessary to complete a match.
- 4.3 Tennis SA will distribute the balls required for home matches. Club contacts will be advised where balls can be collected prior to the commencement of the first match.
- 4.4 For Singles matches - at all venues - 3 new tennis balls to be used in rotation.
- 4.5 For Doubles matches - at all venues - 2 new tennis balls to commence the match and then choose between the best tennis balls for further sets.

5. Match Times

- 5.1 The scheduled starting time will be 1pm for home and away matches on a Saturday afternoon (unless otherwise notified) – 2 courts per match.
- 5.2 State League teams are able to apply to the State League Advisory Group in writing to hold matches at different times. These requests must be sent to the State League Recording Secretary prior to the commencement of the season.

- 5.3 Players must be ready to play at the stipulated match time. Players not present and ready to play by 1:15pm shall forfeit their singles from the lowest position.

6. Order of Play

Teams are permitted to use up to eight (8) players in a match. Singles matches shall be played first. After commencement, play is to be continuous. Singles shall be played in order of merit, e.g. No. 1 & 2 followed by No. 3 & 4.

7. Scoring

- 7.1 Matches shall be decided by rubbers, where rubbers are even, by sets and where sets are even, by games.
- 7.2 Singles shall be the best of two, six game tiebreaker sets with a 12-point tie-break (traditional, first to seven points) at six games all in either set. If after the second set the match is one set each then a match tiebreak (first to 10 points with a 2-point margin or a 2-point margin after 9 points all is to be played). Deuce-ad Scoring.
- 7.3 Doubles shall be the best of two, six game tiebreaker sets with a 12-point tie-break (traditional, first to seven points) at six games all in either set. If after the second set the match is one set each then a match tiebreak (first to 10 points with a 2-point margin or a 2-point margin after 9 points all is to be played). No-ad Scoring – Receivers choice, if a game gets to deuce the winner of the next point will win the game. The receiver will get to choose which side of the court they will receive the serve from.

8. Order of Merit

- 8.1 Squads will be locked and Order of Merit shall be set by UTR. However, players may move one ranking position up or down (if you are listed as number two on League Manager, you would be eligible to play up or down one position if required without approval) This includes all fill in players, who will need to be placed within the correct position on UTR for the team. Exemptions to this rule may be submitted in writing to the Recording Secretary, to be considered at their discretion.
- 8.2 Projected Ratings will be placed in Order of Merit based on the rating that appears. Exemption to this rule may be submitted in writing to the Recording Secretary, to be considered at their discretion.
- 8.3 Any movement of a player that is more than one position to what is listed on League Manager will result in loss of sets.
- 8.4 All order of merit lists will be updated weekly by 5pm Thursday.
- 8.5 Players must be played in Order of Merit in all teams at all times.
- 8.6 The State League Advisory Group may at its discretion review the Order of Merit for any team at any time.
- 8.7 The State League Advisory Group shall have the power to disapprove the Order of Merit within any team and within any club, and to adjust match results accordingly as it sees fit.
- 8.8 Disputes as to Order of Merit shall be determined by the State League Advisory Group which may impose such penalty as deemed necessary.
- 8.9 Players from other clubs can be used as fill-ins for a State League team provided the original club of the player concerned does not have a State League team. No player may play for more than one State League team in any season.

9. Forfeits

- 9.1 Forfeit of a singles rubber, except in the case of injury or sickness during the match, must be from the number 4 position up. If a player is unable to play in a doubles match due to injury or illness in a singles match, and no substitute player is available, and a doubles rubber must be forfeited then the bottom double must be forfeited first. Failure by a team to forfeit in the correct order will result in a loss of four (4) Premiership points.
- 9.2 If a player forfeits in doubles or singles on any given day, they will not be eligible to play in the opposing singles or doubles match.
- 9.3 If a player forfeits a rubber, except in the case of injury or sickness. That player will be deemed to have committed a failure to complete match resulting in a code violation.
- 9.4 A team that receives a failure to complete as per rule 8.3.
 - (a) First offence - an official warning will be given
 - (b) Second offence - a loss of 2 premiership points will be applied.
- 9.5 A team proposing to forfeit a match or a rubber shall notify the opposing team and Tennis SA as soon as possible. A team so giving a match forfeit will lose four (4) Premiership points and a deduction of \$200 prizemoney.

10. Weather implications

- 10.1 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](#) by 11:00am on the day of the scheduled match.
- 10.2 Matches will be cancelled in accordance with the Tennis Australia Extreme Weather Policy (Cancelled at 37 degrees or higher).
- 10.3 In the event of any scheduled match, on the day set down for such, being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather the matter shall be referred to the State League Advisory Group for decision.
 - (a) The procedure at the match is as follows. If no set is commenced by 3.00pm the match will be abandoned. If no set is completed by 4.00pm the match will be abandoned. This decision is to be made in consultation with the official, who will make the final decision. Players must remain at the courts until the relevant time as stated.
 - (b) If at least one rubber is complete and neither team is in an unbeatable position, both teams will receive 2 premiership points, plus one point for each rubber won, and the unplayed or unfinished rubbers will be deemed split between each team.
 - (c) If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and given 4 premiership point, plus 1 point for each winning rubber and the unplayed or unfinished rubbers will be deemed split between each team.
- 10.4 The premiership ladder will be calculated using points ratio (average points per matches played) In Semi-finals matches will be played on Saturday unless weather cancels play on that day. The match will then be played on Sunday at 1.00 pm (or a time designated by Tennis SA). If this match has to be abandoned or cancelled, the higher placed team will be considered the winner.
- 10.5 In the case of extreme heat on Grand Final day, matches may be played from 8am.
- 10.6 In the case finals matches are cancelled the following process will occur:
 - (a) If a weather cancellation is to take place on Grand Final day then the match will be played on the Monday evening following at 6pm. In the event ties have not completed singles matches, men's Grand Final will be played on Monday at 6pm with women's Grand Final played on Tuesday at 6pm.
 - (b) If there is a Weather cancellation on the substitute time, the higher placed team will be considered the winner.

11. Results

- 11.1 Tennis SA will be using the Tennis Australia approved competition software, League Manager. Captains will be required to **enter and confirm** the results of their match on League Manager/ Match Centre by 11:59pm on the Sunday following the match.

12. Match Disputes

All match disputes must be made to the appointed official during the match and they will be responsible for making the final decision.

No Match Dispute will be considered post the completion of the match as they should be resolved during the match.

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.

13. Interpretation of Rules and Regulations

- 13.1 Any question arising from or in connection with the interpretation or construction of these rules and regulations shall be determined by the State League Advisory Group in its absolute discretion.
- 13.2 The State League Advisory Group may alter or amend these rules and regulations from time to time without prior notice

14. Premiership table

- 14.1 Four premiership points will be awarded for a winning match and two points for a draw plus one premiership point for each winning rubber.
- 14.2 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 rubbers, then sets, then games.

15. Finals

- 15.1 The top four teams on the premiership table at the conclusion of the minor round shall play off in the major round.
- 15.2 Finals will be played in a two week format.
- 15.3 In the semi-finals, the Minor Premiers and the 2nd placed team will each have the option of hosting a home final on courts of a standard approved by the State League Advisory Group. If the team declines, the decision as to where the match is to be played shall be made by the State League Advisory Group.
- 15.4 In the event of a draw the team that was ranked higher heading into the match will be declared the winner.

16. Finals Qualification

- 16.1 All clubs shall notify Tennis SA their playing lists for all teams in League Manager to reflect the correct order of merit for all qualified players no later than 9am on Tuesday following the second last match for the season. All players not qualified for finals will be changed to Reserve Players. Any changes required will be communicated with the relevant clubs no later than the Friday following. Teams must then play in the approved order of merit.
- 16.2 Players in the major rounds are to remain in the same order of their position of merit throughout the Finals Series– unless injury or similar requires any replacement players.
- 16.3 No player may play in finals matches unless that player is a registered member of Tennis SA and has played in no less than five minor round matches in at State League level or at a lower level competition. In the event of 10 or less matches being played during the season, players will be required to play in no less than four minor round matches to qualify for finals. There are no grounds for appeal for players who have played less than the required amount of matches to qualify for finals unless granted a Wildcard Qualification
- 16.4 Any match that has a completed rubber will count towards qualification provided all listed players attend the venue and submit a scoresheet in League Manager/Match Centre. If the match is affected by inclement weather and no rubber is completed, then this will not count towards qualification.
- 16.5 Wildcard Qualification. Please refer to regulation 4.
- 16.6 In the case a State League Team does not have a Metro League team, a player may play for two different clubs. In this case three State League and two Metro League matches will be required to be eligible for finals.

17. Code of Behaviour issues

- 17.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour for Weekly Competitions.
- 17.2 All Code of Behavior 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.
- 17.3 The Board of Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.
- 17.4 Team Captains and 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
 - (b) Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship.
- 17.5 The State League Advisory Group will provide Court Supervisors for each tie where possible. Each Court Supervisor will be asked to submit a report to the State League Advisory Group including any breaches.

18. Penalties

The State League Advisory Group may apply penalties for any breaches of the State League Competition Rules other than Code of Behaviour matters. The State League Advisory Group may determine a dispute in any way it sees fit and impose a penalty, including but not limited to the forfeit of matches or sets, and the loss of premiership points, on any club or player involved in such a dispute.

19. Super Rounds

Where a State League Super Round is conducted outside its scheduled Saturday timeslot, players from lower-level competitions may participate in both their regular Saturday competition and the scheduled State League Super Round in the same week.

Top five listed State League players are not eligible to participate in a lower-level competition and a State League Super Round during the same week.

20. Attire

- 20.1 All players are required to wear the approved club top
- 20.2 Every player shall dress and present himself/herself for play in a professional manner. Clean and customarily acceptable **tennis attire** shall be worn. Any player who violates this may be ordered by the official to change his/her **attire** or equipment immediately.

21. General

Players are prohibited from consuming alcohol the day of matches, whilst they are engaged in a match or between matches if they are playing both singles and doubles.

