

COMPETITIVE PLAY 2023

Since January, we have been working with the Competitive Play and respective NDS and Performance teams in each state to collect feedback and data on the introduction of the new Australian Competitive Play Framework which came into effect from January 1, 2022.

Alongside of this, we have also had the opportunity to receive feedback directly from parents, coaches, organisers and players through a number of channels and forums both directly and indirectly.

After considering all of the feedback and reviewing the participation numbers and trends during the course of 2022, there are a number of updates, revisions and additions to the competitive play calendar for the 2023 season.

This document is intended to provide our players, parents, coaches and our tournament organisers and officials with an overview of these additions and changes relating to the delivery of competitive play and key aspects of the 2023 calendar.

When we consider the new competitive play landscape in 2023, there have been some key achievements this year with:

- More players competing more often
- More meaningful competition opportunities provided locally
- A single rating introduced to determine a player's ability
- More player-led formats with local flexibility.

We are also mindful that there have also been some challenges and from the feedback we have received, the following changes and additions adjustments outlined in this document will help ease some frustration that we have heard from both players and organisers.

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1. OFFICIATING

1.1 REGIONAL GRANT

Challenge

- Increased officiating costs for regional events
- Lack of volunteer court monitors to support delivery of local events.

Objective

- Financially support regionally endorsed events
- Reward recruitment and training of volunteer court monitors
- Improve financial sustainability of regionally endorsed events.

Current Position

- There are no grants currently available for this purpose.

Proposal

Regional venues will have the opportunity to apply for financial support in returning for recruiting and training local club members and volunteers to become Court Monitors.

The Regional Officiating Support grant will not only provide immediate financial support but in recruiting the volunteer court monitors at their respective venues, this will offer future cost savings for regional venues as they will have qualified local officials that can support their events and will therefore not necessarily be required to transport in all required officials for their events.

To be eligible for the Regional Officiating Grant, the regional venue must be hosting an endorsed event (Junior Series, Open Series or below) in 2023. The grant will be paid to the regional venue at the completion of the endorsed event, pending final numbers of trained Court Monitors.

This grant can also apply retrospectively throughout 2023. For example, should a venue host an Endorsed Event in the first 3 months of 2023, should they recruit and train 10 Court Monitors before the end of 2023, then the club will be eligible to receive \$2,000 in financial support.

The final number of court monitors trained will be approved by the respective Member Association Officiating team. Any venue that is able to identify and train a minimum of 10 court monitors, then Tennis Australia will cover the costs of the qualified Referee for the duration of the endorsed event at which these volunteers will be assessed at.

TIER	# OF COURTS	MAXIMUM # OF COURT MONITORS	FUNDS
Tier 1	20+	15 court monitors	\$3000*
Tier 2	11-19	10 court monitors	\$2000*
Tier 3	10 or less	5 court monitors	\$1000*
*based on \$200 per court monitor			

Example

Regional Tennis Club – 26 courts

Current officiating financial position

	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS	5 DAYS
1 x Referee*	\$800	\$1200	\$1600	\$2000
6 x Court Supervisors**	\$3960	\$5940	\$7920	\$9900
Total Officiating Cost	\$4760	\$7140	\$9520	\$11900
Grant Received	NA	NA	NA	NA
P & L Position	(\$4760)	(\$7140)	(\$9520)	(\$11900)

Potential position for 2023

a) Full grant received

	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS	5 DAYS
1x Referee*	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000
6x Court Supervisors**	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required
Total Officiating Cost	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000
Grant Received	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
P & L Position	\$2,200	\$1,800	\$1,400	\$1,000
Potential Savings	\$6,960	\$8,940	\$10,920	\$12,900

b) Partial grant received (5 court monitors)

	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days
1x Referee*	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000
2x Court Supervisors**	\$1320	\$1980	\$2,640	\$3,300
Total Officiating Cost	\$2,120	\$3,180	\$4,240	\$5,300
Grant Received	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
P & L Position	(\$1,120)	(\$2,180)	(\$3,240)	(\$4,300)
Potential Savings	\$3,640	\$4,960	\$5,380	\$7,600

*Referee - \$400 per day (includes honorarium payment, accommodation, meals)

**Court Supervisor - \$330 per day (includes honorarium payment, accommodation, meals)

**** INFORMATION ON THE GRANTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS WILL BE AVAILABLE W/C 28 NOVEMBER****

1.2 Officiating ratios

Current Challenge

- Officiating levels proving challenging – restrictive for Local/Zone events
- Limited numbers of qualified Officials currently available
- Demands on Officials to work long hours at events.

Objectives

- Provide greater flexibility for lower-level endorsed events
- Direct Tennis Australia officiating numbers into higher level endorsed events

Open Events – Local

	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Event Level	Community Series	Community Series
Referee	No Requirement	No Requirement
Venue Supervisor	1 per venue	Recommended minimum 2 officials (Venue Sup +1)
Court Monitor	1 per 4 courts	

Open Events – Zone

	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Event Level	Open Series	Open Series
Referee	Accredited Ref or approved venue supervisor	Accredited Ref or approved venue supervisor
Venue Supervisor	1 per venue	
Court Monitor	1 per 4 courts	1 per 8 courts

Junior Events – Local

	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Event Level	Community Series	Community Series
Referee	No Requirement	No Requirement
Venue Supervisor	1 per venue	Recommended minimum 2 officials (Venue Sup +1)
Court Monitor	1 per 4 courts	

Junior Events – Zone

	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Event Level	Junior Development Series	Junior Development Series
Referee	No Requirement	No Requirement
Venue Supervisor	1 per venue	Recommended minimum 2 officials (Venue Sup +1)
Court Monitor	1 per 4 courts	

Junior Events – Zone

	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Event Level	Junior Series	Junior Series
Referee	Accredited Ref or approved venue supervisor	Accredited Ref or approved venue supervisor
Venue Supervisor		

Court Monitor	1 per 4 courts	1 per 6 courts
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1.3 OFFICIATING PAYMENTS

Current Challenges

- Increased officiating costs for Open events that secure additional prize money
- Perceived lack of value for securing increased investment into Open \$3k events
- Impact to Officials who operate primarily within the honorarium

Objectives

- Raise prize money threshold for events to offer Honorariums for Officials
- Improve financial viability of Open \$3k events
- Increase number of events available for Community officials to support

Current Position

Any TA Endorsed Open \$3k event which secures and offers prize money over \$3,000 are required to recruit Officials on the casual wage basis.

Proposed Change

Officiating Cost	Current	Proposed
Honorarium (paid on a daily rate and does not include Super, Payroll tax or Workcover)	Any TA endorsed Open event which is offering prize money between \$0 - \$3,000 will be required to pay officials on an honorarium basis.	Any TA endorsed Open event which is offering prize money between \$0 - \$9,999 will be required to pay officials on an honorarium basis.
Casual (paid on an hourly rate + Super, Payroll tax and Workcover)	Any TA endorsed Open event which is offering prize money \$3,001 and above will be required to pay officials on a casual wage basis.	Any TA endorsed Open event which is offering prize money \$10,000 or above will be required to pay officials on a casual wage basis.

2. RULES & REGULATIONS

2.1 LATE WITHDRAWALS

Current Challenge

- Players withdrawing from both prior to start and during events
- Continued presence of COVID in the community causing genuine withdrawals

Objectives

- Reduce player withdrawals overall, particularly once draws are made
- Limit total number of Late Withdrawals per player
- Reduce number of permitted Late Withdrawals
- Provide suitable scope for genuine injuries / withdrawals

Current Ruling – Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play

4.14. Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Match or Tournament

Late Withdrawal

- (a) A player must not withdraw from a Tournament after the withdrawal deadline.
 (b) Any withdrawal by a player after the withdrawal deadline will be deemed a Late Withdrawal violation, regardless of the reason for a withdrawal (medical, personal or otherwise).

Failure to Complete Match or Tournament

- (c) A player must complete a match or tournament in progress.
 (d) A player that fails to complete a match or tournament in progress will be deemed to have committed a Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violation, regardless of the reason for the failure to complete the match (except for public health reasons – e.g. required to test for Covid-19 and isolate).

Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Match or Tournament during a calendar year

- (e) A player is permitted four (4) Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violations in total in a calendar year (1 January – 31 December) without incurring disciplinary points.
 (f) Any subsequent Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament will result in a Code Violation against the player and the incursion of disciplinary points.

6.1. The following disciplinary points are automatically awarded for a Code Violation under this Code of Behaviour:

CODE VIOLATION	DISCIPLINARY POINTS
Serious Code Violation^^	Three (3) disciplinary points
Punctuality (No Show)	Two (2) disciplinary points
Playing Two Tournaments (Concurrency)	Two (2) disciplinary points
All other Code Violations	One (1) disciplinary point

^^A 'Serious' Code Violation is one that, in the opinion of the Referee, warrants an immediate default from a match, or in the case of conduct not related to play during a match, exclusion from the tournament.

Proposed Rule Change – Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play

4.14. Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Match or Tournament

Late Withdrawal

- (a) A player must not withdraw from a Tournament after the withdrawal deadline.
- (b) Any withdrawal by a player after the withdrawal deadline will be deemed a Late Withdrawal violation.

Failure to Complete Match or Tournament

- (c) A player must complete a match or tournament in progress.
- (d) A player that fails to complete a match or tournament in progress will be deemed to have committed a Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violation.

Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Match or Tournament

- (e) A player's first four (4) disciplinary points incurred for Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violations in a twelve (12) month rolling period will not be included when calculating the accumulated disciplinary points total (as outlined in Par 5.3.)
- (f) Any subsequent Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament event will result in a Code Violation against the player and will incur disciplinary points (as outlined in Par 6.1.).

6.1. The following disciplinary points are automatically awarded for a Code Violation under this Code of Behaviour:

CODE VIOLATION	DISCIPLINARY POINTS
Serious Code Violation^{^^}	Three (3) disciplinary points
Punctuality (No Show)	Two (2) disciplinary points
Playing Two Tournaments (Concurrency)	Two (2) disciplinary points
Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament Violation (after the publication of the draw)	Two (2) disciplinary points
Late Withdrawal Violation (before publication of the draw)	One (1) disciplinary point
All other Code Violations	One (1) disciplinary point

^{^^}A 'Serious' Code Violation is one that, in the opinion of the Referee, warrants an immediate default from a match, or in the case of conduct not related to play during a match, exclusion from the tournament.

Current Ruling – Australian Competitive Play Regulations

3.5.3. Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament penalties

A player is permitted four (4) Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violations in total in a calendar year (1 January – 31 December) without incurring disciplinary points.

- a. Before the withdrawal deadline:
 - No penalty, no medical certificate required.
- b. After the withdrawal deadline
 - Before first match:

Any withdrawal from a player accepted into the main draw or qualifying that occurs after the Withdrawal Deadline shall be considered a late withdrawal. A player's first four (4) Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament offences within a calendar year are excused, provided the withdrawal is received by the Event Director prior to the start of the relevant first match for that player at the event.
 - After first match commenced:

Any withdrawal from a player who has commenced a match within either the Main Draw or Qualifying shall be considered a failure to complete a match or event. A player's first four (4) Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament offences within a calendar year are excused, providing the withdrawal is received by the Event Director prior to the start of the relevant next match.

A withdrawal is deemed excused when an event appointed doctor/Sports Physiotherapist assesses the player onsite and verifies that player is unfit to compete in the event.

A player will be issued one disciplinary point under the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play when a player has incurred their fifth Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament offence in a calendar year.

Proposed Ruling – Australian Competitive Play Regulations

3.5.3. Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament penalties

A player's first four (4) disciplinary points incurred for Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violations in a twelve (12) month rolling period will not be included when calculating the accumulated disciplinary points total.

- a. *Before the withdrawal deadline:*
 - *No penalty, withdrawal done through the player's profile*
- b. *After the withdrawal deadline*
 - *Before publication of the draw:*

Any withdrawal from a player accepted into the main draw or qualifying that occurs after the Withdrawal Deadline but before the publication of the draw

shall be considered a late withdrawal and will be issued with a Late Withdrawal violation that will attract one (1) disciplinary point (as outlined in the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play), provided the withdrawal is received by the Event Director prior to the publication of the draw.

- *After publication of the draw:
Any withdrawal from a player after the publication of the draw shall be considered a Failure to Complete a Match or Tournament and will be issued with a Failure to Complete a Match or Tournament violation that will attract two (2) disciplinary points (as outlined in the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play).*

A withdrawal is deemed excused when an event appointed doctor/Sports Physiotherapist assesses the player onsite and verifies that player is unfit to compete in the event.

N.B the proposed rule change is awaiting final approval by the Tennis Australia Board.

2.2 EVENT FORMATS, DRAWS & TIERS

EVENT FORMATS

Current Challenges

- Increased administration and costs due to tiered draws
- Rating bands of <2 offering challenges for draw size
- Feedback for players competing in Tier 2 seeking opportunity to ‘play up’

Objectives

- Increased draw sizes and respective tiers
- Easier administration and lower costs
- More flexibility in draw sizes
- Maintain focus on ‘level-based play’ for Junior events

Current Ruling

CURRENT	PROPOSED
<p>3.3.2. Singles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players should be separated into multiple draws so that the highest and lowest UT Rated players are within a rating band width of 2 in each draw, so that level-based play is being achieved (e.g. UTR Rating of 10 – 12) 	<p>3.3.2. Singles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players should be separated into multiple draws so that the highest and lowest UT Rated players are within a rating band width of 3 in each draw, so that level-based play is being achieved (e.g. UTR Rating of 10 – 13). • During this process, any of the Highest or Lowest rated players whose UTR Rating is significantly greater than the next below or above i.e. a significant outlier, then it is recommended that these player/s UTR Rating should not be included in the rating band width of 3 calculation.
<p>3.3.3. Doubles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams should be separated into multiple draws so that the combined highest and lowest UTR Rated teams are within a rating band width of 2 in each draw, so that level-based play is being achieved (e.g. UTR Rating of 10 – 12) 	<p>3.3.3. Doubles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Teams should be separated into multiple draws so that the combined highest and lowest UTR Rated teams are within a rating band width of 3 in each draw, so that level-based play is being achieved (e.g. UTR Rating of 10 – 13).</i> • <i>During this process, any of the Highest or Lowest rated doubles players whose UTR Ratings are significantly greater than the next below or above i.e. significant outliers, then it is recommended that these player/s UTR Rating should not be included in the rating band width of 3 calculation.</i>

3. ENDORSED EVENTS – ENDORSEMENT PROCESS & BENEFITS

Current Challenges

- Building greater value in being a member of the Tennis Australia Endorsed calendar
- Non-endorsed tournaments hosted on other platforms to provide ratings for players
- Requirements of endorsed events e.g. officials numbers; increasing cost of events

Objectives

- Clearly define value for organisers to be part of the Endorsed calendar
- Empower the Member Association teams to approve publication of Tennis Australia endorsed events onto calendar

BENEFITS	ENDORSED	NON-ENDORSED
Calendar Commitment	3-year guarantee / first option on future dates	No calendar protection or promotion
Event Endorsement Approval	Approval granted by MA Competitive Play teams	n/a
Tournament Planner	Annual license	On application
Event Publication	Yes, published on TA tournaments platform	No, event not published on TA tournament platform
Results sent to UTR Ratings	Yes, results count to UTR Rating	No, results not sent to UTR Rating
Officiating Appointments	Yes, officials appointment supported by TA / MA	On request and subject to Officials availability
Junior Tour & Progress Series Qualifying Events	Yes, only TA Endorsed events are included in the Junior Tour & Progress Series qualifying race	No, non-endorsed events are not included in Junior Tour & Progress Series
Open Prize Money events	TA will provide prize money support	No prize money support offered
Officiating Grants eligibility	Yes	No

4. 2023 PRO & PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Current Challenges

- Lack of player, parent & coach understanding of key events in calendar
- Aligning respective calendars to support player scheduling
- Highlighting key opportunities for play at respective levels of the Player Pathway
- Clear transparency on selection and national qualification criteria

Objectives

- Provide clear view of Pro & Performance calendar
- Elevate visibility and status on key digital channels including website

Actions

Develop a specific Pro & Performance section within the Competitive Play section of the Tennis Australia website which can be found [here](#).

The section provides dedicated calendars and information on the following Pro & Performance opportunities including:

- Australian Pro-Tour
- Australian Progress Series
- Junior ITF's
- Junior Tour & Masters

QUESTIONS, QUERIES & FEEDBACK

For further information or to provide feedback on the following, then you can contact the Tennis Australia team directly:

competitiveplayfeedback@tennis.com.au

You can also connect with your respective Member Association Competitive Play lead:

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