

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2026

The following pages provide a summary of the key changes to the 2026 Australian Competitive Play Junior and Open Regulations. These are not the regulations. The full regulations are on the Tennis Australia website in the [Regulations section](#).

Changes made from the previous year (2025) made for the start of 2026 are shown in underlined text.

Tennis Australia will also implement pilot activities and trials of regulations at specific tournaments in 2026. These trials will be advertised by the tournament before commencement of play.

- **Player Eligibility (Juniors Only)**

Playing 'in age' at National Series Events (12u & 14u J1000, J500 (closed) Tournaments & De Minaur Junior Tour Finals

Players should play 'in age' (both singles and doubles) at J1000 tournaments (12u, 14u, 16u & 18u) when age groups are played concurrently.

Players may however approach Tennis Australia before the entry deadline to request permission to enter one Age Group higher than they would be eligible based on the common age entry date.

If Age Groups are played in different weeks, a player may compete in their own age group and in one age group higher in a different week (acknowledging the implications of the "one event per week" rule).

National Series (Grasscourt & Claycourt)

Once a player either wins or makes a final (singles only) in a J1000 tournament in their correct Age Group in the preceding 12 months, they can apply to Tennis Australia to play 'out of age' when age group events are placed concurrently.

Players can however only compete in one (1) age group (both singles and doubles) where J1000 tournaments are played concurrently. If J1000 tournaments are not played concurrently, players are eligible to enter and compete in older age groups.

- **Draw Format (Juniors Only)**

TOURNAMENT SERIES	QUALIFYING	MAIN DRAW	MATCH PLAY
J500	<u>Qualifying Draw</u>	Monrad Round Robin <u>Single Elimination</u>	<u>Round Robin</u> <u>Single Elimination</u> <u>Match Play</u>

- **Schedule (Junior & Open)**

Tournament organisers are required to implement time-efficient scheduling practices that minimise player waiting times and ensure the smooth progression of matches. To support player wellbeing and event quality, tournament days must not exceed 10 hours in duration. Eg start time at 8.00am finish time 6.00pm.

If the proposed schedule cannot be accommodated within the available courts or designated time allocation, tournament organisers must identify and secure additional venue(s) / courts to ensure the tournament remains within the 10-hour daily limit and maintains time-efficient scheduling.

- Recommended not exceed 7 matches per court
- Accurate scheduling.
- Appropriate number of venue(s) / courts for the number of entries
- Appropriate match formats for the number of entries received.
- Communication of scheduling and of any scheduling changes.
- Sensible and timely announcements in the event of rain or heat delays.
- Updating of match schedules and draws as frequently as possible and if applicable a text messaging service.
- Timely advice to players with regard to withdrawals, no shows etc.

• **Time Restrictions (Junior & Open)**

For all levels of the Australian Competitive Play Open Tournaments, no matches may be scheduled before 7:30am, unless exceptional circumstances including weather (extreme or otherwise) exist in the opinion of the Referee/Venue Supervisor.

The Tournament Workforce must provide a minimum of 12 hours rest between the end of the last match played and the first match on consecutive days except in exceptional circumstances **(max of 2 hours' delay due to weather) where a minimum of 10 hours can be applicable.

- **Important Deadlines (Junior & Open)**

	NATIONAL	SIGNATURE & OPEN	COMMUNITY
Entries Open	Minimum 6 weeks prior to the scheduled tournament start		
Close of Entries	10 or 14 days prior to the scheduled tournament start	7 or 10 days prior to the scheduled tournament start	
<u>Acceptance List Released*</u>	9 or 13 days prior to the scheduled tournament start	6 or 9 days prior to the scheduled tournament start	
Withdrawal Deadline	7 days prior to the scheduled tournament start		
<u>Updated Acceptance List*</u>	6 days prior to the scheduled tournament start		
<u>Seedings and Draw list released from the MA*</u>	5 days prior to the scheduled tournament start		
Finalise Doubles Pairings	On-site during the tournament (sign-in entry) 5 days before start of main draw (online entry)		
Qualifying Draw release (if required)	3 days before start of main draw	Not Applicable	
Main Draw release (if there is no qualifying)	3 days before start of main draw		
Main Draw release (if there is qualifying)	1 to 3 days before the start of main draw	Not Applicable	

**Unless this day falls on a weekend, whereby it will be published the following Monday.*

- **De Minaur Junior Tour Doubles (Juniors Only)**

De Minaur Junior Tour points for doubles will be awarded providing the team has completed their commitment to the tournament. Doubles points will only be awarded providing the team has won at least one match, otherwise completion points will be awarded.

No, De Minaur Junior Tour points will be awarded for match play doubles draws.

No, De Minaur Junior Tour points will be awarded for mixed doubles draws.