



Tennis SA Junior State League

RULES
2026 Season



1. Schedule of Matches – JSL / JSL2

- 1.1 Online team nominations open, 23rd March 2026
- 1.2 Online team nominations close, 6th April 2026.
- 1.3 First round commencing 15th May.
- 1.4 Last round to be played on 14th August 2026.
- 1.5 Finals to be run over 2 weekends, commencing 21st August and Grand Final on the 28th of August
- 1.6 Matches will not be played over the Kings Birthday weekend 5/6/7th June.
- 1.7 Matches will not be played over the School Holidays from 3rd to the 18th of July.

2. Matches/Players

- 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 Team uniforms will be compulsory for the originally nominated players in JSL and JSL2. All players of a team shall wear their clubs top.
- 2.5 All players nominated must have registered and activated their own Competitive Player Profile to compete.
- 2.6 If a club has two teams in any division a player having played four (4) matches in any one side cannot play in the other side without the instruction or permission of the Junior State League Working Group.

3. Manager/Captain

- 3.1 Each team must have an appointed Team Manager (non-playing). Team managers must be at the venue from commencement until the conclusion of the scheduled match. Team managers are responsible for the team abiding by match rules, order of merit, code of behaviour and any other policy's.
- 3.2 Each Team Manager must, prior to the scheduled start time of the match, complete the team score sheet by naming doubles players on the scoresheet and exchange the score sheet with the Team Manager of the opposing team. The list of singles players may be named after the completion of the doubles matches showing the order in which their team will play.
- 3.3 Both teams are required to print out a score sheet from Match Centre and retain a signed scoresheet from both clubs all season. In the case one or both teams do not have their scoresheet printed from League Manager with all players listed, as outlined above, the Junior State League Working Group have the right to issue a penalty in the form of loss of premiership points.
The Team Manager must attend from the commencement and remain at the Junior 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 New Tennis Australia approved Dunlop balls are to be used in total (minimum one dozen).
- 4.2 The HOME team is responsible to provide all balls necessary to complete a match (including super rounds).
- 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 - 2 new tennis balls to be used in every match.
- 4.5 For Doubles matches - at all venues - 2 new tennis balls to be used in every match.

5. Match Times

- 5.1 The scheduled starting time will be 6:00pm for home and away matches on a Friday night (unless otherwise notified) – 2 courts per match.
- 5.2 Junior State League teams are able to apply to the Junior State League Working Group in writing to hold matches at different times. These requests must be sent to the Junior State League Recording Secretary prior to the commencement of the season.
- 5.3 Players must be ready to play at the stipulated match time.
- 5.4 Team managers must be present in order for matches to start.

6. Order of Play

- 6.1 Teams may use up to eight (8) players in a match. Doubles matches must be played first, and once commenced, play is to remain continuous. In standard match conditions, singles matches should follow the order of merit, with positions 1 & 2 playing first, followed by 3 & 4. However, the order of singles play may be adjusted at the discretion of the team managers to maintain the flow of the match and ensure continuity.

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 one set to 9 - (Tiebreak at 8 all, first to seven points with an advantage of 2). Deuce-ad Scoring
- 7.3 Doubles shall be one set to 9 - (Tiebreak at 8 all, first to seven points with an advantage of 2). 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. Forfeits

- 8.1 If a doubles rubber must be forfeited (excluding cases of injury or illness during the match), the forfeit must come from the lowest-ranked doubles pairing first. In the event a player is injured or falls ill during a doubles match and cannot participate in singles, and no substitute is available, the team must forfeit the singles rubber starting from the No. 4 position upward (i.e., No. 4, then No. 3, etc.). Failure to forfeit in the correct order will result in a penalty of four (4) Premiership points being deducted from the team's total.
- 8.2 A team proposing to forfeit a match or a rubber shall notify the opposing team as soon as possible. A team so giving a forfeit, shall in the absence of providing a reasonable written explanation to the Recording Secretary prior to 6:00pm the following Tuesday, be liable to lose four (4) Premiership points
- 8.3 Any team forfeiting three matches may be removed from the competition.
- 8.4 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.

9. Weather implications

- 9.1 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 4:30pm on the day of the scheduled match.
- 9.2 Matches will be cancelled in accordance with the Tennis Australia Heat Policy.
- 9.3 In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather the following will occur:
 - (a) If no rubbers are complete, the match will be considered “unplayed” for purposes of ladder calculation only with the premiership ladder determined using a points ratio (i.e. average points per matches played)

- (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 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 4 premiership points, plus one point for each rubber won, and the unplayed or unfinished rubbers will be deemed split between each team

The premiership ladder will be calculated using points ratio (average points per matches played)

- 9.4 In major round matches players must remain at the courts until 7:30pm before making any decision to abandon the match. If no result is achieved the higher placed team will be considered the winner.

10. Results

- 10.1 Tennis SA will be using the Tennis Australia approved competition software, League Manager. Team Managers 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.
- 10.2 For every unspecified player entered with a match result, two premiership points will be deducted from their team. If a profile is provided by the Thursday following the match, the penalty will be overturned.

11. Match Disputes

- 11.1 All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to the Coordinator at Tennis SA (jsl@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. The statement will be sent to the other party by Tennis SA in line with Rule 12.2. For any Code of Behaviour Issues, refer to Rule 17.
- 11.2 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
- 11.3 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.
- 11.4 The Junior State League Working Group has the power to adjudicate any dispute referred to it for determination in any way in its absolute discretion but subject to the principles of natural justice, these rules and regulations and any Policy (if relevant).

12. Interpretation of Rules and Regulations

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

13. Appeals

- 13.1 A party may appeal a determination made by the Junior State League Working Group, by providing written notice to Tennis SA within three working days of the determination. The written notice of appeal must contain a precise statement as to the basis and nature of the appeal. If the determination is appealable, Tennis SA may refer the matter to Tennis Australia. Tennis Australia will have the final determination on any appeal against a Junior State League Working Group determination.

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 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 (rubbers, then sets, then games) shall be deemed minor premiers. In divisions with a bye, 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 four teams securing the highest number of points shall play off in the major round.
- 15.2 Finals will be played in a two week format.
- 15.3 In the event of a bye in a draw or partly cancelled round, the four teams securing the highest match ratio shall play off in the major round. 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 Junior State League Working Group. If the team declines, the decision as to where the match is to be played shall be made by the Junior State League Working Group.
- 15.4 Any major round match that results in a draw is to be decided by all doubles playing tiebreaks. The doubles pairing is to be the original listed doubles on the scoresheet. (Tiebreak - first to seven points with an advantage of 2) The team aggregating firstly the most tie breaks or secondly the most points in these tiebreaks shall be the winner. If points are equal the highest ranked team is deemed the winner.
- 15.5 Finals venues will be determined by the higher ranked team.

16. Finals Qualification

- 16.1 All clubs shall notify Tennis SA if they would like any changes made to their Order of Merit no later than 9am on Tuesday following the last match for the season. All players not qualified for finals should be changed to Reserve Players. Any changes required will be communicated with the relevant clubs. Teams must then play in the approved order of merit and all orders of merit shall not be alterable for the Finals Series. Penalty for playing sets out of order – forfeiture of those sets to love.
- 16.2 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.
- 16.3 No player may participate in finals matches in a division unless they have played in at least four (4) minor round matches in that division and relevant team, a lower division in Junior State League, or an association level competition for the same club conducted on a Friday night. There are no grounds for appeal for players who have played less than the required amount of matches to qualify for finals.

17. Code of Behaviour issues

- 17.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the behavioral standards outlined in Part II: Expected Behaviours of the Tennis Australia Code of Behavior: Competitive Play (the Code)
- 17.2 Any alleged breaches of the Code should be reported by filling out and lodging the Tennis SA Competition Code of Behaviour Report by COB Tuesday following the match in which the incident took place.
- 17.3 The JSL Working Group may meet on a weekly basis to consider any alleged breaches of the Code. The JSL Working Group will consider any reports/complaints, then determine, with regard to all the material provided to it, if a breach of the Code or the JSL Competition Rules has occurred and consider appropriate penalties in accordance with clause 18 of these Rules.
- 17.4 Team Captains and Team Managers are responsible for:

- (a) Educating all players in their team on their responsibilities under Tennis Australia's National Policies (particularly the Code and Disciplinary Policy) and
- (b) Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship, with any Code of Behaviour reports.

17.5 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
- (b) Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship.

18. Penalties

- 18.1 The Junior State League Working Group may impose penalties for any breach(es) of the Junior State League Competition Rules and/or the Code. The Junior State League Working Group may resolve a dispute in any way it sees fit and/or impose a penalty, subject to the principles of natural justice. Penalties that may be imposed by the Junior State League Working Group include (but are not limited to) suspension from the Junior State League 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.
- 18.2 The Junior State League Working 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.

