



## TENNIS NSW TOURNAMENT CALENDAR & COMPETITIVE PLAY FAQs

### **Q: Will there be more cancellations of Tournaments given the current COVID restrictions?**

Due to the on-going impact of COVID and border restrictions, we have a set of guidelines and criteria that will help Tennis NSW work with impacted Tournament Venues and also provide on-going competitive play to players in NSW who may not be impacted by COVID restrictions at the time of the tournament.

In the first instance, Tennis NSW are committed to completing the current 2021 Tournament and Competitive play schedule as published [here](#).

### **Q: Will events take place in Regional NSW if there are still restrictions on player movement in Greater Sydney?**

Our intention will be to provide playing opportunities for all players who can still play through the lockdown. However, we recognise that the fairness and integrity of the Rankings is predicated on the ability of all players to access points. To that extent, Tennis NSW will review the scope of the entries prior to closing and will reserve the right to downgrade the status of any Platinum and Gold events to Silver status.

In this instance, Tennis NSW will commit to maintaining the prize money and officiating levels for any Platinum & Gold events that are downgraded.

### **Q: What will happen to Tournaments if they can't host an event due to strict COVID restrictions at that Venue?**

Tennis NSW will reserve the right to relocate a Tournament if at two weeks from the start of that particular Tournament, there are still restrictions that would mean it is either unable to or is significantly impacted in its ability to host the scheduled Tournament.

In this instance, Tennis NSW will seek to find a suitable venue in the closest proximity to the proposed venue to host the rescheduled event.

### **Q: Why were there no Platinum & Gold events scheduled in the first quarter of 2021?**

A. Due to the on-going impact of COVID and border restrictions, no Platinum & Gold events were allocated to any Member Associations (State & Territories) by Tennis Australia (TA) in the first quarter of 2021. These were permitted to resume from Q2 onwards.

It was a decision taken by Tennis NSW to focus the Platinum & Gold allocations around spring, when we hoped there would be less travel restrictions and we could support an extended period of high-level, hard court competitive playing opportunities.



**Q: Why have some Clubs / Venues lost their AR Tournament allocation for 2021?**

A. As a result of COVID, the 2021 Calendar was always going to be impacted and therefore some Clubs / Venues that may have historically hosted an event, or certain level of event, may not have had the same opportunity this year.

**Q: What is the rationale behind the allocation and placing of the NSW calendar?**

A. Each Member Association / State is awarded a certain amount of AR tournaments. The placement of the level of events are intended to support a flow in the player calendar which supports preparation for the premier events e.g. National / State Championships much like the professional tours.

**Platinum**

Venue: Tier 1 or 2 – State Tennis Centre or Regional / Metro Performance Hub

Surface: Grand Slam surface

Calendar placement: Leading in / out of an ITF / Australian Pro-Tour event

Draws: 32 MD – No Qualification

**Gold**

Venue: Tier 2 or Tier 3 – Premier Community Venue

Surface: Preference for Grand Slam surface

Calendar placement: In and around Platinum

Draws: 32 MD – 64 Qualification

**Silver**

Venue: Tier 3 or Tier 4 - Community

Surface: Any surface

Calendar placement: To support Gold events in the State

Draws: 64 MD – 128 Qualification

**Bronze**

Venue: Tier 3 or Tier 4

Surface: Any surface

Calendar placement: No criteria

Draw: 128 MD – No Qualification

**Q. Is it true that Rankings will be replaced by UTR?**

A. The findings of the National Competition Review and a roadmap for change to the current Australian Ranking system and our wider competitive framework will be published shortly.

Tennis NSW understands that the findings of the National Competition Review will see the current Australian Rankings system replaced by a National Ratings system. The details to this Ratings System are still to be determined, however, currently UTR is being recognised as an accurate reflection of a player's ability to support entry into Tournaments and selection for both National Development Squads and Zone Squads.



### **Q. Why are Rankings being replaced by Ratings?**

A. The findings of the National Competition Review identified a number of issues within the current Australian Rankings system. The key findings were as follows:

- Too many uncompetitive matches
- Poor player experience
- Playing a role in creating a poor culture around the tournament experience
- Rankings not providing a true reflection of a player's ability
- Rankings can reward a player's ability to travel rather than a player's playing ability
- Rankings are not designed to serve all of the playing community, just a small section

The Review will also highlight a need for a simplified player pathway, more meaningful competitive play locally and also to promote more opportunities for team-based play.

We are also conscious that the premise of players developing in their own Club environment, playing for the Club and developing their games locally before competing in Tournaments at an appropriate level is supported through a Ratings system rather than a Ranking based system.

### **Q. If Rankings are being replaced by Ratings, then what does this mean for current AR Tournaments e.g. Platinum, Gold, etc.?**

A. Tennis NSW are not in a position to confirm what the Tournament Calendar will look like in 2022 and beyond. We will work in close consultation with the Metro Sydney and Tennis Country Committees to consider the recommendations of the National Competition Review and implement an appropriate calendar for NSW.

However, the emergence of UTR as a means of recognising a player's ability is that any verified competitive match-play which provides a UTR is something that any player should consider. This includes the Junior UTR Series (JUS), State UTR Series (SUS) and other leagues or competitions that offer a UTR, e.g. Sydney Junior Team Tennis.

The emergence of a Ratings System also means that all levels of play can be meaningful. Therefore, a player can play in their Club Championships, represent their Club in Sydney Badge or play in a State UTR Series and these can all go towards a players Rating

### **Q. Is it true that your Rating can go down even if you win matches?**

A. Yes, in some instances, a player may win a match and their Rating may drop. At the same time, a player may lose a match but their Rating goes up. In simple terms, every match and every game in a Ratings system counts.

One of the weaknesses identified in the current Rankings system is that there are too many uncompetitive matches which impacts both the player experience and player development. A player will develop better if they are playing more competitive matches more often.



The premise of a Ratings system is that it is in place to facilitate 'level-based play'. Therefore, if you are playing a player with a lower rating, the algorithm may forecast you win the match 6-2 6-2. If you win the match but concede more game than is forecast by the algorithm the Rating will go down. Conversely, for the player with the lower rating, if they outperform the Rating i.e. win more games than forecast, then their Rating will rise.

**Q. Why has NSW had fewer Tournaments than other States in the first part of 2021?**

A. Over the course of 2021, NSW will have offered more meaningful competitive play than any other State.

In terms of AR Tournaments, NSW will offer 85 AR tournaments – 41 AMT's and 44 JT's.

To assist players in securing and developing their UTR, we have also provided over 90 verified UTR tournaments (Junior & State UTR Series) whilst the second half of the year will see the re-launch of the Regional State League and The Roche Series – Race To Sydney.

Alongside of this, Sydney Badge, Sydney Junior Team Tennis, ENGIE Premier League and the Inter-District competitions are all UTR verified – meaning that players can compete in these Leagues and Competitions and these will all count towards a players' UTR.

There are over 130 AR Tournaments in Victoria and the exact same number in Queensland, however in NSW we are also offering much more competitive play opportunities.

**Q. Why were the Country Championships cancelled when many of the players were still able to compete?**

A. As a result of the restrictions announced by the NSW Government at the outset of the 2021 Priceline Country Championships, a review of the JT draw and the entries for the AMT event showed that over 30% of the field would be impacted.

We were also mindful of the fact that Officials, Volunteers, Country Championships committee members and Tennis NSW staff who were in Forster to support the delivery of the Tournament were also instructed to return to Greater Sydney or self-isolate for 14 days.

So, alongside the impact to the running of the Tournament we also felt that in fairness to all NSW players, then the Australian Ranking components of the AMT would be cancelled. We explored whether we could offer a UTR tournament to replace the AMT, however, both the Venue and volunteers were reluctant to proceed. Tennis NSW completely respected those decisions and as such were not in a position to offer alternative options.



**Q. Will the Country Championships and other impacted AR tournaments be re-scheduled for later in the year?**

A. We are currently exploring opportunities to re-schedule all of the Tournaments impacted during the recent holiday period to be re-scheduled for later this year.

In regards to the Country Championships, the Tennis Country Committee recently met to discuss the re-scheduling of the Country Championships and have decided to not re-schedule for this year. A full release and statement on this decision can be found [here](#).

**Q. Why are there no AR Tournaments held outside of the school holidays?**

A. Since 2017, it has been a recommendation of Tennis Australia that all Junior Tournaments are scheduled during school holidays or long weekends. This is a recommendation that is observed and supported by seven of the eight Member Associations / States.

In regards to AMT's, whilst we acknowledge that there has been limited opportunities in the first half of the year – again a decision driven by the COVID situation. We have sought to address this in the second half of the year with the NSW Spring Swing. This will see 11 AMT's scheduled between August and December.

**Q. Can other Tournaments / UTR events be scheduled and hosted outside of the school holidays?**

A. Yes, the creation of the Junior UTR Series (JUS) and State UTR Series (SUS) as well as the launch of the Roche Series and Regional State League were all designed to provide meaningful competitive play outside of the school holiday period.

Your Regional Matchplay Committee have been working with Tennis NSW to provide these playing opportunities and a number of these are scheduled for the remainder of the year. These events can be found on the Tennis NSW website [here](#).

**Q. What is the Roche Series – Race to Sydney?**

A. Whilst we are still working through a life with COVID, everyone has to be mindful that whilst we are making every effort to provide meaningful competitive play, we also have to consider the fact that Tournaments can be impacted at any point. The Roche Series – Race to Sydney is a series of events that offers prize money for our emerging professionals. With six scheduled events in regional NSW, players will tally their points to earn a position in the Roche Series Final to be held in Sydney in January.

**Q. Where can I find competitive playing opportunities for my level of play?**

A. Please head to the [Tennis NSW website](#), where you will be able to find all offerings from Leagues, Junior UTR Series and State UTR Series (formally known as JDS), Junior Tournaments, Australian Money Tournaments and Pro Series Events.

**Q. Is there a competitive playing schedule ready for me to follow and work through with my coach?**

A. Tennis NSW has provided a Competitive Play Scheduling Guide for junior players, adults and emerging professionals to create their own match play schedule with their coaches. You can access the calendars [here](#).



**Q: Can I enter and play an event if I live in a LGA that is currently under NSW Government restrictions?**

No, all players are expected to observe the Public Health Orders and will be personally responsible should they be found to have travelled outside of any distance restrictions imposed within the Public Health Order.

We understand players are craving competitive playing opportunities at this time; however it is the responsibility of each individual to follow the Government's Public Health Orders.