



# **EDTA Juniors**

## **Yellow Ball**

**RULES**  
2026/27 Season



## 1. Schedule of Matches

### Summer Dates 2025/26

- Start of season, 17-18 October 2025
- Last match before Christmas to be 5-6 December 2025
- Break after 5-6 December 2025, and returning on 30-31 January 2026
- Last round to be on 27-28 February 2026
- Finals to be run over 3 weekends commencing 14 March with Grand Final on 27-28 March 2026
- Last minor round to be on 28 February 2026
  - Semi Finals: 14 March 2026
  - Preliminary Finals: 21 March 2026
  - Grand final round: 28 March 2026
- Matches will not be played over the Adelaide Cup Long weekend 7-8 March 2026

### Winter Dates 2026

- Start of season, 8-9 May 2026
- Bye Rounds
  - 6 – 7 June 2026 (Kings Birthday)
  - 3-4 July 2026 (School Holidays)
  - 10 – 11 July 2026 (School Holidays)
  - 17 – 18 July 2026 (School Holidays)
- Last round to be on 28-29 August
- Finals to be run over 2 weekends
  - Semi Finals: 4-5 September
  - Grand final round: 11-12 September

## 2. Eligibility / Registrations / Clearances: Summer & Winter

- 2.1 Players must be registered members of their club, and details must be recorded in full on League Manager by 9:00am on the Tuesday following the match.
- 2.2 Playing across two competitions (e.g., EDTA and another association) is not allowed. *Penalty: Loss of all sets played by offending player.*
- 2.3 All players must have an active Competitive Player Profile (CPP) by 9am the following Tuesday. Failure to obtain or contact Tennis SA results in *1-point deduction per player.*
- 2.4 The junior competition is open to players aged 17 and under. For eligibility, age is taken to be as at the first match of the relevant season.
- 2.5 Any team playing a player listed on Tennis SA's list of ineligible players shall be penalised by losing any points the ineligible player has accrued and forfeit all sets played.
- 2.6 If a club has multiple teams in a division and requires a fill-in player, they may select the lowest-ranked player from the order of merit from the other team. The team in which the player has participated most frequently will be considered their designated team for the final's series. Players cannot switch teams for finals without a request for exemption being submitted and approved in writing.
- 2.7 No player shall play for more than one club in any one series unless with a written clearance from that club and the written approval of Tennis SA. No clearance will be approved after four programmed matches. *Penalty: Loss of all sets played by offending player.*
- 2.8 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 5:00 PM Monday 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*
- 2.9 Squads will be locked all season to assist in monitoring requests from clubs.
- 2.10 State League players who have played in the current calendar year cannot play EDTA Junior Competition. *Penalty: Loss of all sets played by offending player.*
- 2.11 A player cannot play in a Friday night and a Saturday morning match of the EDTA junior competition during the same round of matches. *Penalty: Loss of all sets played by offending player.*
- 2.12 Any player listed as *unspecified player* in League Manager will have the following penalty imposed: *Penalty: 1-point deduction per unspecified player.*

### 3. Match Procedures

#### 3.1 Friday Night Match Start Times (6:00pm Matches)

- 6:00pm Start
- Arrive by 5:45pm, report to supervisor.
- 5-min hit-up; matches start by 6:05pm.
- Finish by 10:30pm; results stand.
- Forfeit:
  - Not ready by 6:10pm → set(s) forfeited.
  - Not arrived by 6:45pm → team forfeits.
- All venues → deciding point

#### 3.2 Friday Night Match Start Times (5:30pm Matches)

- Start: 5:30pm | Arrive by 5:15pm.
- Hit-up ends by 5:35pm.
- Forfeit:
  - Not ready by 5:40pm → set(s) forfeited.
  - Not arrived by 6:15pm → team forfeits.
- All venues → deciding point

#### 3.3 Saturday Morning Match Start Times (8:15am)

- Arrive by 8:00am.
- Matches start by 8:15am.
- Finish by 10:15am.
- Forfeit:
  - Not ready by 8:30am → set(s) forfeited.
  - Not arrived by 9:00am → team forfeits.
- All venues → deciding point

#### 3.4 Saturday Morning – Match Start Times (10:15am)

- Arrive by 10:00am.
- Matches start by 10:15am.
- Finish by 12:15pm.
- 5-min changeover allowed if needed.
- Forfeit:
  - Not ready by 10:30am → set(s) forfeited.
  - Not arrived by 11:00am → team forfeits.
- All venues → deciding point

#### 3.5 Court Allocation

- Friday: Min. 1.5 courts per match (1.33 ratio if lights required).
- Saturday: Min. 2 courts per match.
- Premier Division: 1 court (3 sets only).

### 3.6 Match Conduct

- Players must be ready at scheduled times.
- Supervisors rotate singles order weekly.
- Play is continuous unless managers agree and supervisor approves changes.
- Players may not leave court without supervisor approval; may forfeit set(s).
- Injured doubles player may be replaced in singles by a teammate who played doubles but wasn't listed for singles. Order of merit must be followed.

### 3.7 Friday Night – 17 & Under (Girls)

- Format: 2 Singles, 1 double, Reverse Singles
- Teams: 2-3 players
- Sets: 6 games; tiebreak at 5–5 (first to 7, win by 2)
- Doubles pairings flexible (top singles not required in top doubles)
- Matches played at supervisor's discretion; no forfeit if singles can proceed
- Order of Merit: Players may move 1 position/week; more than 1 position requires Tennis SA approval
- Forfeits start from bottom; recipient must be present
- Deuce rules:
  - All venues → deciding point

### 3.8 Friday Night – 17 & Under (Boys)

- Format: 4 singles, 2 doubles
- Teams: Up to 6 players
- Sets: 6 games; tiebreak at 5–5 (first to 7, win by 2)
- Doubles pairings flexible (top singles not required in top doubles)
- Matches played at supervisor's discretion; no forfeit if singles can proceed
- Order of Merit: Players may move 1 position/week; more than 1 position requires Tennis SA approval
- Forfeits start from bottom; recipient must be present
- Deuce rules:
  - All venues → deciding point

### 3.9 Saturday Morning – 17 & Under (Boys)

- Format: 4 singles, 2 doubles
- Teams: Up to 6 players
- Sets: 6 games; one straight 6 game set with no tiebreaker (i.e. the set is finished when the score reaches 6 games to 5).
- Doubles pairings flexible (top singles not required in top doubles)
- Matches played at supervisor's discretion; no forfeit if singles can proceed
- Order of Merit: Players may move 1 position/week; more than 1 position requires Tennis SA approval
- Forfeits start from bottom; recipient must be present
- Deuce rules:
  - All venues → deciding point

### 3.10 Saturday Morning– 17 & Under (Girls)

- Format: 2 singles, 1 doubles and reverse singles
- Teams: 2-3 players
- Sets: Sets: 6 games; one straight 6 game set with no tiebreaker (i.e. the set is finished when the score reaches 6 games to 5).
- Matches should be played; singles to commence, followed by doubles and then reverse singles.
- Order of Merit: Players may move 1 position/week; more than 1 position requires Tennis SA approval
- Forfeits start from bottom; recipient must be present
- Deuce rules:
  - All venues → deciding point

### 3.11 Order of Merit Enforcement

- For teams comprising of 4-6 players Order of Merit (OOM) is determined solely on UTR.
- For 2-3 player teams there is no order of merit mandate for this format
- Tennis SA may revise team OOM anytime
- Should a team play out of the approved order of merit the following penalty may apply.  
*Penalty: all sets forfeited*
- No player may move more than one ranking position up or down in consecutive matches.
- Squads will be locked after round 3. Newly nominated players are still subject to rule 2.7

## 4 Team Manager

- 4.1 Each team must have a Team Manager appointed for each match.
- 4.2 The Team Manager must attend from commencement and remain at the match until the match is completed and will be responsible for the team.

## 5 Balls and Ball allocation

- 5.1 EDTA allocates balls to venues; clubs are invoiced based on team numbers, ball types, and rounds.
- 5.2 Friday Nights: 2 new balls per team per session (minor and major rounds).
- 5.3 Friday Premier Division: 6 cans (24 balls) per team before Round 1.
- 5.4 Saturday Mornings: 4 cans (16 balls) per team before Round 1.
- 5.5 Finals: Finals balls will be distributed by association.

## 6 Scoring

- 6.1 Matches shall be decided by sets and where sets are even, by games.
- 6.2 For clubs that compete across both hard court and grass court venues within a single regular season, Yellow Ball players will play with a *no advantage deuce* format.

## 7 Forfeits

- 7.1 Clubs are expected to fill teams each week, however Clubs are not required to fill teams from top down.
- 7.2 A team proposing to forfeit a match, or a set shall notify the opposing team and venue supervisor as soon as possible (before match Commencement). A team so giving a forfeit, shall in the absence of providing a reasonable written explanation to Tennis SA prior to 9:00am the following Tuesday, be liable to lose four (4) Premiership points.
- 7.3 Any team forfeiting three matches may be removed from the competition.
- 7.4 Players who are notified in advance are not required to attend the match. Otherwise, they are expected to be present.

## 8 Weather Implications

- 8.1 In extreme weather (rain, heat), updates will be posted on the Tennis SA website:
  - Friday 4:30pm – Friday Night
  - Saturday 7:00am – 8:15am matches
  - Saturday 9:00am – 10:15am matches
- 8.2 Supervisors may cancel matches after a TSA announcement only if courts are unsafe. If courts can be made safe, matches should proceed. Cancellations must be reported to Tennis SA via text or email.
- 8.3 Matches are cancelled if the forecast (Adelaide West Terrace via [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)) is 36°C or higher.
- 8.4 Tennis SA may also cancel if below 36°C. Notify cancellations via EDTA Weather WhatsApp group.
- 8.5 If matches are interrupted or incomplete due to weather:
  - a. Venue supervisor decides; players must remain until decision. No match may be abandoned before 7:00pm (Friday) or 9:00am (Saturday), except for heat cancellations.
  - b. If no team is in an unbeatable position: both receive 2 points + 1 per set won; unfinished sets split.
  - c. If one team is in an unbeatable position: winner gets 4 points + 1 per set won; unfinished sets split.
- 8.6 In affected matches, ladder rankings use average points per match.

- 8.7 Venues must have equipment to dry courts.  
Matches proceed unless cancelled by the supervisor.

## 9 Score Sheets and Recording Results

- 9.1 Score Sheets will be provided by the Venue Supervisor at the venue allocated. Each individual Team is required to print and bring their own scoresheet to the venue for their information and may take a photo of the Venue Supervisors or club representatives scoresheet at the conclusion of the match.
- 9.2 Team Managers or club representatives will be required to enter or confirm the results of their match on League Manager/ Match Centre by 9:00am on the Tuesday following the match.
- 9.3 Players may enter their own scores via match centre
- If neither team enters the score by 9:00am Tuesday following the match, the result will be considered cancelled. No premierships points will be awarded, and the round will not count toward finals qualification. Late entries will not be accepted.
  - The Semmens vote must be recorded via the QR code displayed at each venue and on the TSA Website or by this link [Click Here](#) by 9:00am on the Tuesday following each match.
- 9.4 Any unspecified player entered with a match result will not be able to use this record for the purpose of qualification for finals unless the match is disputed to allow the known player's name to be included.
- 9.5 The venue is to retain the score sheets.

## 10 Match Disputes

- 10.1 All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to the Coordinator at Tennis SA ([Jordan.odonohoe@tennis.com.au](mailto:Jordan.odonohoe@tennis.com.au)) by 9:00am 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. A signed score sheet must be provided.
- 10.2 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.*

## 11 Premiership Table

- 11.1 Four premierships points will be awarded for a winning match and two points for a draw plus one premiership point for each set won.
- 11.2 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 sets, then games.

## 12 Finals: Summer

- 12.1 In all other Competitions The four teams securing the highest match ratio shall play off in the major round.

Round	Fixture	Name	Team 1		Team 2
1	A	Qualifying Semi-Final	Rank 1	v	Rank 2
	B	Elimination Semi-Final	Rank 3	v	Rank 4
2	C	Preliminary Final	Loser A	v	Winner B
3	D	Grand Final	Winner A	v	Winner C

- 12.2 A Major Round draw shall be decided by both teams nominating their best doubles pairing and a match tiebreak (first to 10 points with an advantage of 2 points) played to decide the match.
- 12.3 In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather and no result is achieved the higher placed team will be considered the winner.
- 12.4 Venues for finals will be decided by the Management Committee and Clubs to advised. All Finals will be consolidated to fewer venues.

### Finals: Winter

- 12.5 In all other Competitions the four teams securing the highest match ratio at the end of the minor round shall play off for the premiership.

Round	Fixture	Name	Team 1		Team 2
1	A	Semi-Final 1	Rank 1	v	Rank 4
	B	Semi-Final 2	Rank 2	v	Rank 3
2	C	Grand Final	Winner A	v	Winner B

- 12.6 In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather and no result is achieved the higher placed team will be considered the winner.

### 13 Finals Qualification

- 13.1 Tennis SA will review and adjust the order of merit for finals. Any necessary changes will be communicated to clubs. Clubs may submit order of merit requests by 9:00 AM on the Tuesday following the second-last match of the season.
- 13.2 Teams must compete in the approved order of merit.
- 13.3 Teams may list up to six qualified players as base players, in order of merit.
- 13.4 Unqualified players will be placed on the reserve list and cannot be listed as base players. To move a reserve to a base position, clubs must email Tennis SA to request approval. If no approval is granted, the player remains unqualified.
- 13.5 Players in the major rounds are to remain in the same order of their position of merit throughout the Finals Series.
- 13.6 To play in any major round match, a player must have played the required number of minor round matches in that Division or lower within the EDTA Junior Competition. No player may play in finals matches unless that player is a registered member of Tennis SA and has played in no fewer than four (4) minor round matches at EDTA Junior Level in the current season.
- 13.7 Any matches not cancelled by Tennis SA will count towards qualification, provided all listed players attend the venue and submit a scoresheet in League Manager / Match Centre. If the match is not affected by inclement weather, then players must take the court to qualify.

### 14 Code of Behaviour Issues

- 14.1 All matches must be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.
- 14.4 Team Managers are responsible for:
- 14.5 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.

### 15 Penalties

- 15.1 The EDTA Advisory Group may impose penalties for any breach(es) of the EDTA Junior Competition Rules and/or the Code. The EDTA Advisory Group may resolve a dispute in any way it sees fit and/or impose a penalty, subject to the principles of natural justice.
- 15.2 Penalties that may be imposed by the EDTA Advisory Group include (but are not limited to) suspension from the EDTA Junior Competition of no more than four weeks, the forfeit of matches or sets, and the loss of premiership points, on any club, player or spectator found to have breached these Rules and/or the Code.
- 15.3 The EDTA Advisory Group reserves the right to refer breaches of the code to the Tennis Australia Integrity and Compliance Unit for further investigation and to be resolved in accordance with the Code.

## 16 Venue Supervisors, General Duties

- Ensure courts are prepared for match play and be present during the allocated times.
- Confirm that all players have arrived by the designated report time to allow matches to start promptly.
- Club Shirt Compliance and Match Attire.
- Ensure all matches are completed within a 2-hour timeframe from the scheduled start.
- Rotate singles order of play weekly (where possible) for fairness.
- Ensure players do not leave the court without supervisor approval.
- Be visible and available to players; wear Tennis SA-approved Hi-Viz vest or cap.
- Assess court safety in case of weather and cancel matches if necessary.
- Administer and verify Match Centre score sheets; ensure all details are correct and legible.
- Retain all score sheets at the venue.
- Remind teams to enter scores into Match Centre by 9:00am Tuesday following the match.
- Handle player concerns (e.g., score disputes, poor sportsmanship) via direct report or through team manager.
- Remind team managers of their responsibility for player conduct and sportsmanship.
- May warn players for poor sportsmanship or bad line calls; monitor and overrule if necessary.
- Tactical coaching during play is not permitted and must be addressed immediately.
- May adjust order of play (e.g., singles before doubles) if players are absent.
- Has authority to disqualify players for persistent poor sportsmanship (e.g., swearing, racquet abuse).
- May intervene in cases of parental interference; enforce 1.5m distance from fence.
- Report unresolved parental interference to Tennis SA under TA Member Protection Policy
- Rule and match procedure queries must be raised by team managers promptly after incidents.

## 17 Match Attire

- 17.1 All players must wear the approved club shirt.
- 17.2 Shorts or skirts must be white, black, or navy, unless a different colour is part of the approved club uniform.
- 17.3 Football shorts or socks are not considered suitable attire.
- 17.4 Players must have a club shirt by Round 1.
- 17.5 Clubs must notify Tennis SA and the EDTA Junior Coordinator if there is a valid reason for noncompliance (e.g., supply issues). Any other reason for noncompliance will result in a 1-point deduction.
- 17.6 The Association will conduct spot checks from Round 2 onwards.
- 17.7 Supervisors must record any noncompliance regarding club shirts via this link: [Click HERE](#)
- 17.8 Reports of noncompliance will be submitted to Tennis SA and reviewed by the EDTA Junior Coordinator for appropriate action. *Penalties may include warnings or point deductions.*
- 17.9 In major rounds, all players must wear the approved club shirt to participate in any sets
- 17.10 In major rounds, players must check in with the Venue Supervisor before the scheduled match start time.
- 17.11 In major rounds, a 45-minute grace period (starting 15 minutes before the scheduled match time on League Manager) is allowed to obtain a club shirt.
- 17.12 In major rounds, if a shirt is not worn within the grace period, the player's rubber will be forfeited.
- 17.13 In major rounds, shirt swapping between team members is not permitted.

## 18 Interpretation of the rules and regulations

- 18.1 Any question arising from or in connection with the interpretation or construction of these rules and regulations shall be determined by the EDTA Advisory Committee in its absolute discretion.
- 18.2 The EDTA Advisory Committee may alter or amend these rules and regulations from time to time without prior notice.

