



PREMIER LEAGUE

SYDNEY TEAM TENNIS

2023 RULES & REGULATIONS

1 Objectives

- 1.1 One of the objectives of Tennis NSW is to organise, conduct and promote team inter-club competitions for members of Tennis NSW affiliated tennis clubs/associations, to enable players who have reached a standard to have an equal opportunity to play against players of similar ability over a given period of time. Tennis NSW competitions aim to enhance tennis and foster friendly rivalry, as a means of promoting tennis participation and improving standards. The Premier League Competition (**Competition**) aims to further these objectives.
- 1.2 Players, teams, coaches, spectators and officials (**Participants**) must at all times act in compliance with these Competition Rules (**Rules**) and in the best interests of the Premier League Competition and Tennis NSW and not at any time engage in conduct which brings or has the potential to bring a Participant, the Competition or Tennis NSW into disrepute, or which is or would have the tendency to be contrary to or prejudicial to the best interest, image or values of the Competition or Tennis NSW or not be in the "Spirit of Tennis".

2 General

- 2.1 Tennis NSW administers the Competition and has the power to make final decisions in respect of the conduct of the Competition and these Rules at its absolute discretion and without obligations to provide reasons for a decision.
- 2.2 These Rules are made by Tennis NSW pursuant to its functions under the Tennis NSW Constitution. In these Rules, references to "Tennis NSW" includes a reference to the Tennis NSW Tournaments and Operations Team.
- 2.3 All Participants in the Premier League Competition are bound by these Rules and Tennis Australia's National Policies and by-laws including, without limitation, the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play (including its references to spectator behaviour and interference), the Tennis Australia Member Protection Policy, The Tennis Australia Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct and the Tennis Australia Anti-Doping Policy (each a **Policy**) or other policies of a different name but with a similar intention as applicable from time to time. If any player is alleged to be breach of a Policy, that breach will be handled in accordance with the processes and procedures set out in the relevant Policy.
- 2.4 If any player or team is alleged to be in breach of these Rules, the alleged breach should be drawn to the attention of the alleged offending player or team as soon as it is detected and the parties should try to resolve the matter on the spot. If the parties are unable to resolve the matter, notice of the dispute should be provided to Tennis NSW in accordance with rule 27 (Dispute Resolution).

3 Structure of Competition

- 3.1 The Competition will consist of one (1) Men's and one (1) Women's competition.
- 3.2 Both the men's and women's competitions will consist of one (1) grade and will include a maximum of six (6) teams. However, depending upon the number of entries and team acceptances, Tennis NSW reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to alter the number of teams, grades or the competition format more generally as deemed appropriate. Tennis NSW will provide reasonable notice to teams where it alters the Competition structure under this rule.

4 Team Entry

- 4.1 A team may only be entered into the Competition by a Club, Association or individual that is a Member of and affiliated with Tennis NSW, and which has paid its annual affiliation fee (and any other such fees as required by Tennis NSW) on or before the date requested for those fees to be paid by Tennis NSW.
- 4.2 Team nominations must be submitted through the supplied link by the closure date advertised by Tennis NSW. This link can be found in **Appendix A**.
- 4.3 Each Tennis NSW Affiliate participating in the Competition may enter a maximum of one (1) Team nomination per competition (i.e. a maximum of 1 x Men's team nomination and 1 x Women's team nomination).
- 4.4 Team nominations must be submitted to Tennis NSW by the date advertised by Tennis NSW for each competition. Each team nomination must include all information requested by Tennis NSW which may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (a) The names of a minimum of four (4) base players.
 - (b) The names and contact details of a Team Manager and Team Captain for each team nomination (see rule 10).
 - (c) Bank details for any prize money to be paid to the team in accordance with these Rules.
 - (d) The address and court surface of the team's venue (and where that venue uses grass court surfaces, an alternate venue which can be used to minimise 'Wash Outs'). Note that venues nominated for the Competition must have a minimum of six (6) courts available for each Competition round, and as far as possible, these courts should all be the same surface.
- 4.5 For the purpose of rule 4.4(a), a team may include more than the minimum four (4) Base Players on their team nomination and there is no maximum number of Base Players that can be entered. However, for the purpose of rule 5 (Team Acceptance) Tennis NSW will only refer to the top 4 Base Players (based on the players' Singles Universal Tennis Rating (**UTR**) rankings) for the purpose of determining team acceptances pursuant to rule 5.
- 4.6 Tennis NSW will determine the entry fees for entry into the Premier League Competition. This fee will be revised and published annually in advance of each season. Each team must pay the entry fee to Tennis NSW by the advertised date. Tennis NSW reserves the right to refuse entry to or remove any team which has not paid the entry fee by the advertised date.
- 4.7 To the extent permitted by law, teams shall not be entitled to a refund of all or any portion of the entry fee for a season for any reason whatsoever. If the season is suspended or cancelled for reasons beyond the control of Tennis NSW, Tennis NSW may at its sole and absolute discretion grant a partial or full refund of entry fees to teams or offer a credit for the next season.

- 4.8 If any amount owing by team to Tennis NSW becomes overdue by more than 30 days (including any entry fees, affiliation fees or any other amounts), Tennis NSW may remove that team from participation in the Competition and the team shall not be entitled to a refund of its entry fee.
- 4.9 In the event that Tennis NSW removes a team from the Competition, any rubbers the removed team has participated in will be voided, with no points awarded to either team.

5 Team Acceptance

- 5.1 Tennis NSW has the sole and absolute discretion in determining whether to accept a team's application for entry into the Premier League Competition. Without limiting that discretion, Tennis NSW may refuse a team's entry application for reasons including, but not limited to:
 - (a) if a player in the team is currently suspended by Tennis NSW or another tennis authority;
 - (b) if a team has an outstanding financial liability to Tennis NSW or another tennis authority;
 - (c) if a player is ineligible to play under these Rules or a Policy; or
 - (d) if in the opinion of Tennis NSW a team or player is not of good character or standing, has breached one or more of Tennis Australia's National Policies, or is likely to bring the Competition into disrepute.
- 5.2 Without limiting the discretion of Tennis NSW outlined in rule 5.1 or otherwise, and subject to rule 5.4, Tennis NSW will accept the top six (6) teams nominated for each competition into that respective competition having regard to the top four (4) Base Players nominated by each team as at the date advertised for the closure of team entries pursuant to rule 4.2. For the avoidance of doubt, although a team may nominate more than four (4) Base Players at the time of team entry, only the top four (4) Base Players will be taken into account for the purposes of team acceptance.
- 5.3 For the purpose of rule 5.2 the top four (4) Base Players in each team will be determined on the basis of the players' UTR taken as at the Tuesday (being the date updated UTRs are released by Tennis Australia) following the advertised closure date for team entries.
- 5.4 Tennis NSW, at its sole discretion, may request and/or consider other information to assist with the team acceptance process. This may include (but is not limited to) previous player/team performances or alternative player/team ratings or rankings.
- 5.5 Tennis NSW reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion, to accept or deny any team or team member nominated. Tennis NSW may refuse to allow an individual player to participate in the Competition without impacting the overall acceptance of the team that nominated that player.
- 5.6 Tennis NSW will produce the final team acceptance list containing the list of teams accepted to each Competition (**Accepted Teams**).

- 5.7 Any team that withdraws from the Competition following the release of the Accepted Teams list will be required to pay 100% of the Premier League team entry fee and to the maximum extent permitted by law will not be entitled to a refund. Teams withdrawing after the release of the Accepted Team lists may also be denied entry into future competitions.
- 5.8 In exceptional circumstances, Tennis NSW may at its sole and absolute discretion alter the team acceptance or team make-ups after the season commences, including by adding, removing or replacing teams in the competition at its absolute discretion, and shall adjust fixtures accordingly.

6 Ghosting

- 6.1 Ghosting is the practice whereby a Club or a team nominates a player or players as a Base Player with or without their knowledge for that team in circumstances where the player does not play (or does not meet the minimum qualification requirements to participate in finals) during the season in order to utilise the player's UTR or other criteria to gain entry into the Competition.
- 6.2 Where Tennis NSW suspects that Ghosting has occurred Tennis NSW will approach the relevant team and ask the team to provide a justification and/or evidence to support why the relevant player or players has not participated in the Competition to the satisfaction of Tennis NSW. Valid justification may include but is not limited to player injury.
- 6.3 Any team that fails to comply with a request for information pursuant to rule 6.2 within the timeframe stipulated by Tennis NSW shall be deemed to have engaged in ghosting.
- 6.4 Should Tennis NSW consider that a team or player has engaged in Ghosting, Tennis NSW may sanction the team or player at its absolute discretion. Possible sanctions include but are not limited to fines, excluding the player from nomination in the next season of the Competition, and/or removing the team from the Competition or refusing to accept the team into future Competitions.
- 6.5 Tennis NSW may, at its absolute discretion, grant a team or player an exemption from this rule 6 where it is satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.
- 6.6 For the avoidance of doubt this rule 6 does not apply to Reserve Players. A team will not be considered to have engaged in Ghosting where a player that team lists as a Reserve Player does not play (or does not qualify for Finals) in a Competition.

7 Team Composition

- 7.1 **Base Players** – are the players who the team intends will play in the majority of rounds in the Competition. These players are listed at the time of submission of the team application and will be used for the team's grading. A player shall be a Base Player for only one team in a Competition. Each team shall have a minimum of four (4) Base Players but may list an unlimited number of Base Players subject to the application of these Rules.

- 7.2 **Reserve Players** – are not listed as Base Players at the time of team application but are added throughout the Competition when required to play. A player shall be a Reserve Player for only one team in the Competition.
- 7.3 A player cannot be listed for more than one (1) team in the Competition. This rule applies regardless of whether the player is listed as a Base Player or a Reserve Player. For the avoidance of doubt a player cannot be listed as a Base Player for one team and a Reserve Player for another team. Similarly, a player cannot be listed as a Reserve Player for multiple teams in a Competition.
- 7.4 Juniors playing in adult competitions – teams and Clubs may only nominate players who are at least 14 years of age as at the date scheduled for Round 1 of the relevant Competition. Exemptions may be considered and approved in writing at the sole and absolute discretion of Tennis NSW. A team that fields a player who is underage pursuant to this rule without prior written permission from Tennis NSW will be deemed to have fielded an Unspecified Player (per rule 9).
- 7.5 Teams which are accepted into the Competition shall be required to have all Base Players listed in Match Centre/ League Manager by a date (**Team Finalisation Date**) to be advertised by Tennis NSW. The Team Finalisation Date will be approximately two weeks after the Accepted Team list is communicated to teams. Subject to rule 7.6 teams will not be able to add Base Players after the Team Finalisation Date and Base Players will be locked as at this date. Additionally, the Order of Merit (per Rule 12) will also be finalised based on the Base Players recorded as at the Finalisation Date. Following the Team Finalisation Date any player that the team wishes to add will need to be added as a Reserve Player.
- 7.6 A team may request to add/change Base Players in their team after the Team Finalisation Date by submitting the request in writing to Tennis NSW for approval. Tennis NSW will, at its absolute discretion, notify the team in writing if an exemption will be granted. Teams may be allowed to add/change Base Players should a player be affected by illness, injury, work or personal issues.

8 Reserve Players

- 8.1 Reserve Players do not need to be listed prior to the Team Finalisation Date but may be added throughout the season as required.
- 8.2 Prior to fielding a Reserve Player, a team must liaise with Tennis NSW and receive written approval to field the Reserve Player in a particular match. Tennis NSW will also work with the team to determine an appropriate Order of Merit (per rule 12) specific to the relevant round where a Reserve Player(s) will participate in a particular match. For the avoidance of doubt teams must liaise with, and receive written approval from, Tennis NSW on each occasion that they wish to field a Reserve Player irrespective of whether that player has already been listed or participated as a Reserve Player in the Competition. This is to allow Tennis NSW to work with teams to determine an appropriate Order of Merit for the relevant round. Teams who fail to comply with this rule shall be deemed to have fielded an Unspecified Player per rule 9.
- 8.3 Teams may use any number of unique Reserve Players per round, and throughout the regular season subject to these Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, Reserve Players can only be used in Finals matches pursuant to rule 24.

8.4 Reserve Players can only represent one (1) team per Competition.

9 Unspecified Players

- 9.1 All players must be registered with Tennis NSW (as members of the Club/Association they are representing) to participate in the Competition. All players must have completed their competitive player profile (CPP-66 number) prior to participating in a match unless an exemption is granted in writing by Tennis NSW in its absolute discretion prior to the relevant fixture. Please refer to **Appendix C**.
- 9.2 Any team who fields a player in breach of rule 9.1, or a player who is otherwise in breach of these Rules, we be deemed to have fielded an Unspecified Player.
- 9.3 Any team who is deemed to have fielded an Unspecified Player will be considered to have forfeited any rubber where the Unspecified Player(s) participated.

10 Team Managers and Team Captains

- 10.1 Each team will nominate a Team Manager and Team Captain to act as the main point of contact for the team. The Team Manager is not required to be a Base Player, but the Team Captain must be a Base Player.
- 10.2 Tennis NSW shall primarily communicate with Team Managers. Team Captains or individual players may be contacted by Tennis NSW, but all communications between teams and to Tennis NSW should be channelled through the relevant Team Manager, or where the Team Manager cannot be reached, the Team Captain.
- 10.3 Each Team Manager and Team Captain agrees to provide an email address and telephone number to Tennis NSW for publication as a point of contact for other Team Captains. Team Managers and Team Captains acknowledge that their contact details may be provided to Competition Officials or other Team Managers or Captains. However, Team Managers and Team Captains are not permitted to distribute any contact details provided under this rule 10.3 to any other players on their teams or any other person, except as expressly permitted by Tennis NSW or as permitted by the Tennis Privacy Policy (<https://www.tennis.com.au/privacy>).
- 10.4 In the event a Team Manager or Team Captain is unable to be contacted for any period during the season (for example, if the Team Manager is overseas), the Team Manager or the Team Captain must advise Tennis NSW in writing of an alternate person (**Alternate Team Manager/Captain**) to be nominated by the team to act for that period. The Alternate Team Manager/Captain will be the contact person for that period for both Tennis NSW and the other teams.
- 10.5 A maximum of one (1) representative from each team (taken from that team's registered base players, team captain or team manager only) per rubber is permitted to sit on the team bench on-court to provide support (**On-court Support Person**). The On-court Support Person is only able to communicate with their teammate player during the change of ends and must not communicate with, engage with, threaten or otherwise distract opposition players or team members in any way. The On-court Support Person is not to attempt to play any officiating role or to involve themselves in the general conduct of the rubber in any way. The On-court Support Person may not change throughout the rubber, however, if needed, they can remove themselves from courtside during the change of ends. Once an On-court Support Person removes themselves they cannot be replaced by a different On-court Support Person for that rubber, however the same individual can return to courtside at a later change of ends.

- 10.6 Each team will be required to complete a Competition 'Fact Sheet' to provide key information to visiting teams including courts schedule and surfaces that will be used for play. This will enable the opposing team to be appropriately prepared and equipped. Fact sheets will be distributed by Tennis NSW.

11 Match Format

- 11.1 A Premier League Competition match will be made up of four (4) singles rubbers and two (2) doubles rubbers.
- 11.2 A maximum of eight (8) unique players (whether Base or Reserve Players) can play in a match, meaning that four (4) players that have not played any of the singles rubbers may be brought in to play doubles. A player is only permitted to play in a maximum of one (1) singles and one (1) doubles rubber per match.
- 11.3 Matches will be played out in the following order:

Court A	Court B
1v1 Singles	2v2 Singles
3v3 Singles	4v4 Singles
1&2 v 1&2 Doubles	3&4 v 3&4 Doubles

- 11.4 Rubbers may be played in an alternative order provided both Captains agree prior to the commencement of the match. Where agreement between the Captains cannot be reached in respect of an alternative order of play, the order stipulated in rule 11.3 will apply.
- 11.5 Singles rubbers will be played best of two (2) tiebreak sets (7 point set tiebreaks – win by 2 points), with traditional deuces, and a 10 point rubber tiebreak played at one set all.
- 11.6 Doubles matches will be played best of two (2) tiebreak sets (7 point set tiebreaks – win by 2 points), with no-advantage scoring, and a 10 point match tiebreak played at one set all.
- 11.7 All teams must play according to their 'Order of Merit' (see rule 12).
- 11.8 Tennis NSW will appoint a Match Referee for each match. In the event a Match Referee is not present for a match, the relevant host venue manager, court operator or a delegate from the host club will be the Match Referee and must act impartially and in accordance with these Rules. References to "Match Referee" in these Rules include a reference to a host venue manager/club delegate/court operator acting in this capacity under this rule 11.8.

12 Order of Merit

- 12.1 Following the Team Finalisation Date, Tennis NSW will provide each team with a set 'Order of Merit' for the team's Base Players. Tennis NSW will determine the appropriate Order of Merit at its absolute discretion, taking into account players' UTR taken as at the Tuesday following the Team Finalisation Date, alongside any other considerations deemed appropriate. This Order of Merit, once communicated, will be fixed and will apply for the duration of the Competition. All Order of Merit lists will be available on Match Centre/League Manager.

- 12.2 Teams may make submissions to Tennis NSW prior to the determination and communication of the Order of Merit pursuant to rule 12.1, which will be taken into account to the extent deemed appropriate by Tennis NSW. Tennis NSW will advertise a date by which submissions relating to Order of Merit must be received by Tennis NSW.
- 12.3 Pursuant to rule 8.2, on each occasion that a team wishes to field a Reserve Player, the team must obtain written permission from Tennis NSW to field the Reserve Player. As part of this process, Tennis NSW will work with the relevant team to determine an appropriate Order of Merit for the relevant match based primarily on the players' UTR as at the Tuesday immediately prior to the relevant fixture, alongside any other considerations deemed appropriate.
- 12.4 In respect of doubles rubbers, the highest ranked available player for each team (pursuant to the Order of Merit finalised under either rule 12.1 or rule 12.3) who is nominated for the doubles rubbers must compete in the number one doubles rubber. Outside of this, teams will have flexibility around the make-up of their doubles pairings.
- 12.5 In the event that a team can only field less than four (4) players in a particular match, the highest ranked available player in the agreed Order of Merit will be considered the number 1 player for the relevant match, the second highest ranked available player in the agreed Order of Merit will be considered the number 2 player and so on. Tennis NSW reserves the right to issue fines, loss of prize money and/or other sanctions at its discretion for repeated failure to field a full team.
- 12.6 Any teams failing to play in correct Order of Merit may be penalised at the discretion of Tennis NSW, including but not limited to the forfeiture of sets.

13 Match Schedule

- 13.1 Each round of the Premier League will be held at a single venue.
- 13.2 Tennis NSW will produce the fixture list for the round robin portion of each upcoming season. Each fixture shall designate a 'Home Team' and an 'Away Team', and the venue at which each match will be played.
- 13.3 Matches will commence at 1:30pm and will be played until completion where possible. Where a host venue does not have adequate artificial lighting for all courts in use in a particular round, play will not proceed beyond the official 'last light' time as published [here](#). For the avoidance of doubt, where one court in use for a rubber has adequate artificial lighting, but other rubbers in the same match are playing on courts without adequate artificial lighting, all rubbers must adhere to the 'last light' principle i.e. one rubber cannot proceed whilst others have to stop.
- 13.4 Any rubbers that cannot be completed due to the 'last light' principle in rule 13.3 will have points awarded in accordance with rule 14.4.
- 13.5 A maximum of five (5) minutes is allowed for warm up prior to commencement of each rubber including practice serves. Players must ensure they restrict their warm-up time and minimise time between points and at change of ends.

- 13.6 Doubles matches should commence as soon as practical after the singles matches. Players involved in doubles matches should commence matches no later than 15 minutes after the completion of their singles matches.
- 13.7 Clubs are to provide warm up courts (where practical) 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match commencement time. Visiting team captains must be advised of the availability of such warm up courts.
- 13.8 A match must not be played on a date other than the scheduled date without prior written consent from Tennis NSW. Tennis NSW reserves the right to refuse consent to a match being played on a different date at its absolute discretion.
- 13.9 The Home Team shall determine which matches will be played on which courts at the venue.

14 Match Scoring

- 14.1 There is a maximum of eight (8) Competition points available for each match. A team scores one (1) point for each rubber won. The team that wins the overall match in accordance with this rule 14 also receives two (2) bonus points for winning the match.
- 14.2 The winner of the match is the team with the greater number of rubbers won in a completed match.
- 14.3 If at the conclusion of the match, the number of rubbers won by each team is equal, the team that has won the greater number of completed sets will be declared the winner. If the number of sets won is equal, the team that has won the greater number of completed games will be declared the winner. If the number of games is equal, then the match shall be declared a draw and each team shall receive one bonus point.
- 14.4 In the event that rubbers are incomplete (i.e. due to washout, heat or 'last light') each team will be awarded 0.5 points for each unfinished or un-played rubber. For example: if score is 4-3 in the last rubber and the 'last light' time has passed, each team will be awarded 0.5 points. In these circumstances, if the overall match result is not a clear win for one team at the time that play is called off, the two (2) bonus points awarded under rule 14.1 above will be split between both teams.
- 14.5 If either team leaves the court without agreement from the opposing team (other than in extenuating circumstances, or as otherwise permitted by these Rules), then the team that has left the court shall forfeit points for that rubber pursuant to rule 18.
- 14.6 Teams are awarded zero (0) points for a bye.
- 14.7 The ladder for each competition will be ordered based on the highest total points won. If two or more teams are equal in points on the ladder, their ranking will be decided by the following:
 - (a) The team with a higher percentage of sets won (that is, sets won/sets played x 100%) will be ranked higher on the ladder.

- (b) If the Percentage of Sets Won is equal, the team with a higher percentage of games won (that is, games won/games played x 100%), will be ranked higher on the ladder.

14.8 In the event a team cannot provide four (4) players to participate in a competition round, the team may still participate in the round and may receive points in accordance with this rule 14. Any rubbers that cannot be played due to player unavailability will be considered forfeited by the team who cannot field players.

15 Player Injury

- 15.1 If a player is injured during a match and forced to retire from a rubber, the injured retiring player cannot return to court and play any other rubber in the match.
- 15.2 All incomplete or un-played rubbers involving the injured player at the time the player is injured will be forfeited and all points for the incomplete or un-played sets will be awarded to the non-retiring player or doubles team.
- 15.3 An injured player cannot be replaced by another player during a rubber.

16 Extreme Weather and Cancellations (Inclement Weather)

- 16.1 The Tennis Australia Extreme Weather Policy applies to all matches and can be accessed [here](#).
- 16.2 The 'Thermal Comfort Level', where applicable must be taken from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website.
- 16.3 The reading shall come from the Weather station closest to the location of the match (measured using the shortest path between the two (2) points) and always taken from the WBGTT Shade Column, where applicable.
- 16.4 In the event of extreme weather prior to the match commencement, the following steps should be taken to provide the best opportunity for all matches to be played.
 - (a) All players must attend the courts unless otherwise notified by Tennis NSW or the Match Referee prior to the match. Tennis NSW or the Match Referee will send relevant messages to Team Managers.
 - (b) In the event that the Match Referee forms a view that the match cannot commence, continue or be completed, the Match Referee may attempt to relocate matches to other courts in an effort to commence or complete matches.
 - (c) If all measures to continue are unsuccessful, the Match Referee may instruct teams to wait for up to 60 minutes from the scheduled match commencement time.
 - (d) Match formats may be reduced in order to complete rounds where possible.
 - (e) If, after 60 minutes, the Match Referee remains of the view that play cannot commence (Wash Out) the round will be replayed as part of a '**Double Round**' the following week per rule 17.

- 16.5 The Match Referee will be responsible for all final decisions as to whether courts are unplayable due to extreme weather in accordance with these Rules.
- 16.6 Any match that has commenced play, and which is halted due to extreme weather or otherwise in accordance with these Rules, will not be replayed as a double round. In these circumstances points will be distributed pursuant to rule 14.4.
- 16.7 Notwithstanding this rule 16, Tennis NSW may in its sole and absolute discretion reschedule a match for an alternative time.
- 16.8 Tennis NSW may in its sole and absolute discretion allow teams to reschedule the match for an alternative time on the request of the relevant team(s). Tennis NSW will have the final say on if or when any matches are rescheduled. Teams will have no right to hold a match at an alternative time without written confirmation from Tennis NSW.

17 Double Round

- 17.1 When the decision is made to replay a round as part of a Double round under rule 16.4(e) both the round to be replayed and the following round will be played on a single day and at one venue.
- 17.2 Both rounds (and both singles and doubles rubbers) will be played as best of two (2) Fast Four sets + 10-point match tiebreak at one-set-all. There will be no-advantage scoring for Doubles.
- 17.3 Points will be distributed pursuant to rule 14.
- 17.4 Each round in a Double Round will be treated in isolation, meaning teams are able to change team lineups between rounds if they wish.
- 17.5 In the event that two consecutive rounds (e.g. round 1 and round 2) are both deemed as complete wash-outs, points will be split for the first round (e.g. round 1) and the second round will be replayed as a double round in the following week (e.g. a round 2 and round 3 double round).

18 Defaults/ Forfeits/ Withdrawals by teams and players

- 18.1 Where, in accordance with these Rules, a team is deemed to have defaulted from or forfeited a rubber, that team will be awarded zero points, zero sets and zero games for the relevant rubber, with the opposition team being awarded full points/sets/games.
- 18.2 Where a player or a doubles pair is not ready to play 15 minutes after the start time of a rubber, that rubber (or rubbers) will be forfeited by that team.
- 18.3 Tennis NSW reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to determine that a team has defaulted a rubber and/or match. Reasons for this decision may include, but are not limited to, breaches of these Rules or failure to meet its commitment in a manner which in the opinion of Tennis NSW prejudices the proper conduct of the Competition without sufficient cause being shown. Further penalties may also be applied according to the Premier League Competition Penalty Register (**Appendix B**).

- 18.4 In the event of a team fielding less than a four (4) players in a round, the available players may play their assigned rubbers in accordance with the order of merit per rule 12 and specifically, rule 12.5. The remaining rubbers will be forfeited.
- 18.5 Teams who forfeit two or more matches during the season without sufficient cause being shown (in the opinion of Tennis NSW) may be penalised at the absolute discretion of Tennis NSW.

19 Entering Results

- 19.1 The Team Manager of the Home Team will be responsible for providing a printed scorecard for each match.
- 19.2 Immediately after the completion of each rubber (whether or not a rubber result is determined/agreed) the official scorecard must be completed and signed by a member of each team and the Match Referee.
- 19.3 In the event of a match not being commenced or being incomplete, the score sheet shall be completed as far as practicable and must include each nominated player's name and the score (if any) of each completed or incomplete rubber as well as the reasons for the match not being commenced or completed. The Match Referee will be responsible for passing on completed scoresheets to Tennis NSW. Should a Match Referee be unavailable, the Home Team will collect and pass on completed score sheets. Tennis NSW will be responsible for ensuring that results are entered into March Centre by close of business on the Tuesday following the relevant round.
- 19.4 Tennis NSW reserves the right to amend any scorecards/errors that may impact the overall result of any fixture outside of these deadlines, for any reason and at any time, at its absolute discretion.
- 19.5 Any issues arising from a round must be lodged with Tennis NSW within 72 hours following the completion of the round. in accordance with rule 27 (Dispute Resolution). This may include incorrect results, player names, and behavioural concerns.

20 Courts and Facilities

- 20.1 The Home Team is responsible for providing the following facilities:
- (a) Minimum 6 courts of any surface in good condition (at a minimum, courts must be well maintained, clear of any equipment/obstacles with proper fencing, level surface and decent bounce);
 - (b) Adequate and clean bathroom and toilet facilities; and
 - (c) Parking & Accessibility Options.
- 20.2 Tennis NSW may request at any time, and the team must provide, any information deemed necessary by Tennis NSW to determine whether to approve the venue and court surface, including but not limited to the location of the courts, the number of courts, court surface information, parking and accessibility and facilities at the venue.

- 20.3 If a team wishes to use outside or indoor courts as an alternative location for extreme weather or overflow, these courts must also be registered and approved by Tennis NSW prior to the commencement of each season.
- 20.4 All courts used in a match must be at the same venue and must be the same court surface where possible. Any deviations from this rule must be approved in advance in writing by Tennis NSW.
- 20.5 For a team to be eligible to host a Grand Final, the team's home venue nominated on the team entry form must include a minimum of four (4) courts available, or eight (8) courts available to host a combined Men's and Women's Finals.

21 Playing Attire

- 21.1 All players must wear correct tennis attire and comply with the reasonable dress regulations of the Home Team's Club. Failure of a player to comply with this rule (after being given a reasonable period of time to comply by the other team) will result in that player forfeiting his or her rubber.
- 21.2 Each player on each team must have a matching tennis uniform (a matching team shirt at a minimum). Teams are also encouraged to include other clothing items as part of their team uniform, but are not required to do so.

22 Match Balls

Tennis NSW will supply appropriate match balls.

23 Ladder and Finals

- 23.1 A minimum of 3 rounds must be completed prior to the Semi-Final round. Should 3 rounds not be completed, the Semi-Final round will be changed to a Double round.
- 23.2 At the end of the round robin portion of each season of the Competition, the following formats will be used for the Finals on the basis of the ladder position of each team determined pursuant to rule 14.7:

Semi Final	SF1 = 1 st v 4 th	SF2 = 2 nd v 3 rd
Grand Final	Winner SF1 v Winner SF2	

- 23.3 The winner of each Final shall be:
- First, the team that wins the most rubbers for that match;
 - If both teams win the same number of rubbers, the team that wins the most number of sets (excluding match tiebreaks);
 - If both teams win the same number of rubbers and the same number of sets, each team shall select one (1) player who has already played at least one rubber in that match to play one (1) tie-break (first to seven points, win by two points) to determine the winner.

- 23.4 Should the Semi-Final round not be played pursuant to rule 16, the Grand Final will be contested by the 1v2 teams based on ladder positions.
- 23.5 In the event the Grand Final is unable to be completed pursuant to rule 16, the winner will be the team that has progressed to the Grand Final that finished higher on the ladder at the end of the round robin portion of the season.
- 23.6 Tennis NSW shall determine in its sole and absolute discretion the location and Home Team for each Final. Without limiting Tennis NSW's discretion, venues may be considered based on, but not limited to, the placing of each team on the ladder at the end of the round robin portion of the season, and the suitability of the venue to host finals.

24 Finals Eligibility

- 24.1 To be able to play in Finals matches, a player must have taken the court in a minimum of two (2) unique round-robin rounds (whether in a singles or a doubles rubber). For the purposes of this rule, a player has "taken the court" when a player plays at least one full rubber in a match in the Competition but does not include any byes, Wash Outs or defaults. This rule applies to Base Players and Reserve Players. Tennis NSW has the final decision at its absolute discretion on whether a specific player meets these eligibility criteria.
- 24.2 For incomplete rubbers to be counted towards Finals eligibility, players' names must be registered on the score card submitted to Tennis NSW. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include rubbers which are deemed byes, Wash Outs or defaults/forfeits.
- 24.3 Following the completion of the round-robin rounds, Tennis NSW will provide each team with a list of their players who have qualified for finals under rule 24.1. Any player that does not appear on this qualified players list will require an exemption from Tennis NSW pursuant to rules 24.4 and 24.5 in order to take the court in a Final.
- 24.4 A team may, in writing, make a request to Tennis NSW for an exemption to rule 24.1. At its sole and absolute discretion, Tennis NSW may:
 - (a) Grant the exemption requested; or
 - (b) Require the team to forfeit one or more rubbers of the Final; or
 - (c) Require the team to forfeit the Final.

As a general rule, exemptions will only be granted by Tennis NSW where a team can provide evidence of exceptional circumstances.

- 24.5 Applications for an exemption pursuant to rule 24.4 must be made in writing to Tennis NSW prior to commencement of the relevant Final. When approved, Tennis NSW will confirm in writing that the exemption has been granted. A player who is otherwise ineligible for Finals under rule 24.1 may not take the court in a Final unless and until written confirmation of a granted exemption has been received from Tennis NSW.

24.6 In the event that a player who is not considered eligible for Finals under rule 24.1 takes the court in a Final without written confirmation of an exemption from Tennis NSW, the team will be considered to have fielded an Unspecified Player under rule 9 and will be deemed to have forfeited any rubbers where the ineligible player took part.

25 Prize Money

25.1 Prize money for the Premier League Competition will be provided based on the table set out below, subject to change by Tennis NSW at any time and in its absolute discretion:

Round	Team Win	Team Loss
Round 1 – 5	Round Robin Winning Team = \$750/team	Round Robin Losing Team = \$250/team
Semi Final	1v4 Semi Final Winning Team = \$1500/team	1v4 Semi Final Losing Team = \$750/team
	2v3 Semi Final Winning Team = \$1500/team	2v3 Semi Final Losing Team = \$750/team
Grand Final	SF1 Winner v SF2 Winner Winning Team = \$2000	SF1 Winner v SF2 Winner Losing Team = \$1000

Men's Total Prize money = \$22,500	Women's Total Prize money = \$22,500	Grand Total Prize money = \$45,000
PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM ENTRY - \$2,000		

25.2 Prize money accumulated throughout the Premier League Competition season will be paid to the participating team at the conclusion of the season.

25.3 Notwithstanding any other rule in these Rules, a team shall not be eligible for prize money if the team owes any amounts to Tennis NSW (including but not limited to affiliation fees or competition entry fees).

25.4 Any teams involved in matches where there is no winner pursuant to these Rules shall share prize money equally for that match.

26 Powers of Tennis NSW

26.1 To the extent permitted by law and the Policies, Tennis NSW shall have absolute power and discretion relating to the Competition or any matter or issue arising from or in connection with the Competition and/or these Rules, and without limiting the foregoing it shall have the power and discretion to:

- (a) Demand from any team any information of any nature relating to any matter or thing arising from any match;
- (b) Prohibit a player or team from registering for the Competition;
- (c) Suspend or disqualify a player or team from the Premier League Competition as a result of a player's conduct or behaviour arising from or in connection with a match; and
- (d) Impose penalties on any player or team as deemed appropriate, whether by fine, suspension or disqualification or by forfeiture of points for any non-compliance or breach of any of these Rules or a Policy.

27 Dispute Resolution

- 27.1 If a player or team is alleged to have breached these Rules or a Policy, the allegation against the player or team must be made in writing to Tennis NSW within 48 hours of the alleged breach. Any complaints received after this time may not be considered by Tennis NSW at its absolute discretion.
- 27.2 Disputes must:
- (a) Only be sent by the Team Manager or the Team Captain of a team involved in the match;
 - (b) Be submitted in writing to Tennis NSW; and
 - (c) Contain a precise statement of the issue(s) in the dispute, and include all relevant facts such as correct name of person/s involved, date, time and location.
- 27.3 Tennis NSW will acknowledge receipt of complaint and will aim to provide a response within three (3) business days if practical. The exception to this is where a matter may fall under a Policy. In these circumstances the matter will be dealt with in accordance with that Policy.
- 27.4 Tennis NSW may call on an independent committee to review the complaint/dispute who may provide a recommendation to Tennis NSW.
- 27.5 Tennis NSW has the power to adjudicate any dispute referred to it for determination in any way in its absolute discretion but subject to the principles of natural justice, these Rules and any Policy (if relevant).

28 Appeals from Disputes

- 28.1 Unless stated otherwise, all decisions made from Tennis NSW in regard to disputes are final, and no further appeals will be considered.
- 28.2 Should a decision be appealable; Tennis NSW will provide a reasonable window of opportunity for appeals to be lodged and a response supplied. Appeals received outside this window may not be considered by Tennis NSW.

- 28.3 Should a team fail to accept the decision, issue complaints or unsportsmanlike conduct following a ruling, the team may be further penalised at the discretion of Tennis NSW.

29 Interpretation of Rules

- 29.1 Any question arising from or in connection with the interpretation or construction of these Rules shall be determined by Tennis NSW in its absolute discretion.
- 29.2 Tennis NSW may alter or amend these Rules from time to time without prior notice. If updated, Tennis NSW will endeavour to provide sufficient notice and distribute the updated version of these Rules to all teams.

30 Policies and Regulations

- 30.1 All competitions and matches must be conducted in accordance with their relevant policies, procedures and regulations and all Tennis Australia National Policies (available at <https://www.tennis.com.au/about-tennis-australia/reports-and-policies/policies>) including but not limited to:
- (a) Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour, which includes disciplinary action for inappropriate spectator behaviour. **(Appendix D)**
 - (b) Tennis Australia Member Protection Policy
 - (c) Tennis Australia Anti-Doping Policy
 - (d) Tennis Australia Disciplinary Policy
 - (e) Tennis Australia Anti-Corruption program
 - (f) Tennis Australia Social Media Policy
 - (g) Tennis Australia Etiquette for non-umpired matches
 - (h) Tennis Australia Dress & Equipment Regulations
 - (i) AR Tournaments Rules & Regulations – Publicity, promotion and use of Image.
 - (j) Tennis Australia Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct.
- 30.2 In the event, that these regulations do not cover a rule/procedure – Players, Referees and Match Supervisors should refer to - The ITF Rules of Tennis (available via <https://www.itftennis.com/media/7221/2022-rules-of-tennis-english.pdf>)

Appendix A – Online Team Entry

Initial entries will be taken via the following Wufoo form:

<https://nswtournaments.wufoo.com/forms/2023-tennis-nsw-premier-league/>

Appendix B – Premier League Competition Penalty Schedule

Offence	Penalty	Examples (not limited to)
Minor Offences	- Official Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forfeit due to not fielding a team (1st instance only) - Minor infringements of the Code of Behaviour or Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
Medium Offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forfeiture of rubbers - Loss of Competition Points - Competition Fines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inappropriate Reserve player used - Ghosting (Entering Highly Rated Players who do not play in the Rounds) - Serious infringements of the Code of Behaviour or Unsportsmanlike Conduct. - Multiple warning received for minor offences.
Major Offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Match Forfeit - Loss of Competition Points - Removal of Player/Team from Competition. - Competition Fines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severe infringements of the Code of Behaviour or Unsportsmanlike Conduct. - Multiple forfeits due to not fielding a team. - Multiple warnings/penalties for Minor/Medium Offences.

The purpose of this register is to provide guidelines around the use of penalties within the Premier League Competition. Penalties imposed are not limited to this register. The powers of Tennis NSW are listed in rule 26 – Powers of Tennis NSW.

Appendix C –

Players can create, merge or activate their competitive player profiles (CPP) via the link below.

<https://www.tennis.com.au/competitiveplay/competitive-player-profile>

Appendix D –
[Code of Behaviour – Competitive Play](#)