



2024 AUSTRALIAN RANKING GUIDELINES

BLIND & LOW VISION

OVERVIEW

The Blind and Low Vision (BLV) Australian Ranking is the mathematical method of ranking Australian tennis athletes who are blind or low vision athletes on a calendar year basis. The Australian Ranking is the objective merit-based method used for determining qualification for entry and seeding in some tournaments for singles and doubles. BLV Australian Rankings will be effective as of 1 January 2024.

1. ELIGIBILITY

Australian citizens and permanent residents who have participated in a BLV Australian Ranking event after 1 January 2024 and satisfied the point accumulation requirements (outlined in section 8) are eligible for a BLV Australian Ranking. Athletes with an overseas citizenship who are competing in Australia must provide evidence of Australian permanent residency status to Tennis Australia before being eligible for a BLV Australian Ranking.

Athletes must meet the appropriate classification eligibility requirements to be eligible for a BLV Australian Ranking (refer to section 2 (a)). There are multiple divisions of competition, and each will have its own ranking table, athletes may be eligible to compete in more than one division (across different events), but points will not be combined across divisions. Please see section 7 for more information on divisions.

2. CLASSIFICATIONS

- (a) Player's must be eligible according to the Tennis Australia classification guidelines. If unsure, please visit either the Tennis Australia website for more information.
- (b) If Player A's Tennis Sport Class (classification) changes throughout the year any points earned in the now ineligible division/s will cease to count and will not carry over to their new Sport Class.

3. RANKING CALCULATION METHOD

Each athlete will have a separate ranking for singles and doubles. An athlete's BLV Australian Singles Ranking is calculated using the best four (4) singles results over the last 12 months and their BLV Australian Doubles Ranking is calculated using their best four (4) doubles results over the last 12 months:

The official BLV Australian Ranking system works on a 12-month rollover system – calculated by athletes' total points in the preceding 12 months from when they first obtain a BLV Australian Ranking. Once this 12-month period expires, acquired points will cease to contribute to an athlete's BLV Australian Ranking.

e.g. Player A is a finalist in the Australian BLV Tennis Championships in July 2023 and acquires 225 BLV Australian Ranking points. These points will cease to contribute to Player A's BLV Australian Ranking at the beginning of August 2024.

4. RESOLVING TIES

SINGLES

When two or more athletes have the same total number of points, ties shall be broken as follows:

- (a) Whoever finished higher in the most recent event in which both/all athletes played. If the tie is not broken then,
- (b) The athlete with the highest number of points from an individual event, then, if needed, the second best, and so on, and if still tied, then
- (c) Drawn by lot by Tennis Australia.

DOUBLES

When two or more athletes have the same total number of doubles points, ties shall be broken as follows:

- (a) Whoever has the higher singles ranking will be ranked higher in doubles, or
- (b) If both athletes do not have a singles ranking, then drawn by lot by Tennis Australia.

5. RELEASE DATE

The BLV Australian Ranking is adjusted and updated by the end of the week after the completion of the event. The BLV rankings are listed on the Tennis Australia website. It is an athlete's responsibility to check that his or her ranking is correct. Any perceived anomalies, incorrect spellings, change of address/date of birth or queries regarding the rankings should be emailed to blindtennis@tennis.com.au. Any such email must be received no later than seven (7) days after the applicable release of the updated Blind & Low Vision Australian Ranking. After this time, amendments will not be made until the next BLV Australian Ranking is released.

6. BLV AUSTRALIAN RANKING SANCTIONED EVENTS

The following events are recognised by the BLV Australian Ranking system and contribute to a player's national ranking:

AUSTRALIAN TOURNAMENTS

- (a) National Series
 - Australian BLV Tennis Championships
- (b) Signature Series
 - NSW BLV Open
 - NT BLV Open
 - QLD BLV Open
 - SA BLV Open
 - VIC BLV Open
 - WA BLV Open
- (c) Community Series (TBA)

7. SPORT CLASS

- (a) B1: Only B1 players can play in the B1 sport class. B1 players can also play in the B2, B3 or B4 sport classes, but must follow the rules for that particular sport class.
- (b) B2: B2 player can play in a B3 or B4 sport class but must follow the rules for that particular sport class.
- (c) B3: B3 player can play in a B4 sport class but must observe the B4 rule of one bounce.
- (d) B4: These players may not play in a B3, B2 or B1 sport class.
- (e) Combined sport classes may occur if less than 3 participants entered the event, however players follow the rules of their particular sport class.

Note: Refer to the Tennis Australia Classification Guidelines.

8. POINTS ALLOCATION

(a) ALLOCATION OF SINGLES POINTS

BLV Australian Ranking singles points will be awarded on the draw (usually round robin & playoff) final placing from BLV Australian Ranking tournaments provided that the athlete has won at least one match. No BLV Australian Ranking points will be awarded for feed-in/consolation singles tournaments.

(b) ALLOCATION OF DOUBLES POINTS

BLV Australian Ranking doubles points will be awarded on the draw (usually round robin & playoff) final placing from BLV Australian Ranking tournaments provided that the pair has won at least one match and upon the following conditions. No BLV Australian Ranking points will be awarded for feed-in/consolation doubles tournaments.

(c) DEFAULTS / NO-SHOWS / WALKOVERS / BYES

- (i) Advancement through a bye/withdrawal/walkover is not the equivalent to winning a match. Advancement by virtue of a retirement following the commencement of a match is the equivalent to winning a match.
- (ii) No BLV Australian Ranking points will be awarded to an athlete who forfeits a match unless the forfeit is due to illness or injury as verified by the Referee and supported by a medical certificate.
- (iii) No BLV Australian Ranking points will be awarded to an athlete or team who withdraws or is a 'no-show' without playing their first match.
- (iv) Any athlete who is defaulted shall not receive any BLV Australian Ranking points earned for that event at the tournament, unless:
 - the athlete was defaulted for a violation of the Commencement of Play or Dress and Equipment sections of the Code of Conduct
 - the athlete retired as a result of a medical condition
 - that athlete is a member of a doubles team and did not cause any of the misconduct
 - Code Violations that resulted in the team being defaulted.

(d) **ABANDONED MATCHES / ABANDONED FINALS**

- (i) If a tournament is abandoned due to inclement weather (or other extraordinary circumstances) before the final, then all remaining participants will receive points for the last round that has been fully completed e.g. if only three of the four semi-final spots have been determined when the tournament is abandoned, all relevant athletes will only receive quarterfinal points since the semi-finalists was not fully decided.
- (ii) If a final is abandoned due to inclement weather (or other extraordinary circumstances), the total amount of points on offer (winner and runner-up) will be added together and then divided equally among the two athletes/teams.

POINTS ALLOCATION TABLES

SINGLES

Table 1: BLV National Series (Australian BLV Tennis Championships)

Participants	Winner	Finalist	3rd	4 th / Semi Finalist	5 th	6 th / Quarter Finalist
16+	450	300	240	180	90	45
4 – 15	300	225	150	90	45	30
<4*	150	90				

Table 2: BLV Signature Series (NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC & WA Open events)

Participants	Winner	Finalist	3rd	4 th / Semi Finalist	5 th	6 th / Quarter Finalist
16+	300	225	150	90	45	30
4 – 15	150	90	60	45	30	15
<4*	90	60				

* Must win at least one match to be awarded ranking points

DOUBLES

Table 3: BLV National Series (Australian BLV Tennis Championships)

Teams	Winner	Finalist	3rd	4 th / Semi Finalist	5 th	6 th / Quarter Finalist
8+	112.5	75	60	45	30	15
4 – 7	75	56.25	37.5	22.5		
<4*	30	22.5				

Table 4: BLV Signature Series (NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC & WA Open events)

Teams	Winner	Finalist	3rd	4 th / Semi Finalist	5 th	6 th / Quarter Finalist
8+	75	56.75	37.5	22.5	15	11.25
4 – 7	30	22.5	15	11.25		
<4*	22.5	15				

* Must win at least one match to be awarded ranking points

9. TENNIS AUSTRALIA'S DECISIONS

Tennis Australia's decisions in relation to the award of BLV Australian Ranking points in accordance with these Guidelines are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

10. AMENDMENTS

The BLV Australian Ranking guidelines may be amended, repealed or otherwise modified, in whole or in part, by Tennis Australia at any time including with retrospective effect.

Tennis Australia reserves the right to review and amend the Australian Ranking guidelines during the year, including with retrospective effect, if it determines that the amendments are in the best interest of the athletes and the BLV Australian Rankings. These amendments will be published on the Tennis Australia website.



Tennis acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, rest and play, and pay our respect to Elders past and present.