



REGIONAL COACH DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL SUPPORT GRANT

"Smashing barriers so coaches can ace their game"

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1 GRANT OVERVIEW

NSW Tennis Country is committed to fostering a strong, sustainable tennis community across regional New South Wales. As part of this commitment, we are proud to offer the Regional Coach Support Grant, a targeted initiative designed to support the education and development of tennis coaches living and working in regional areas of the state.

The role of a tennis coach extends far beyond skills and drills. Coaches are leaders, mentors, and critical drivers of participation and performance within their communities. They play an essential part in welcoming new players to the sport, nurturing talent, and creating inclusive, engaging environments at local clubs. Recognising this, NSW Tennis Country is making a strategic investment in the future of regional tennis by supporting those who are undertaking formal coaching qualifications.

The Regional Coach Support Grant provides \$500.00 in financial assistance to successful applicants enrolled in a Tennis Australia qualified coaching course. Eligible courses include, but are not limited to, the Development Coach, Club Professional, and other nationally accredited Tennis Australia coaching pathways. This grant is open to individuals who reside in areas classified as NSW Tennis Country.

Grant funds can be used to contribute towards the course fees or related expenses such as:

- Travel to and from the course venue
- Accommodation during face-to-face training
- Coaching equipment required for course completion
- Other associated costs that enable participation

One of the core aims of this initiative is to grow the number of qualified coaches in regional areas, which in turn supports local clubs by increasing access to skilled coaching staff. A larger and more qualified coaching workforce enables clubs to offer more structured, high-quality programming—such as Hot Shots, cardio tennis, Development pathways, and adult skill sessions—ensuring players of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to engage with the sport in meaningful and enjoyable ways.

We recognise that regional coaches often face significant challenges when pursuing professional development, including geographic isolation, travel burdens, and limited course availability nearby. By helping to remove some of these barriers, the Regional Coach Support Grant ensures that location is not a limiting factor in becoming a certified tennis coach.

NSW Tennis Country views this program as a key component of our long-term vision to build a thriving, well-connected tennis ecosystem in regional NSW. Supporting coaches directly benefits clubs, players, schools, and broader communities. It helps create local role models, fosters club sustainability, and promotes lifelong participation in the sport.

Ultimately, this grant is more than financial support—it is an investment in the people who keep regional tennis strong. By empowering coaches, we strengthen the entire tennis infrastructure, create vibrant sporting hubs, and bring more opportunities to players across New South Wales.

We encourage enthusiastic, community-minded individuals—whether just starting their coaching journey or progressing to higher qualifications—to apply and be part of building a better future for tennis in regional NSW.

2 GRANT DETAILS

The Regional Coach Support Grant is a rolling grant, meaning applications are open all year round, allowing individuals to apply at any time that suits their development journey. This flexible approach is designed to accommodate the varying schedules and needs of regional coaches.

Funding Available

- A maximum of \$500.00 (AUD) is available per successful applicant.
- The funding may be used to cover course fees or associated costs such as travel, accommodation and coaching equipment related to attending the course.

Eligible Courses

To qualify for funding, applicants must be enrolled in one of the following Tennis Australia accredited coaching qualifications:

- Level 1 – Development Coach
- Level 2 – Club Professional Coach
- Level 3 – Performance Coach
- Level 3 – Business & Venue Management

Note: Courses classified as trainee, introductory, or participation coaching courses (including short workshops and non-accredited programs) are not eligible for this grant.

Application Timing

- The grant is open year-round, with applications accepted on a rolling basis.
- Applications will be reviewed periodically by the NSW Tennis Country team, and successful applicants will be notified via email.

Payment of Funds

- Grant funds will be paid directly to the successful applicant or, in some cases, to the course provider on behalf of the applicant.
- Documentation such as proof of enrolment, course fee invoices, or receipts for eligible expenses may be required before funds are disbursed.

3 GRANT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Regional Coach Support Grant, applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Residency:** Applicants must reside in a region classified as NSW Tennis Country, as defined by Tennis NSW.
- Age Requirement:** Applicants must be 16 years of age or older at the time of application.
- Course Enrolment:** Applicants must be currently enrolled in, or have confirmed enrolment in, or be eligible to enroll in a Tennis Australia qualified coaching course (e.g. Development Coach, Club Professional, etc.).

- iv. **Purpose of Funding:** The grant funds must be used to cover course fees or associated expenses such as travel, accommodation, or course-related equipment.
- v. **Club or Organisation Endorsement:** Each application must be endorsed by a current financial Tennis NSW affiliate, which may include a Tennis NSW-affiliated club, coaching operator, or regional association.
- vi. **Commitment to Regional Coaching:** Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to coaching within regional NSW and support the growth and sustainability of tennis in their local community.
- vii. **Limitations on Grant Use:** This grant is not intended to fund personal coaching businesses directly, but rather to support the attainment of formal qualifications that contribute to the broader regional tennis network.
- viii. **Previous Recipients:** Applicants who have previously received this grant may be eligible to apply again for a different level of qualification, subject to available funding and program priorities.

4 SELECTION CRITERIA

All eligible applications for the Regional Coach Support Grant will be assessed against the following selection criteria. Meeting eligibility requirements does not guarantee funding, as grants are competitive and subject to availability.

i. Endorsement from a Current Financial Member of Tennis NSW

- Each application must include a written endorsement from a current financial Tennis NSW-affiliated club, coaching operator, or regional association.
- This endorsement should outline the applicant's involvement in the local tennis community and their potential contribution to coaching delivery in the region.

ii. Commitment to Regional Coaching and Community Impact

- Applicants should demonstrate a clear intention to coach within regional NSW, with a focus on contributing to local programs, clubs, or associations.
- Preference will be given to those who show a strong commitment to enhancing tennis opportunities in their community.

iii. Support from Tennis Australia Coaching Development Team (if applicable)

- NSW Tennis Country may request input or a recommendation from the Tennis Australia Coaching Development Team to assist in the assessment of applications.
- This recommendation will be considered as part of the overall evaluation process but will not be the sole determinant of a successful outcome.

iv. Geographic and Community Need

- Priority will be given to applicants residing in underrepresented or underserved areas within regional NSW, particularly where there is a shortage of qualified coaches

v. Diversity and Inclusion

- NSW Tennis Country strongly encourages applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds, including those who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, women and girls in sport, and people with a disability.

- The program aims to build a coaching workforce that reflects the diversity of the communities it serves.

vi. Quality of Application

- Applicants should provide a complete and thoughtful application, including a clear explanation of how the grant will assist their coaching development and contribute to the growth of tennis in their region.

5 ASSESSMENT PANEL

All applications to the Regional Coach Support Grant will be reviewed and assessed by a dedicated Assessment Panel to ensure transparency, fairness, and alignment with the program's objectives.

Panel Composition

The Assessment Panel will be comprised of three (3) members who will be independent of the applicant and have no direct involvement with the application being reviewed. The panel will be appointed annually by NSW Tennis Country and must include the following representation:

- 1 Director of Tennis NSW:** A senior leader from Tennis NSW to ensure strategic alignment with the broader goals of the organisation.
- 1 Representative from the Tennis NSW Management Team:** A member of the management team with expertise in regional development and coaching programs.
- 1 External Independent Third Party:** An external individual with relevant experience and expertise in coaching, sport development, or community engagement to provide an impartial perspective.

Assessment Process

- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, as they are received throughout the year.
- The panel will use an online scoring system to assess applications against the established selection criteria.
- If needed, input from the Tennis Australia Coaching Development Team may also be sought to support decision-making, ensuring that applicants meet the required qualifications and professional standards.
- The assessment panel will not be required to convene In person or virtually to assess applications

Conflict of Interest

- All panel members are required to declare any actual or perceived conflict of interest before assessing applications.
- Any member with a conflict of interest will recuse themselves from reviewing the affected application, and an alternative panel member may be appointed if necessary.

The use of this independent panel, with diverse representation from within Tennis NSW and external expertise, ensures a fair, transparent, and effective process for granting funding in support of regional coach development.

6 GRANT ACQUITTAL

All recipients of the Regional Coach Support Grant are required to acquit the grant funds with reliable evidence within 6 months of receipt of payment. The acquittal process ensures that the funds have been used as intended, in line with the objectives of the program.

Acquittal Process

- Upon receiving the grant funds, you must submit evidence of expenditure in accordance with the instructions provided in your confirmation letter.
- The acquittal evidence should be submitted no later than 6 months from the date of the payment.

Examples of Acceptable Acquittal Evidence

To meet the acquittal requirements, the following are examples of sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the grant funds were used appropriately:

- Payment Confirmation of Enrolment Fees:** A receipt or confirmation of payment for the relevant coaching course, showing that the grant funds were used to cover the enrolment fees.
- Accommodation Receipts:** If accommodation was funded, receipts for accommodation that exceed the value of the grant amount (greater than \$500) should be submitted. This ensures that the grant has been used for its intended purpose.
- Travel Expense Receipts:** If travel expenses were funded, submit receipts for travel costs (e.g., airfare, train tickets, fuel) that exceed the total value of the grant received. This demonstrates that the grant funds were used for necessary travel associated with attending the course.

Failure to Acquit Funds

If the required acquittal evidence is not provided within the specified 6-month period, or if the evidence is deemed insufficient, recipients may be required to repay the grant or be disqualified from future funding opportunities.

By submitting reliable evidence of expenditure, recipients help ensure the integrity of the grant program and its ongoing success in supporting tennis coaching development in regional NSW.

Completion of Course and Repayment of Grant

If an applicant fails to successfully complete the course within 12 months of receiving the grant funds, or within 6 months after submitting the acquittal of grant funds, the applicant will be required to return the full amount of the grant. This ensures that grant funds are only used for their intended purpose—supporting successful completion of the coaching qualification.



Tennis Australia acknowledges that our offices are on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations People.