



Australian Ranking Tournaments 2017 Calendar

(January 1st to December 31st, 2017)

*Australian Open / Australian Open Series Events
Australian Pro Tour
Australian Money Tournaments (AMTs)
Australian & Oceania Junior ITF Tournaments (ITFs)
Junior Tournaments (JT) and Wheelchair Tournaments*

Sorted by Calendar Month

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1) CALENDAR UPDATES

Updates to this calendar will be made only on the following dates –

- (a) **Tuesday 11th October 2016** – after this date, no changes will be made for tournaments listed to start between 1st January - 31st March 2017
- (b) **Monday 6th February 2017** – after this date, no changes will be made for tournaments listed to start between 1st April - 30th June 2017
- (c) **Monday 22nd May 2017** – after this date, no changes will be made for tournaments listed to start between 1st July – 30th September 2017
- (d) **Monday 7th August 2017** – after this date, no changes will be made for tournaments listed to start between 1st October – 31st December 2017

Note – Australian Pro Tour events, National Junior Championships and Junior ITF's are subject to change outside of the above timelines. Please also note that major event movements can have an effect on AMT's and JT's placed as part of a circuit with these events. Tennis Australia aims to keep this calendar as up-to-date and as accurate as possible, however we recommend that when entering tournaments you refer to the details listed on <http://www.tennis.com.au/tournaments> and on the tournament fact sheet. Alternatively, contact the tournament director to confirm specific details.

2) UPDATES TO ALSO OCCUR WEEKLY

To gain inclusion on this calendar, tournaments had to apply and be approved by Tennis Australia and the relevant Member Association. In addition, those tournaments that were approved were required to submit a tournament match plan and a copy of the Tournament Director's Working with Children's card. Those tournaments that have not complied with this requirement are currently not being shown on the calendar. Once they submit these documents, we will publish their tournament on the calendar. Updates will occur weekly throughout October and November.

3) CHANGES TO THE 2017 TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

Tennis Australia will be changing the Australian Ranking tournament structure in some key areas from January 1, 2017 with the goal of simplifying and improving the customer experience at these tournaments as well as competitive opportunities for aspiring Australian tennis players.

The Australian Money Tournaments (AMTs) and Junior Tournaments (JTs) are the cornerstones of the Australian Ranking system, which currently lists 4212 males and 2059 females based on performances in tournaments over the past 12 months. Nick Kyrgios and Samantha Stosur currently hold the title of Australia's top ranked male and female player.



Since mid-2015, discussions have taken place between Tennis Australia, its Member Associations and other key stakeholders to evaluate the Australian Ranking tournament structure for 2017 and beyond. Using the insights of customers (parents and players), coaches, tournament organisers and officials, Tennis Australia will be implementing the following changes:

Ensuring tournaments and competitions can successfully co-exist by separating them into specific blocks during the year (this will occur gradually in some areas of Australia)

- Junior Tournaments and low-level Australian Money Tournaments to avoid clashes with school days (limited exemptions will apply for national championship and international tournaments)
- Condense the spread of tournaments across four (4) levels and not five. Tournament levels will now be Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze.
- Introduce the Fast4 and Best of 2 scoring formats into singles events at the Bronze AMT and Bronze & Silver JT levels to reduce the length of tournaments
- Restrict entry numbers into Platinum and Gold AMT and JT events to ensure these events only cater for the high-performance player market
- Increase the amount of officials and education opportunities for 12/u & 14/u Bronze and Silver level tournaments
- Each tournament will be required to submit a tournament match plan with their sanctioning application to help organisers better plan and schedule their tournament(s)
- Incentivise tournaments to conduct better customer experiences through awards and funding opportunities
- Encourage junior players to compete longer in junior tournaments by only allowing players to accrue AMT ranking points from their 15th birth year
- In a pilot exercise, Victoria will restrict the top 10 players in their age group from competing in Bronze junior tournaments to ensure introductory tournament players experience the right level of competition

Further detail regarding the above changes will be provided when the complete 2017 Australian Ranking regulations are released later in the year on <http://www.tennis.com.au/tournaments/officials/regulations>



4) MANDATORY ONLINE ENTRY & MY TENNIS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

It will continue to be compulsory for all players wishing to enter an Australian Ranking tournament (Australian Money Tournament or Junior Tournaments) to submit and pay their entry online via <http://tournaments.tennis.com.au>

It will also be a mandatory requirement for all players to have a valid My Tennis membership number, which are the 11-digit membership numbers that start with "61". To find out your My Tennis membership number or to register for a My Tennis membership number, please contact the Tennis Australia Customer Support Team on customersupport@tennis.com.au or call **1800 PLAYTENNIS**.

Submitting entries online and ensuring every player is registered with a unique identifier will allow Tennis Australia to automate a number of tournament systems, including the Australian Rankings. Failure to submit your entry online or be registered with a valid My Tennis membership number may result in rejection of your entry or non-awarding of Australian Ranking points.

5) AUSTRALIAN RANKINGS STATUS LEVELS – WHITE SERIES REMOVED

The tournaments will be branded according to the same colour pathway that has been in place since 2010, with Platinum the strongest category offering the most amount of Australian Ranking points down to the now the Bronze Series which offers the least amount of points and aimed at players just starting out in each age group. Each AR tournament listed in the calendar on the following pages has been assigned an AR points level. These levels will correspond to the 2016 Australian Ranking points table, with the results from the previous month's tournaments released by the 8th day of the following month via <http://rankings.tennis.com.au>

6) JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

The tournaments under the Junior Tournaments will offer points across the 12/u, 14/u and 16/u age groups. Select tournaments will also offer points in the 18/u age group. The top level of tournament is the Australian Junior Championships in December and the Grasscourt and Claycourt Championships (12/u and 14/u age groups only) in April and September. These tournaments will be classified in the points table as Platinum events. The level of points then depreciate to Gold, Silver and Bronze, which offers the lowest amount of points within each age group.



7) AUSTRALIAN MONEY TOURNAMENTS

The hugely popular AMTs will continue to be spread across five tiers - Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Series AMT's. The Platinum level tournaments will offer either a minimum of \$15,000 or \$10,000, the Gold (\$7,500), Silver (\$3,000) and Bronze (\$2,000) Series AMTs. Each tier of AMT must adhere to strict minimum prizemoney distributions but can also go above this if they choose to. Select tournaments will also offer points in the 18/u age group, but no prizemoney.

8) DECEMBER SHOWDOWN 12/U & 14/U STATE QUALIFYING EVENTS

Since its inception in 2008, the December Showdown has grown to become an integral part of the Australian tennis season with the purpose to offer an important competitive opportunity for athletes within each age group to showcase their abilities for the tennis community. In 2017, there will be additional opportunities for 12/u and 14/u athletes around the country to earn a place into this prestigious event, by qualifying within their state.

The closed state qualifying events will not offer AR points or doubles or consolation events. Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland will offer draw sizes of 64 players, while South Australia and Western Australia will offer 32 positions into their state qualifying events. Athletes will only be permitted to compete in their state of residency. More details and entries into these events will be available on the <http://tournaments.tennis.com.au> website

9) FAST4 TOURNAMENTS

To ensure that tennis tournaments remain an attractive product for all types of tennis players, Tennis Australia and its Member Associations will continue to pilot a shortened tournament format at select Bronze Series events in 2017. The scoring format has been branded Fast4 with some of you seeing or experiencing the format during the Asia-Pacific Tennis League matches. The objective of the Fast4 tournaments is to offer a product that reduces the commitment for everyone involved in what is now a fast-paced society.

The Fast4 tournaments will still offer Australian Ranking points as well as prizemoney and we know it won't be a format that will suit everyone. We hope a number of you will experience the pilot events and provide feedback.

