

EDTA JUNIORS ORANGE BALL RULES

RULES
2025/26 Season



Key Dates

- Start of season, 18 October 2025
- Last match before Christmas 6 December 2025
- Matches resume 31 January 2026
- Orange Ball last round to be on 21 March 2026
- **No Matches** over the Adelaide Christmas Pageant 8 November 2025
- **No matches** over the Adelaide Cup Long weekend 7 March 2026

What is Orange Ball Match Play?

Orange Ball Match Play provides children with the opportunity to play in a structured competition while still using the modified ball, court and equipment. Orange Ball Match Play focuses on creating a great first-time playing experience for kids who are early in their journey of competition play.

1. League Details

Team Composition and match formats:

- 1.1 Each team may consist of 2–4 players comprised of boys &/or girls
- 1.2 Each player will play two singles matches, and one doubles match.
- 1.3 Clubs must make every effort to have at least 2 players available.
- 1.4 If only one player is available, the opposing team must be notified.
- 1.5 If only one player is available, they may play both singles matches; however, only one will count, and the other will be recorded as a forfeit.
- 1.6 Each round will be a first to 4 game set (no tiebreaker)
- 1.7 **No AD scoring** (at deuce "next point wins" receivers' choice on what side to receive)
- 1.8 Singles & Doubles – one straight 4 game set with no tiebreaker (i.e. the set is finished when the score reaches 4 games to 3)

2. Serve

- 2.1 Players must be able to serve. Bounce serving is permissible if necessary.

3. Requirement of clubs

- 3.1 Set up courts
- 3.2 Supervise the matches

4. Court Set Up

- 4.1 For clubs that do not have blended lines, please read instructions below on court set up for both doubles and singles matches. Please note a doubles court and singles court are different, so it is important that the correct court set up is followed for consistency every match.

5. Net Height

- 5.1 The net should be lowered to 80cm.

6. Singles and Doubles Court (refer picture below)

- 6.1 For the baseline, measure 270cm from the outer edge of the main baseline as per the doubles court set up. Using a tape measure, measure 86cm from sidelines starting at the outside of the inner tramline (singles court). Place drop down lines on both sides of the singles court (refer to orange court picture below). The full standard service box/square is used for serving.

Doubles



COURT DIMENSIONS

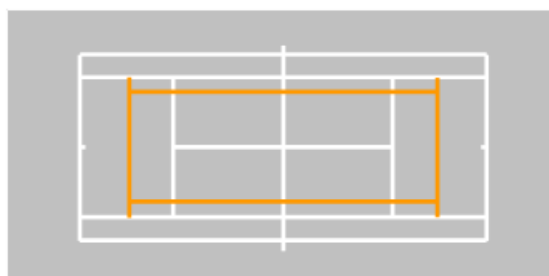
Court = 18m x 8.23m (full width)

Sidelines – as for full size court

Baseline – measure 2.88m inside from each full court baseline to measure the orange court baselines

Service Boxes and Doubles – as for full court

Singles



COURT DIMENSION

Court = 18m x 6.5m

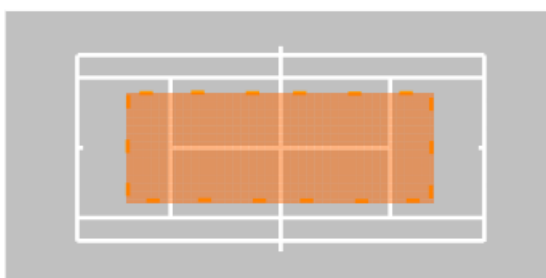
Sidelines – measure 0.86m inside from each full court sideline to mark the orange court sidelines

Baseline – measure 2.88m inside from each full court baseline to measure the orange court baselines

Doubles – full court sidelines can be used as the outside doubles tramlines

Service boxes – as for full court

Marking the courts (as above)



Throw down lines (Singles court shown)

Lines needed = 18 throw down lines (as shown)

7. Eligibility / Registrations / Clearances

- 7.1 All players must be registered with their club, have an active Competitive Player Profile (CPP) and have their details entered in League Manager by 9:00am Tuesday following the match. *Penalty: 1 premiership point deduction per player from the affected match.*
- 7.2 The orange ball junior competition is open to players aged 11 and under. For eligibility, age is taken to be as at the first match of the relevant season.
- 7.3 If a club has more than one team in a division, a player may play four matches before being bound to a team. Players may not represent more than one club in a season without written clearance from their original club and approval from Tennis SA. *Penalty: Forfeit of all sets played by the ineligible player.*
- 7.4 New players not listed in the original squad must be approved by Tennis SA. If not notified before match day, clubs have until 5:00pm Monday to submit the request. Players who significantly alter the team's standard may be rejected. *Penalty: Forfeit of all sets played by the ineligible player*

8. Order of merit

- 8.1 Order of merit – A player may only move up or down one position each week. A player may not move two positions or more without the approval of Tennis SA.
- 8.2 Tennis SA, in conjunction with the Competitions Advisory Group, may review and amend a team's Order of Merit (OOM) at any time throughout the season. *Penalty: If a player continues to compete in the same order of merit for the same team after the club coordinator has been notified, all sets played by that player will be forfeited*
- 8.3 In the event of any sets having to be forfeited due to non-attendance of players, those forfeits shall commence from the bottom. If a set needs to be forfeited, the player to receive the forfeit must be present.

9. Premiership Table

- 9.1 One point shall be awarded for each set won with no premiership points awarded for the winning match.
- 9.2 Orange Ball will not play finals and the premiership will be awarded to the team with the highest points and if then equal, the highest number of games.

10. Support from Parents

- 10.1 Parents are asked to attend each match and support with court set up, on court scoring and score entry through League Manager.
- 10.2 While matches are in progress, parents who are helping with scoring or ball pick up are only allowed on court, all other parents and children must be off court.
- 10.3 For parents on court helping must be on the sidelines, no parents should be behind the baseline.
- 10.4 Each team is required to have one appointed Team Manager.
- 10.5 Tactical coaching is not permitted

11. Attire Requirements

- 11.1 Players *may* wear club shirt with white, black, or navy shorts/skirts, unless other colours are part of the approved uniform.
- 11.2 Football shorts or socks are not permitted.

12. Venue Supervisors, General Duties

- Print score Sheets for round match. It is the responsibility of Teams to fill out score sheets.
- Allocate match Balls.
- Allocate Courts for matches.
- 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.
- 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.
- Identify the Team Manager and 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.
- Match score sheets to be retained until end of season (refer rule 9.5)

13. Code of Behaviour Issues

- 13.1 All matches must be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour.
- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.
- 13.4 Team Managers are responsible for:
 - 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.

14. Extreme Weather Notifications

- 14.1 Updates will be posted on the Tennis SA Website – Inclement Weather Update:
 - Saturday 7:00am – for 8:15am matches
 - Saturday 9:00am – for 10:15am matches
- 14.2 Supervisors may cancel matches after a TSA announcement if courts are unsafe.
- 14.3 If courts can be made safe and weather improves, matches should proceed.
- 14.4 Cancellations must be reported to Tennis SA via email.

15. Heat Policy

- 15.1 Matches are cancelled if the forecast max temperature (Adelaide West Terrace via BOM) is 36°C or higher.
- 15.2 Tennis SA may cancel matches even if the forecast is below 36°C.
- 15.3 Cancellations must be shared via the EDTA Weather WhatsApp group.

16. Interrupted or Incomplete Matches

- 16.1 Venue supervisors decide whether to abandon matches.
 - Players must stay until a decision is made.
 - No match may be abandoned before 9:00am Saturday, unless due to heat.
- 16.2 Points Allocation:
 - If neither team is unbeatable:
 - Each team gets 2 premiership points, plus 1 point per set won.
 - Unfinished sets are split.
 - If one team is unbeatable:
 - That team gets 4 premiership points, plus 1 point per set won.
 - Unfinished sets are split.
- 16.3 Ladder Calculation: Based on average points per match played.
- 16.4 All venues must have wet weather equipment. Courts should be dried before cancelling.
- 16.5 If no cancellation is made by the supervisor, matches proceed as scheduled.