



Tennis NSW

2026 Sydney Badge League Rules

By submitting an entry, you agree to abide by the terms and conditions as set out in the 2026 Sydney Badge League Rules and 2026 Sydney Badge Fact Sheets.

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1. Objectives

- 1.1 Tennis NSW is committed to providing appropriate competitive play opportunities for tennis players of all levels in NSW. As part of this landscape, Tennis NSW will organise, administer, and promote various inter-club team tennis leagues for members of affiliated tennis clubs/associations, to enable the opportunity to play against players of similar ability, over a given period. These events will be referred to as the Sydney Badge Leagues (together **Badge**).
- 1.2 Badge delegates, captains, players, teams, coaches, officials (together **Participants**) must at all times act in the best interests of the Sydney Badge League and Tennis NSW. In line with the Tennis Australia - Code of Behaviour, Participants are not to engage in conduct which brings or has the potential to bring a Participant, Badge 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 Sydney Badge League or Tennis NSW or not in the “spirit of tennis”.

2. General

- 2.1 Tennis NSW, having regard to advice from the Sydney Badge Panel and Grading Committees where appropriate, administers, delivers, and promotes Badge in line with the Competitive Play Framework. These Rules provide the framework under which Badge will be delivered and are made by Tennis NSW pursuant to its functions under the Tennis NSW Constitution. In these Rules, references to “Tennis NSW” include references to the Tennis NSW Tennis Operations and Pathways Team.
- 2.2 All Badge Participants in the Badge League, are bound by these Rules and regulations and the Tennis Australia National Policies including, but not limited to, the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour (including its reference 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**).
- 2.3 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 and resolve the matter on the spot. If the parties are unable to resolve the matter, notice should be provided to Tennis NSW of the dispute in accordance with Rule 24 (Dispute Resolution).
- 2.4 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.

3. Badge League

- 3.1 The Sydney Badge League will consist of the following leagues.
 - Thursday Ladies
 - Saturday Ladies; and
 - Saturday Men’s
- 3.2 Each division within each league will generally have a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eight (8) teams. However, depending upon the number of entries, Grading and operational considerations, Tennis

NSW reserves the right at its sole discretion to:

- Alter the number of teams in a division, and/or
- Alter the length of the season, including the number of rounds played within a division as deemed appropriate to provide level-based competition and in order for teams to play each other an equal number of times where possible.

4. Team Entry

- 4.1 A team may only be entered into a Badge League by a club, association or entity that is registered with, and affiliated to Tennis NSW, and which has paid its annual affiliation fee (and any other fees as required by Tennis NSW for affiliation) on or before the date requested for those fees to be paid by Tennis NSW. Team nominations must be submitted through Match Centre by the Club Delegate or another club representative. Appendix A provides guidance on how to nominate your team on Match Centre. Please note that in 2026, Tennis NSW will not have the ability to add Base Players to a team. Team entry is the sole responsibility of the clubs and their nominated Club Delegate or authorised club representative.
- 4.2 Team entry applications must be submitted through Match Centre by the entry closing date, to be advised by Tennis NSW for each League. The team entry application must include all the names of the six (6) to twelve (12) (per Rule 5.1 below) in the team. Team entry applications submitted after the publicised team entry closing date will not be considered by Tennis NSW. Base Players will be locked as at the entry closing date and teams will not be able to add or remove Base Players after this date (even if submitting less than the maximum number of Base Players) unless under exceptional circumstances that have been communicated to and approved by Tennis NSW prior to the close of team entries or as otherwise in accordance with these rules.
- 4.3 At the time of team entry clubs or associations who are submitting multiple teams into a Sydney Badge League must allocate each team a ranking which reflects that team's position within that club or association (i.e. where Club X submits three teams into Thursday Ladies, Club X must nominate a team as their first (strongest) team, second team and so on e.g. Club X Team 1, Club X Team 2 etc.). Clubs/Associations may also make comments about the strength of each team relative to other teams from that club or association, but this does not create any guarantee in respect of grading.
- 4.4 Tennis NSW will determine the entry fee for entry into the Badge League. This fee will be revised and published annually. Each team must pay the entry fee to Tennis NSW by the advertised date and in the form required by Tennis NSW. Failure to pay the entry fee by the publicised date may result in any team entry applications being rejected at the discretion of Tennis NSW.
- 4.5 Tennis NSW has the sole discretion over whether to accept a team's application for entry into Badge League. Without limiting that discretion, Tennis NSW may refuse a team's entry 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 and regulations 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 Badge League into disrepute.

- 4.6 Prior to the commencement of each Badge League, each Team Captain/ badge delegate is strongly encouraged to attend a badge induction session at a date and time communicated by Tennis NSW. This session will provide important information about the running of the Sydney Badge League.

5. Team Composition

- 5.1 **Base Players** (as per Match Centre) – are the registered players in the team who the team intends will play the majority of rounds during the competition and will be used for the team's grading. A player shall be a Base Player for **only one team** per league. **Each team shall have a minimum of six (6), and a maximum of twelve (12) Base Players.**
- 5.2 **Reserve Players** – are players used by a team throughout the season who are not listed as Base Players on the team entry application at the time of grading. Reserves can be utilised by teams in accordance with Rule 6.
- 5.3 A player cannot be listed as a Base Player for more than one (1) team in the same League but may play as a Reserve Player for another team within the same club in the same or a higher division in the same League in accordance with Rule 6.17. This is the case even when the player would play in two divisions for the same club on the same day, so long as matches permit and Rule 6.17 is complied with. A player may not be a Base Player for multiple clubs or teams within the same League. For example, a player cannot be listed as a Base Player for Club X Team 1 in Thursday Ladies and also be listed as a Base Player for Club Y Team 3 in Thursday Ladies. A player can also not be listed as a base player for multiple teams from the same club i.e. a player cannot be a Base Player for both Club X Team 1 and Club X Team 2.
- 5.4 Players may be listed as a Base Player in more than one Badge League provided they meet any conditions as specified by Tennis NSW. This does not necessarily need to be for the same club subject to Rule 5.3. For example, a player can be listed as a Base Player for Club X Team 1 in Thursday Ladies and also be listed as a Base Player for Club Y Team 3 in Saturday Ladies.
- 5.6 **Juniors playing in adult leagues** – clubs or associations may nominate a maximum of two (2) Base Players per team who are aged 12 years or under. Teams who wish to field a Reserve Player aged 12 years or under must seek an exemption from Tennis NSW. Exemptions may be considered and approved in writing at the sole discretion of Tennis NSW.

6. Reserve Players

- 6.1 A Reserve Player is a player who is not nominated as a Base Player for any team and who may be selected to play a match for a team, subject to eligibility requirements under these rules.
- 6.2 To be eligible to participate as a reserve player, a player must:
- Hold a Tennis Australia Competitive Player Profile, enabling the player to be entered into Match Centre and
 - Have an active UTR rating (provisional or verified) as shown in Match Centre the week of the match that is below the UTR Upper Limit for the relevant division, as set by the Grading Panel at the time of Grading as per rule 6.11
- 6.3 Where a team uses a reserve player, it is the responsibility of the Team Captain to ensure the player is

eligible for the relevant division and to enter the player into the Match Centre scorecard.

6.4 A reserve player will have the option to complete a reserve registration form, which will place them into the Reserve Pool for clubs and Team Captains to view. For the avoidance of doubt, registration into the Reserve Pool is optional. Teams may use a reserve player that is not registered in the reserve pool, provided the player meets all eligibility requirements under these rules.

6.5 Tennis NSW will provide clubs with access to the Reserve Pool, which is a list of players who are not nominated as a Base Player and who have chosen to register their interest in participating as a Reserve Player in the competition.

Registration in the Reserve Pool is optional and is intended to allow players to:

- Express their interest in being selected as a Reserve Player for any team and
- Consent to being contacted by clubs and Team Captains.

Players in the Reserve Pool will provide contact details and a link to their Tennis Australia competitive player profile, enabling clubs to view the player's UTR rating.

6.6 Nominations to register in the Reserve Pool will be submitted via an Airtable form, which will be open for the entirety of the season. In the case of players who are under 18 years of age, parents/guardians will be required to complete this form on behalf of the player.

6.7 Tennis NSW will administer a Reserve Player Pool document which can be accessed by Badge Delegates and Team Captains only for the purposes of inviting Reserve Players to fill in for their teams in accordance with these Rules. Badge Delegates and Team Captains must not pass on Reserve Player contact details to other members of their team or club. This document will include a Reserve Player's name, contact phone number and a link to their Tennis Australia Competitive Player Profile. Where a player in the Reserve Player Pool is under 18, parent/guardian contact details will be included in place of the player contact details.

6.8 If a team wishes to utilise a player from the Reserve Player Pool for a relevant fixture, the Badge Delegate or Captain must liaise directly with the relevant Reserve Player and obtain their confirmation that they wish to play for the relevant team for a specific match. It is at the ultimate discretion of the relevant Reserve Player which team they chose to play for in a relevant week.

6.9 PLAYERS WITHOUT A UTR:

If a Reserve Player does not hold an active UTR rating at the time of selection, the club or team must seek written approval from Tennis NSW prior to the player participating in the match.

Tennis NSW may approve eligibility for a specific division and retains the right to reassess eligibility if required. If Tennis NSW should subsequently determine that an approved Reserve Player without a UTR is no longer eligible for matches in that club/team, matches played to that date will remain in good standing.

6.10 Where a team has used a player without a UTR rating, and without approval from Tennis NSW, the rubbers that the player participated in will be forfeited to the opposing team.

6.11 Following the completion of the grading processes outlined in Rules 8, Tennis NSW in consultation with the Male and Female Grading Panels will set a **UTR Upper Limit** for each division in each League. A team may

then use any Reserve Player whose UTR is equal to or less than the Initial Upper Limit for the relevant division for which the team wishes to use that Reserve Player. The exception to this rule shall be Division 1, which shall have no UTR Upper Limit. There shall be no restriction of Reserve Players for Division 1. For the avoidance of doubt the UTR Upper Limit applies to Reserve Players only. Base Players wishing to play in another division as a Reserve Player is dealt with in Rule 6.16.

For example, Reserve Player Tom's UTR is 9. Tom may be used as a Reserve Player by any team who is participating in a division with a UTR Upper Limit which is equal to or greater than 9.

- 6.12 Once a Reserve Player has played three (3) Matches for a particular team, they will automatically become a Base Player for that team and will be removed from the Reserve Player Pool as appropriate. From that point onwards that player is treated as a Base Player for the purpose of these rules, including in respect of finals eligibility. For the avoidance of doubt this player can no-longer play as a Reserve Player for any team except in accordance with Rule 6.17.
- 6.13 The only exception to rule 6.12 is where a team already has the maximum twelve (12) Base Players in place. Once a team has twelve (12) Base Players in place, Reserve Players who play three (3) Matches for that team will not become a Base Player for that team and will not be eligible to play finals for that team. They will continue to be a Reserve Player for the purpose of these rules.
- 6.14 Outside of rule 6.11, there is no limit as to how many teams/clubs a Reserve Player can play for, and a team may use any number of Reserve Players throughout the Badge season, subject at all times to Rule 6.11.
- 6.15 Reserve Players will not be eligible to play finals. For the avoidance of doubt this does not apply to Reserve Players who have become Base Players for a team under rule 6.12.
- 6.16 Base Players may act as a Reserve Player for another team within their club, so long as that team is competing in the same division or a higher division than the division in which the team the player is a listed Base Player for is competing in. For example, Fred is a Base Player for Club A Team 4 competing in Division 4 of the Saturday Men's competition. Fred can be a Reserve Player for any other team from Club A which is competing in division 4 or higher of the Saturday Men's competition. Fred cannot be a Reserve Player for any team from Club B irrespective of division or for a team from Club A which is competing in Division 5 or lower.
- 6.17 Where a team uses a Reserve Player, it is the responsibility of the Team Captain to ensure the player is eligible for the relevant division and to enter the player into the Match Centre scorecard.
- 6.18 Should a Team Captain or Badge Delegate be unsure about whether a Reserve Player is permissible, the relevant Badge Delegate should seek written approval from Tennis NSW prior to the round in which the Reserve Player is intending to play.
- 6.19 Should Tennis NSW deem a Reserve Player who has participated in a match as inappropriate for the level of competition, or in breach of these rules, this may result in penalties against the player/ team at the discretion of Tennis NSW including but not limited to the forfeiture of any Rubber where the relevant player participated.

- 6.20 In exceptional circumstances Tennis NSW may, in their discretion, grant an exemption for a Reserve Player who would otherwise be ineligible under this Rule 6. However, an exemption will only be valid where it is provided in writing by Tennis NSW **prior** to the commencement of the relevant match.

SUMMARY OF BASE PLAYER AND RESERVE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- Base Players may play for the team where they are a registered Base Player AND any other team within the same club playing in the same or a higher division.
- Reserve Players may play for any team, in any division, where their UTR is equal to or lower than the UTR Upper Limit set for the relevant division.
- If a reserve player does not hold an active UTR rating at the time of selection, the club or team must seek written approval from Tennis NSW prior to the player participating in the match.
- When a Reserve Player plays three (3) Matches for a team they will automatically become a Base Player for that team, unless that team already has the maximum twelve (12) Base Players. From that point onwards that Reserve Player will be considered a Base Player for the purposes of these Rules.
- Only Base Players will be eligible for finals. No person can be a Base Player for more than one team in a League.

7. Unregistered/Unspecified Players

- 7.1 All players must be registered with a Tennis Australia Competitive Player Profile in order to participate in the Sydney Badge League.
- 7.2 Tennis NSW will, as part of its normal weekly results confirmation process, review match results entered in Match Centre. Where it is identified that a team has entered an unspecified player in the scorecard, Tennis NSW will notify the relevant Team Captain and Club Delegate in writing.
- The team will be provided until 12:00pm on the Friday following the match to:
- Ensure the player is registered with a valid Tennis Australia Competitive Player Profile and
 - Correctly enter the player into the scorecard.

All rubbers in which the player participated in will be forfeited if:

- a) The team fails to correctly enter the player into the scorecard by 12:00pm (midday) on the Friday following the match; or
- b) It is determined that the player's UTR exceeds the upper UTR limit set for the relevant division and is therefore ineligible to play in that division; or
- c) It is determined that the player does not hold an active UTR rating and was not approved by Tennis NSW in writing prior to the match commencing, in accordance with Rule 6.9.

8. Grading

- 8.1 Tennis NSW in conjunction with the Male and Female Grading Committees (formed under Rule 8.2) are responsible for Grading of all Badge Leagues and for determining the number of teams in each division.
- 8.2 The following procedure shall be utilised in forming the Male and Female Grading Committees with a maximum of five (5) members:
- (a) Tennis NSW shall create and distribute an expression of interest (EOI) form and will publicly call for expressions of interest to join one or both of the Male and Female Grading Committees;

- (b) The EOI shall remain open for a defined period of time and on the terms determined by Tennis NSW from time to time;
- (c) Upon closure of the EOI period, Tennis NSW, with oversight and ultimate approval of the Chair of the Metro Sydney Committee shall assess each candidate for appointment to each of the Male and Female Grading Committees and shall determine the length of appointment of each committee member.

- 8.3 After the nominated closure date for team entries has passed, Tennis NSW will prepare a pre-grading report (based on average team UTR and division preferences nominated by each team at the time of team entries) which will be provided to each Grading Committee for consideration and discussion.
- 8.4 Members of each of the Grading Committee may contribute to discussions involving their own club or any other actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest, but must not vote on the matters or otherwise seek to influence the outcome of the Committee decision where they are conflicted.
- 8.5 The Grading committees will determine final Grading with reference to the top six (6) Base Players by UTR as listed in team entry applications at the time of grading and the team ranking provided by the club or association. The Grading criteria will also include a consideration of the Base Players' UTR, prior performance in Badge and any other Tennis Australia/ Tennis NSW Sanctioned event, and any other factors considered relevant by Tennis NSW and the Grading Committees. It is the sole responsibility of the club and/or team to provide any additional supporting evidence they wish to be considered by Tennis NSW and the Grading Committees at the time of grading. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, a player's prior playing history, UTR rating, or results in sanctioned competitions, particularly where a nominated Base Player does not hold an active UTR rating.
A player's UTR is calculated by Universal Tennis through League Manager. (See Appendix B).
- 8.6 Tennis NSW, in conjunction with the Grading Committees, reserve the right, at its sole discretion to accept or deny any team or team member nominated and/or allocate the team or team member to a higher or lower division.
- 8.7 Upon completion of the Grading process outlined above, Tennis NSW will publicise the Grading via appropriate channels. This is the final Grading and there will be no appeals.
- 8.8 Any team that withdraws from the Sydney Badge League following the release of Grading will forfeit any Badge team entry fees paid. Teams may also be denied entry into future competitions at the discretion of Tennis NSW.
- 8.9 In exceptional circumstances, Tennis NSW may at its sole discretion alter the Grading of teams after the season commences and shall adjust fixtures accordingly.

9. Match Format

- 9.1 Match formats for each League are set out in the table below.

Day	League	Format
Thursday 10:00 / 10:30 (Grass)	Thursday Ladies (4 player teams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 doubles rubbers - Rubbers played in the following format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Home Team 1 v Away Team 1 * Home Team 2 v Away Team 2 * Home Team 1 v Away Team 2 * Home Team 2 v Away Team 1 - Each Rubber is a 2-set match - <u>5 games all</u> + standard tie breaker. (First to 7, win by 2) - Standard Deuce to be played.
Saturday Session A – 11:30 (grass) / 12:00 (other) Session B – 14:20 (grass) / 14:50 (other)	Saturday Ladies (4 player teams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 doubles rubbers - Rubbers played in the following format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Home Team 1 v Away Team 1 * Home Team 2 v Away Team 2 * Home Team 1 v Away Team 2 * Home Team 2 v Away Team 1 - Each Rubber is a 2-set match - <u>5 games all</u> + standard tie breaker. (First to 7, win by 2) - Standard Deuce to be played.
Saturday Session A – 11:30 (grass) / 12:00 (other) Session B – 14:20 (grass) / 14:50 (other)	Saturday Men's (4 player teams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 doubles rubbers - Rubbers played in the following format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Home Team 1 v Away Team 1 * Home Team 2 v Away Team 2 * Home Team 1 v Away Team 2 * Home Team 2 v Away Team 1 - Each Rubber is a 2-set match - <u>5 games all</u> + standard tie breaker. (First to 7, win by 2) - Standard Deuce to be played.

10. Match Schedule

10.1 Matches are to be played in two sessions during the day as follows:

a) For Thursday Ladies: 10:00am – 2:00pm.

- Natural Grass courts may choose to start at 10:30am but must state this in their team nomination.

- Should teams require finishing at a set time, the Team Captains must agree to this prior to the start of the match.

- Or in accordance with Rule 10.3.

b) For Saturday Afternoon Ladies & Men's: a fixed period of time, being 2 hours and 45 minutes (or another period of time as notified to teams by Tennis NSW in advance of the match) as follows.

- Session A times: 11:30 – 14:15 (Grass Courts) or 12:00 – 14:45 (all other surfaces)

- Session B times: 14:20 – 17:05 (Grass Courts) or 14:50 – 17:35 (all other surfaces)

- Or in accordance with Rule 10.3.

- 10.2 A match is completed at the end of the session time above, regardless of whether all rubbers have been played or finished unless Rule 10.3 applies.
- 10.3 Matches that are incomplete after the allocated time period may be played out to completion providing both Captains have agreed to complete the matches irrespective of time prior to the commencement of the round and court access/lights are available. This rule applies to regular season matches only. Finals matches are governed by Rule 19.
- 10.4 Clubs who do not have lights will be allocated Session A times (as far as is reasonably practical) in order for matches to be completed.
- 10.5 All clubs should endeavour to provide, if possible, an alternate venue which may be used to minimise 'wash-outs.' In the event courts are likely to be washed out, Captains are expected to communicate prior to the round to discuss possibilities of completing the match according to the scheduled date and time at an alternative venue.
- 10.6 Clubs which have multiple surfaces must advise the opposing team 24 hours prior which surface the match will be played on. This will ensure fairness to the opposing team being appropriately prepared and equipped. Failure to do so may result in penalties at the discretion of Tennis NSW.
- 10.7 Matches are to commence as advised on the draw which is published on Match Centre <http://leagues.tennis.com.au/>. Please note it is the captain's responsibility to check Match Centre prior to each round to ensure correct information is received.
- 10.8 A maximum of five (5) minutes is allowed for warm up prior to commencement of each rubber including practice serves. Players must ensure they warm up, change ends, and begin next points in a timely manner as to ensure all matches have the opportunity to be completed within the allocated time.
- 10.9 Clubs to provide a warmup court (where practical) 30 minutes prior to start of scheduled match time. Visiting Team Captains must be advised of the availability of such warmup courts.
- 10.10 Session A players must leave the courts immediately at the conclusion of their match to allow Session B to commence.

- 10.11 A Match cannot be rescheduled to another date during the season. A match is to be played on the allocated day, or otherwise recorded as an unplayed match/draw/washout etc. as provided for under these Rules.
- 10.12 Matches may be moved location or commence earlier or later when mutually agreed between the opposing Team Captains and approved by Tennis NSW in writing. Where teams swap a home tie for an away tie, where possible the next fixture between the two teams will be played at the original home team's home venue.
- 10.13 The Order of Play is as follows:
- (a) The home team nominates which of their pairs plays on each of the courts.
 - (b) The visiting team matches those pairs.
 - (c) The visiting team nominates which pairs are to switch courts in the reverse rubbers.
- This order of play applies to all matches including regular season and finals matches.
- 10.14 Where there are lights on-site, they must be used so Session B matches can be played until 17:35.

11. Match Scoring:

- 11.1 There is a maximum of ten (10) points available for each match. A team scores one point for each of the eight (8) sets won. The winning team also receives two (2) bonus points for winning the match.
- 11.2 The winner of the match is the team with the greater number of sets won in a completed match. If at the conclusion of the match, the number of sets won by each team is equal, the team that has won the greater number of completed games will be declared the winner. If the number of games won is equal, then the match shall be declared a draw. Where this occurs the two (2) bonus points awarded under Rule 12.1 above will be split between both teams.
- 11.3 If at the completion of the match not all rubbers have been finished or played, but subject to the applicability of Rule 13.2 or 15.5 below, each team will be awarded 0.5 points for each unfinished or un-played set. For example: if score is 4-3 in the last set of the last rubber and time has run out, each team will be awarded 0.5 points.
- 11.4 For semi-finals and finals matches, a minimum of two rubbers (totalling four sets) must be completed for a match to be deemed "complete". If less than two rubbers of a match are completed for any reason (i.e., Washout), the match will be deemed incomplete. In these circumstances any previously completed sets or rubbers will be disregarded, and the two teams will be required to play the following week starting from 0-0.
- 11.5 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 be deemed to have forfeited that Rubber in accordance with Rule 15.
- 11.6 Teams are awarded five (5) points each for a bye.

11.7 The ladder for each section 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%) (Percentage of Sets Won) 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%) (Percentage of Games Won), will be ranked higher on the ladder.

12. Player Substitution

12.1 If a player is injured or otherwise chooses to retire from a rubber, the retiring player cannot return to the court and play any other rubber in the match.

12.2 All incomplete or un-played sets in that rubber at the time a player retired will be forfeited and all points for the incomplete or un-played sets in that rubber will be awarded to the non-retiring players.

12.3 At the conclusion of the first rubber by both pairs, a team may substitute one player with another player from that team. The retiring player and the substitution player may be either a Base Player or a Reserve Player, subject to eligibility requirements under these Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, a player may be substituted at the end of the first rubber by choice. They are not required to be injured, ill or unable to continue.

12.4 A team is not required to declare its intention to substitute a player at the commencement of the match. The substitution must be declared within three (3) minutes of the completion of the last finishing rubber. Once a substitution has been declared, the decision cannot be reversed.

For the avoidance of doubt, the end of the rubber is determined when both pairs shake hands after completion. It is our expectation that team captains acknowledge the timing of when pairs have shaken hands marking the completion of the rubber.

12.5 A maximum of five (5) minutes is allowed for warm up prior to commencement of each rubber as per rule 11.8. Any substitution decision made under rule 12.3 must occur within this five-minute warm up period. Where a team takes the full three (3) minutes to declare a substitution, the incoming player will have the remaining two minutes of warm-up time available.

12.6 Where a team wishes to use a replacement player in accordance with Rule 12 in a semi-final or final, the replacement player must otherwise be eligible to play finals for the at team in accordance with Rule 29.

13. Extreme Weather and Cancellations (Inclement Weather)

13.1 The Tennis Australia Extreme Weather Policy applies to all matches and can be accessed [here](#).

13.2 The 'Thermal Comfort Level', where applicable must be taken from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website.

13.3 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 WBGT Shade Column, where applicable.

- 13.4 On all court surfaces Team Captains should communicate with each other a minimum two (2) hours prior to scheduled match time to determine whether match will proceed.
- 13.5 During inclement weather on all court surfaces, efforts should be made to use an alternate venue to ensure matches are played on scheduled date and time. Options may include:
 - Playing the round at the home team's alternate venue.
 - Playing the round at the away team's venue.
- 13.6 Unless both Team Captains agree, acting reasonably, to cancel the match all players must meet at the venue for the start of the match. Failure to do so will result in that team forfeiting the match.
- 13.7 Both Team Captains must agree, acting reasonably, to cancel the match due to inclement weather (Wash Out), each team shall receive five points.
- 13.8 No match can commence later than 45 minutes after the match's scheduled start time. If the match has not commenced within this time, the match will be declared a Wash Out.
- 13.9 Following a rain delay, all teams must make reasonable attempts to dry courts and resume play, allowing forty-five (45) minutes for courts to be playable.
- 13.10 If Team Captains cannot agree on cancellation of a match under Rules 14.6, 14.7 or 14.9, then the Home Captain will make the final call following their club's internal safety requirements.
- 13.11 Team Captains must assign players who were scheduled to play the rain affected match in Match Centre for the match to be counted towards a players Finals eligibility. The match can still be listed as a "Wash Out" with the designated players to be listed.

14. Defaults/Forfeits/Withdrawals by teams and players.

- 14.1 Team Captains, Players and Club Delegates are required to check each round's match location and times 24 hours prior to the scheduled match to ensure there has been no changes. Should there be any issues accessing Match Centre or confirming match times please email sydneybadgetennis@tennis.com.au. Penalties may apply for any team who fails to attend a match, at the discretion of Tennis NSW, including but not limited to the match being considered forfeited in full by the relevant team. The onus is on Participants to confirm round locations and times and failure to do so will not be taken into account in determining whether a team is considered to have forfeited a rubber or match.
- 14.2 Where a team or a doubles pair is not ready to play 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the match, the first set of the rubber (or rubbers) will be forfeited by that team.

- 14.3 If a team or doubles pair is not ready to play 30 minutes after the scheduled start time of the match, both the first and second set of the rubber (or rubbers) will be forfeited.
- 14.4 Any team that does not have at least one pair ready to play 45 minutes after the scheduled starting time, will forfeit the entire match (Default).
- 14.5 In the event of a team fielding only one pair, that pair may play their two rubbers. The remaining rubbers will be forfeited. The score of such sets played shall stand and points awarded in accordance with the completed results. The remaining sets shall be forfeited against the defaulting team, and the opposing team shall be awarded the maximum number of points available for those rubbers. In the unlikely event that a draw was to occur, the team fielding all 4 players would be awarded the additional two (2) match points.
- 14.6 If any team Defaults or fails to otherwise meet its commitments under these rules, without, in the opinion of Tennis NSW, sufficient cause being shown, that team will not score any points for the relevant round. shall be awarded the maximum number of points available for those rubbers. Further penalties may be applied at the discretion of Tennis NSW.
- 14.7 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 discretion of Tennis NSW, including but not limited to the deduction of League points.

15. Entering Results

- 15.1 The Team Captain of the home team must print and have available at the match a scorecard for completion and signing. In the instance the Team Captain is absent, they must delegate this duty to another team member. Appendix D Results Entry sets out instructions for printing scorecards and using the Match Centre system.
- 15.2 Immediately after the completion of each rubber (whether a match result is determined) the official scorecard must be completed and signed by a member of each team. The Team Captain for each team is responsible for ensuring that a member of his or her team signs the scorecard.
- 15.3 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.
- 15.4 The winning team's Team Captain shall be responsible for online lodgement of results in Tennis Australia's online competition system (Match Centre) within 24 hours of scheduled commencement time of match. For all matches whether they are Won, Lost, Drawn, Incomplete or Forfeited. (Team Captains must include reason for incomplete matches). If a match is washed out, the home team must enter that result.
- 15.5 Once the winning Team Captain has entered match results in Match Centre, the losing Team Captain must confirm or dispute the results within 48 hours of the results being lodged by the winning team. Failure by the winning Team Captain to lodge results within 24 hours may result in that team being penalised at the

discretion of Tennis NSW, including but not limited to being considered to have forfeited the relevant match.

- 15.6 The losing Team Captain is responsible for confirming the online results in Match Centre, within 48 hours after they have been entered. Failure to confirm results within the 48 hours may result in the team being penalised at the discretion of Tennis NSW, including but not limited to being considered to have forfeited the relevant match.
- 15.7 All results will be deemed official 72 hours after the scheduled commencement time of the match.
- 15.8 Tennis NSW reserves the right to amend any scorecards/errors that may impact the overall result of any fixture outside of these deadlines, provided supporting documentation is provide (i.e. weekly scorecard)
- 15.9 Any issues arising from the weekend's matches must be lodged in writing to sydneybadgetennis@tennis.com.au within 48 hours, so they may be dealt with before the commencement of the next round. This may include incorrect results, player names, and behavioural concerns. (Refer to Rule 24 – Dispute Resolution.)

16. Courts & Facilities

- 16.1 The Home Team are responsible for providing the following facilities:
 - Minimum 2 courts of any surface in Good Condition (Courts must be well maintained, clear of any equipment/obstacles/safety hazards with proper fencing, level surface and decent bounce.)
 - Clean Bathroom/Toilet Facilities.
 - Parking & Accessibility Options.
- 16.2 Each team must register with Tennis NSW: (i) venue and (ii) the court surface at the venue for its home matches (Home Venue) at the time of team entry applications.
- 16.3 Tennis NSW may request, and a 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. Failure to provide this information to the satisfaction of Tennis NSW may result in a team entry application being refused.
- 16.4 If a team wishes to use outside or indoor courts as an alternative location for wet weather or overflow, these courts must also be registered and approved by Tennis NSW prior to the commencement of each season of Badge League (Alternate Venue Courts).
- 16.5 Unless another time frame has been agreed by the Team Delegates in writing to Tennis NSW, a team wishing to use an alternative Venue for a match, must give the opposing team minimum 48 hours' notice (refer to Rule 14 – Extreme Weather and Cancellations (Inclement Weather))
- 16.6 Both courts used in a match must be at the same venue/location and should use courts with the same court surface where possible.

- 16.7 The use of an Alternate Venue Courts for semi-finals, and finals is not permitted unless the number of home teams exceeds the number of courts at the Home Venue, or when the courts are unplayable at the Home Venue and the Alternate Venue has been approved by Tennis NSW prior to the commencement of the relevant match.
- 16.8 If the Home team's venue is unavailable, it is permissible for the match to be played at the Away team's venue if two courts are available and both Team Captains agree to this change.

17. Playing Attire

- 17.1 All players must wear correct tennis attire and comply with the reasonable dress regulations of the home team's club. Failure to do so may result in players being unable to play their match and those players forfeiting their rubbers.

18. Match Balls

- 18.1 All clubs must provide a minimum of 3 brand new balls per court per match.
- 18.2 ITF approved tennis balls must be use for all Tennis NSW matches. <https://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/tennis-tech/approved-balls/>

19. Finals

For the avoidance of doubt, ALL regular season rules spelt out above apply to finals matches unless otherwise stated. For the avoidance of doubt, the rules under rule 19 'FINALS' apply IN ADDITION to (and not instead of) all other rules unless specifically stated.

- 19.1 At the end of the regular season of Badge League, the following teams (after any deductions for a breach of rules) will qualify for the finals.
- A) 8 Team Leagues = Top 4 placed teams to play in Semi-Finals Round
- B) 6 Team Leagues = Top 4 placed teams to play in Semi-Finals Round
- 19.2 Positions on the ladder are decided by points won, minus any deductions for a breach of rules.
- 19.3 In the event of two or more teams being equal in points at the end of the regular season, their positions on the ladder shall be decided by the Percentage of Sets Won, or in the event of them being equal, by the Percentage of Games Won as per Rule 12.7.
- 19.4 For Finals matches, where the home team's venue is unavailable due to inclement weather or court unavailability, the match must be played at the alternate venue if available, including the away teams venue.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the following order of priority applies for Finals matches:
1. Home team's nominated venue;

2. An approved alternate venue nominated by the home team; or
3. The away teams venue, provided courts are available.

A Finals match may only be declared a washout where none of the above venue options are available.

This rule applies in place of rules 13.5 and 16.8 for Finals matches.

19.5 The finals schedule for each section of Badge League is as follows:

- 8 Team League: 2 weeks finals.
- 6 Team League: 2 weeks finals.

Finals Week 1	Finals Week 2
<p>Semi Final 1 1st v 4th Home Team: 1st</p>	<p>Grand Final SF1 Winner v SF2 Winner Home Team: Highest Placed Team</p>
<p>Semi Final 2 2nd v 3rd Home Team: 2nd</p>	

19.6 One (1) wet weather week has been reserved for the Grand Final. The Finals schedule will operate as follows:

Week 1: Semi-Finals

Week 2: Grand Final

Week 3: Rain affected Grand Final/ Washout

If the Semi-Finals scheduled for week 1 are washed out and cannot be played, the Semi-Finals will not be rescheduled. In this event, the teams finishing 1st and 2nd on the ladder at the conclusion of the regular season will progress to the Grand Final.

If the Grand Final for week 2 is washed out and cannot be played, it will be rescheduled to week 3.

19.7 In the event only one (1) week is available for finals, the Grand Final will be played out between the 1st and 2nd placed teams.

19.8 In the event all finals weeks are rained out, the winner will be the 1st placed team, or in the scenario where the Semi Finals have been completed, the highest place team remaining in the competition will be the winner.

19.9 Rules 19.6 and 19.7 apply even where some play has commenced, but a winner cannot be determined on the basis of sets won or games won.

- 19.10 Subject to Rules 19.6 and 19.7, Semi-Finals and Finals must be played out to ensure there is a winner. Should the Semi Final or Final end in a draw on both sets won and games won, both teams will select any two (2) players to play one (1) doubles tie-break (First to ten, win by two points) to decide the winner.

20. Finals Eligibility

- 20.1 Only Base Players who have played in a minimum of three (3) matches for the relevant team are eligible to play finals. No Reserve Player shall be eligible to play finals. If a player competes in one rubber only and is then substituted or alternatively, is at rest and then plays in the 2nd rubber only, for the purpose of this rule, this constitutes one (1) match for each player.
- 20.2 Finals eligibility attaches to the specific team only (i.e. this is not transferrable to other teams within the same club).
- 20.3 To be able to play in the Semi Finals or Grand Final matches, a Base Player must have played in a minimum of three (3) matches for the relevant team. For clarity, if a Base Player for Team A has not played in a minimum of three (3) matches for Team A, the player will not be eligible to play finals for Team A. A Base Player will never be eligible to play finals for any other team outside of the team where they are listed as a Base Player, irrespective of the number of matches played for any other team under rule 6.17.
- 20.4 For the purposes of this Rule 21, a played match is when a player participates in a match, but does not include any Bys. Where a player is listed in Match Centre as a designated player for a wash out/defaulted match this will be counted as one (1) of the minimum three (3) required matches.
- 20.5 For incomplete matches to be counted towards Final's eligibility, the player's names must be registered on the score card and uploaded to Match Centre.
- 20.6 Any team which plays an ineligible player in a semi-finals or finals match will be deemed to have forfeited any Rubber in which the ineligible player participated.

21. Prizes

- 21.1 Prizes for Badge League (if any) will be determined and publicised by Tennis NSW in its discretion.

22. Powers of Tennis NSW

- 22.1 To the extent permitted by law and the Tennis Australia National Policies, Tennis NSW shall have absolute power and discretion relating to the Badge Leagues or any matter or issue arising from or in connection with the Sydney Badge League and without limiting the foregoing it shall have the power and discretion to:
- demand from any team any information of any nature relating to any matter or thing arising from any match.
 - prohibit a player or team from registering for the Badge League.
 - suspend or disqualify a player or team from the Badge League because of a player's conduct or behaviour arising from or in connection with a match.
 - impose penalties on any player or team, whether by fine, suspension, disqualification or by forfeiture of points for any non-compliance or breach of any of these Rules and regulations, including any Policy; and

e) apply penalties where necessary with reference to the Sydney Badge Penalty Register (Appendix C) and the Tennis Australia National Policies.

23. Dispute Resolution

- 23.1 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 and emailed to sydneybadge@tennis.com.au 48 hours of the alleged breach. Any complaints received after this time may not be considered by Tennis NSW at its discretion.
- 23.2 Disputes must:
- Be submitted by the Team Delegate of a team involved in the relevant match.
 - Be submitted in writing to Tennis NSW (emailed to sydneybadge@tennis.com.au)
 - 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, location.
- 23.3 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 Tennis Australia National Policy. In these circumstances the matter will be dealt with in accordance with that policy.
- 23.4 Tennis NSW may call on an independent committee to review the complaint/dispute who may provide a recommendation to Tennis NSW.
- 23.5 Tennis NSW has the power to adjudicate any dispute referred to it for determination in any way in its discretion but subject to the principles of natural justice, these Rules and regulations and any Policy (if relevant).

24. Interpretation of Badge Rules and Regulations

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

25. Appeals from Disputes

- 25.1 Unless stated otherwise, all decisions made from Tennis NSW in regard to disputes are final, and no further appeals will be considered.
- 25.2 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.
- 25.3 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.

26. Policies and Regulations

- 26.1 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.
 - 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) And any other policy, rule, procedure, or regulation of which Tennis Australia may publish from time to time.
 - h) Tennis Australia Etiquette for non-umpired matches (Appendix E)
(<https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Procedures-for-Matches-played-without-a-Chair-Umpire-V19.3.pdf>)
 - i) Tennis Australia Dress & Equipment Regulations
 - j) AR Tournaments Rules & Regulations – Publicity, promotion and use of Image.
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>)
 - k) Tennis Australia Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct.

27. Miscellaneous

- 27.1 Each Club/Association will nominate a 'Badge Delegate' to act as the main point of contact for all teams representing the Club/Association.
- 27.2 All communications to Tennis NSW must come from a team's nominated Badge Delegate. Similarly, Tennis NSW will communicate directly with the relevant Badge Delegate only. Any Team Captains who contact Tennis NSW directly will be asked to make contact through their relevant Badge Delegate.
- 27.3 Each Badge Delegate/Team Captain is strongly encouraged to attend a Tennis NSW Badge League Induction Session in accordance with information publicised by Tennis NSW from time to time. This session will educate the Delegates and Captains on the processes and policies for the coming season.
- 27.4 Each Badge Delegate 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. Badge Delegates and Team Captains acknowledge that their contact details will be provided to other Team Captains. However, Badge Delegates and Team Captains are not permitted to distribute any contact details provided under this Rule 27.4 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>).

- 27.5 Appendix E sets out all players must comply with the etiquette of play for non-umpired matches.
- 27.6 In the event a Badge Delegate is unable to be contacted for any period during the season (for example, if the Badge Delegate is overseas), the Badge Delegate must advise Tennis NSW in writing of an alternative person (“Alternate Delegate”) to be nominated by the Club/Association to act as Badge Delegate for that period. The Alternate Delegate will be the contact person for that period for both TNSW and the other clubs/associations.

28. Sydney Badge Panel

- 28.1 Tennis NSW will constitute a Sydney Badge Panel (Panel) in accordance with the Sydney Badge Panel Terms of Reference which will be determined by the Metro Sydney Committee from time to time.
- 28.2 The Panel will be an advisory body. In all other cases, decisions of the Panel will not be binding on Tennis NSW. The purpose of the Panel is to provide advice and guidance to Tennis NSW in the running of the Sydney Badge League as required by Tennis NSW.
- 28.3 No Member of the Sydney Metro Committee shall be eligible for appointment to the Panel.

Appendix A: Team Registration Via Match Centre

<https://support.tennis.com.au/articles/competition-registration-team-registration/>

If a fee is applicable, payment options are determined by your competition administrator and a note below the fee will indicate the payment method. If 'Online Payment required' is displayed, you must pay the fee via Credit Card during the registration process, or your registration will not be accepted via Match Centre. If 'Contact competition organiser for payment' is displayed, please liaise with your club or competition administrator regarding payment.

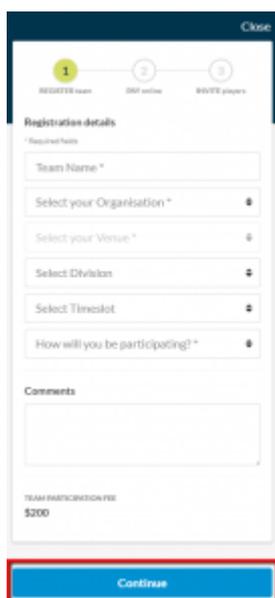


The competition administrator determines the registration requirements, which may include minimum/maximum team members or if you can register as an individual to be allocated to team. Registrations that require a team registration will have a blue Register / Register Team button (note if online payment is required: you will be required to pay the full team fee). If the competition administrator allows individual registration via Match Centre (i.e. you do not have a team to enter with) a Register Yourself button will be visible (the competition administrator will place you in a team). Click the relevant register button.



REGISTER TEAM / REGISTER

Depending on the competition administrator and registration requirements, you may be able to select a preferred division (note division allocation is subject to relevant competition administrator rules and processes), the organisation/club you are representing (if an association competition), the facility, preferred start time, court surface and court allocation. Requirements may vary competition to competition. You will also be required to select your role within the team (e.g. player/captain/manager) as the person that is registering the team. Additionally, you may add a comment to your registration if you wish to provide any particular information to the competition administrator.



You will now have a visible 'Manage Registration' card visible on the competition profile and your own dashboard.

This card will be visible until registrations close. For more information view the Manage Registration guide.

Appendix B: Competitive Player Profile / Ratings

WHAT IS MY COMPETITIVE PLAYER PROFILE?

Your Competitive Player Profile is the unique profile generated by connecting your Tennis ID and UTR rating. With this connection established, your playing history and upcoming match data can be stored securely in one place, giving you full visibility of your tennis stats and performance.

[Click the link and follow the steps to activate your player profile today](#)

[Create your CPP | Competitive Play | Tennis Australia](#)

<https://www.tennis.com.au/competitiveplay/create-your-cpp>

RATINGS

For further information on matches that contribute to a player's UTR calculation, please click the following link:

<https://support.tennis.com.au/articles/what-match-results-in-australia-count-towards-players-utr-rating/>

Appendix C – Sydney Badge League Penalty Register.

Offence	Penalty	Examples (not limited to)
Minor Offences	- Official Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of incorrect balls - No/Poor communication to Captain regarding Inclement weather, venue information. - Inability to provide a wet weather venue (Grass Courts) - 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"> - Loss of Sets/Games played by a player. - Loss of League Points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inappropriate Reserve Player used. - 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 League Points - Removal of Player/Team from League. 	<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 Sydney Badge League. Penalties imposed are not limited to this register. The powers of Tennis NSW are listed in Rule 23 – Powers of Tennis NSW.

Appendix D – Results Entry

1) Enter Score/Not Played Match – Match Results

<https://support.tennis.com.au/articles/score-entry-enter-score-match-results/>

2) Edit Score – Match Results

<https://support.tennis.com.au/articles/score-entry-edit-score-match-results/>

3) Review & Confirm Score – Match Results

<https://support.tennis.com.au/articles/score-entry-review-and-confirm-score-match-results/>

4) Disputing a Result – Match Results

<https://support.tennis.com.au/articles/score-entry-disputing-a-result-match-results/>

5) Adding a New Player

<https://support.tennis.com.au/articles/score-entry-adding-a-new-player-match-results/>

6) Creating a New Player – Match Results

<https://support.tennis.com.au/articles/score-entry-creating-a-new-player-match-results/>

7) Print Scorecard

<https://support.tennis.com.au/articles/the-scorecard-print-scorecard/>

PROCEDURES FOR MATCHES PLAYED WITHOUT A CHAIR UMPIRE

<https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Procedures-for-Matches-played-without-a-Chair-Umpire-V19.3.pdf>

All players should be aware of the following basic principles when playing a match without a Chair Umpire.

Players who do not fairly follow these procedures could be subject to penalties under the Unsportsmanlike Conduct provision of the Code of Behaviour and/or subject to the Hindrance Rule (ITF Rules of Tennis). Any questions on these procedures should be referred to the Tournament Referee (or their assistant where applicable).

- 1) Each player is primarily responsible for line calls on their side of the net. However, a Court Supervisor or Referee is permitted to change an incorrect line call, either whilst located within the court (appointed as adjudicator/chair umpire) or from outside the court. The following procedures apply when a call is changed:
 - a) Official located outside the court:

On the first occasion, the official should enter the court and inform the player that the incorrect line call caused an unintentional hindrance to the opponent, and the point must be replayed. If, however, the opponents shot was a “point-ending shot”, the point will be awarded to the opponent. The official must inform the player that any further incorrect line calls will be considered a “deliberate hindrance” for which they will lose the point. The player should also be cautioned that they may be subject to penalties under the Unsportsmanlike Conduct provision of the Code of Behaviour for having two-line calls overturned in the same match.
 - b) On Court as an Adjudicator:

If an official is required to stand on-court to adjudicate the match, the official should advise the players to continue to perform all duties assigned to players by these procedures. The role of the adjudicator is purely to correct any clearly incorrect line calls made by either player; in which case the offending player will lose the point.
 - c) On Court as a Chair Umpire:

If an official is required to act as a Chair Umpire for the remainder of a match, the official must, where possible, take position in a chair umpires chair. The chair umpire must assume all the normal duties and procedures for chair umpires, i.e., making all line calls, determining lets, nets, not-ups, and fouls shouts, and announcing the score after each point.

In addition, when a player makes a blatantly incorrect call, the player will lose the point, and a Code Violation for Unsportsmanlike Conduct may be given if the official determines that the player made the incorrect call on purpose.

- 2) If in doubt, the player must give the benefit of any doubt to his/her opponent, regarding line calls.
- 3) If in the opinion of the Court Supervisor or Referee an incorrect line call is a deliberately blatant action, the offending player will automatically lose the point and may receive a code violation for

Unsportsmanlike conduct.

- 4) All “out” or “fault” calls should be made promptly after the ball has bounced and must be loud enough for the opponent to hear.
- 5) If a player incorrectly calls a ball “out” and then realizes that the ball was good, the point should be replayed, unless it was a point winning shot or unless that player made an incorrect “out” call earlier in the match. In these circumstances, the player who called “out” loses the point.
- 6) A service “Let” may be called by either player/team.
- 7) Foot faults may only be called by an official standing on court or by a chair umpire. Players may be requested to correct their foot-faulting problem by a Referee or Court Supervisor, who will require the player to make an effort during the match to rectify the problem. The receiver may not call a foot fault against the server.
- 8) The receiver must play to the reasonable pace of the server. Both players must ensure they restrict their warm-up time and minimize time between points and at change of ends.
- 9) To avoid controversy over the score, the server should announce the game score before starting a game and the point score prior to serving for each point and must be loud enough for his/her opponent to hear.
- 10) If players cannot agree on the score, they should calmly discuss the points/games that are disputed. All points or games which the players agree on stand and only those in dispute should be replayed i.e., two players cannot agree on whether the score is 40-30 or 30-40 and disagree only on who won the first point in the game. The game shall continue from 30-30, since both players agree that they have won two points each.

When the game score is in dispute the same principles apply i.e., two players cannot agree on 4-3 or 3-4, and disagree only on who won the second game. The match shall continue from 3-3, since both players agree that they won three games each. The player who received in the last game that was played will serve in the next game.

Where there is a score dispute, a player must make a reasonable effort to remember the actual score i.e., points/games played.

- 11) When a player has created an involuntary hindrance (ball falling out of pocket, hat falling off, etc.), the first time a “let” should be called and any similar hindrance thereafter will be ruled deliberate.
- 12) Any hindrance caused by a player that is ruled deliberate by the relevant official will result in the loss of a point.
- 13) Where a ball interrupt play, either by rolling/bouncing onto the court, and/or creating a visible interruption behind the court a let should be played. Either player can call a let in these circumstances provided they do so in a timely manner. Where this is between a 1st and 2nd serve, a second serve only should be played.
- 14) In a situation where a ball is lying on the court at the commencement of the point (1st or 2nd serve) it will be deemed to be part of the court during the rally. Movement of this ball during the rally does not constitute hindrance.

- 15) When ball persons are not available, all balls on your side of the net are your responsibility to pick up and return directly to the server.
- 16) Players are entitled to request their opponent to remove the ball from the court prior to the commencement of the point.
- 17) The receiver should not return the first service if it is an obvious fault – let it go by or ground it.
- 18) Either player may call a “Let”, “Net”, “Not-Up” or “Foul Shot”, providing this occurs in a timely manner. When there is a dispute regarding these, an official should try to determine from the players what happened and make a decision as they deem appropriate which may include replying to the point.
- 19) Players should only leave the court for a toilet break, or any other reason, with the permission of Referee or Court Supervisor.
- 20) If at the completion of a match, the players involved realize that the scoring format used was incorrect, the match result shall stand provided all players have left the court enclosure. If the mistake is realized before the players have left the enclosure, the correct scoring format should be used to finalize the match. If this is not possible (i.e., the match has progressed beyond the point where the correct scoring format can be implemented), then the score based on the incorrect format stands. (Refer to correcting errors in the Rules of Tennis).
- 21) Where a Code Violation second offence / Point Penalty is determined by the Referee or Court Supervisor this may be applied at any time during the specific game where the offence occurs. If the point penalty cannot be issued during the specific game a code violation second offence will still be issued. It should be noted that any code violation second offence between games is deemed to be part of the following game.
- 22) Screaming regularly and loudly, whether in relation to winning and/or losing a point is likely to cause interference to play on nearby courts and may be considered Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
- 23) Constant or overt celebration, or celebration directed at an opponent may be considered intimidation, and therefore unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 24) If a player is unhappy with his/her opponent's actions or decisions, he/she should call the Referee or Court Supervisor immediately.

ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR MATCHES PLAYED ON CLAY COURTS

For matches played on clay courts, there are some additional procedures that all players should follow:

1. A ball mark can only be checked on a point ending shot, or when play is stopped (a return is permitted, but then the player must immediately stop).
2. Players are prohibited from checking the mark of the ball on their opponent's side of the court, unless invited by their opponent to do so.
3. If a player erases the mark, he/she is conceding the call.
4. If there is a disagreement over a ball mark, the Referee or Court Supervisor can be called to make a final decision. However, where a player is consistently making incorrect calls resulting in numerous ball mark inspections, a Code Violation may be applied.

5. If a player calls a ball "out", he/she should, in normal circumstances, be able to show the correct mark.
6. If a player incorrectly calls a ball "out" and then realizes that the ball was good, the player who called "out" loses the point.

ETIQUETTE

1. Players are always expected to shake hands with their opponent(s) at the completion of a match.
2. Do not enlist the aid of spectators, including parents, coaches in making line calls, or attempting to determine the score or other on-court matters.
3. Wait until a point is over before walking behind a court where a match is in progress.
4. To retrieve a ball from another court or to return a ball to another court, wait until the players have completed a point.
5. Do not stall, sulk, complain or practice gamesmanship.
6. In doubles, when returning service, the partner of the receiver should generally call the service line for him/her. The receiver should generally call the centre and side service lines. The call needs to be loud enough to stop their opponents/partner playing.

7.



Tennis acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, rest and play, and pay our respect to Elders past and present.