

## CHALLENGE LADDERS

*Restriction category: Medium (local travel, strict social distancing)*

*Please note, the below competition recommendations are to be combined with Tennis Australia's [COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines for Continued Play](#).*

Challenge Ladders provide greater flexibility to players, as they can play as much or as little as they like during the season. Set your participants starting positions on the Challenge Ladder and let the participants contact each other to organise matches, as they vie to move their way up the ladder by challenging each other to claim top spot at season end.

### How to run Challenge Ladders:

After advertising and registering participants for your Challenge Ladders competition, below are the recommended principles to run your competition:

- Challenge Ladders may be a combined or split gender competition.
- Place participants into a ladder-style set-up from top to bottom. Ideally this is created using ratings.
- If there is a vast variance in standard of play, look at creating multiple divisions. However, each division does require enough participants to ensure all players can receive high-quality matches.
- Participants then challenge another player to a match. Recommended a limit of no more than three places higher or lower than their current ladder position.
- If the lower-placed player wins the match, the lower player takes the higher player's place on the ladder. The original higher-placed player moves down one place on the ladder. If the higher-placed player wins, nothing changes.
- Players are to agree to a match time with their opponent and book a court themselves to complete the match. It is a club's responsibility to outline the court booking process to players for the competition.
- The standard rules of Tennis apply to the match, with organiser setting the format (which is restricted to singles matches only).
- We recommend that court hire at clubs for Challenge Ladders is free of charge, with the price included in the competition's registration fee.
- A final date to complete challenge matches should be set. A recommended timeframe is an 8-10 week season.

### Recommended specific competition rules:

Below are a list of recommended rules that you may implement for your Challenge Ladders competition:

- Set a minimum number of required matches for all players.
- Complete matches within seven days of accepting a challenge.
- Match winner is responsible for submitting the score within 24 hours of the match.

### Providing tennis balls:

Depending on club's capacities, adopt either of the below arrangements to supply tennis balls:

- Tennis club to provide new tennis balls for every scheduled challenge match.
- The challenger is responsible to providing tennis balls (in good condition) for the match.

### League Manager/Match Centre set-up requirements:

- We recommend using League Manager/Match Centre to set-up and run Challenge Ladders.
- We recommend that all participants sign up for a Tennis account and register for Challenge Ladders online through the Match Centre portal.
- Please contact your local state or territory Tennis body representative to discuss League Manager set-up requirements.

### Are there any privacy issues when distributing player information so they can contact each other?

- We recommend that players use Match Centre to contact opponents directly through the platform.
- Clubs should **not** distribute any player information publically, unless they have collected the appropriate consent.
- If you have any questions regarding player consent or distribution of personal information, please talk to your relative Tennis Body in your state or territory.

### Are there any safeguard requirements regarding player's health or clubroom/court access restrictions?

- Please refer to the current [TA COVID-19 Community Guidelines for Continued Play](#).

*IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS REGARDING THE CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE IN YOUR STATE / LOCAL COUNCIL, PLEASE TALK TO YOUR TENNIS BODY IN YOUR STATE OR TERRITORY.*