



# **2026 NSW High School Championships**

## OVERVIEW

The 2026 NSW High School Championship is an event delivered by Tennis NSW that is the direct pathway through to the Gallipoli Youth Cup (National High School Championships). The event will offer participating schools from each school sport association (CHS, CSNSW and CIS) the opportunity to compete at a state championship event and earn entry into the Gallipoli Youth Cup (GYC) where they will compete against the best schools from around Australia. Our vision for this event is to establish a clear state level pathway that recognises our NSW State Champion teams each year.

## WELCOME

Welcome from Tennis New South Wales,

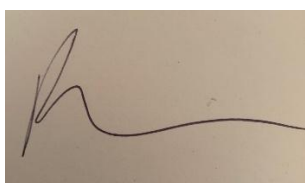
On behalf of Tennis New South Wales, I extend a warm welcome to all students, teachers, team officials and parents ahead of the 2026 NSW High School Championship to be held in Newcastle. Congratulations on being selected to represent your school, we hope you enjoy the experience of participating in this prestigious event.

In the absence of an All-Schools tennis event being delivered by the School Sport Associations, Tennis NSW is excited to play a role in delivering the 2026 NSW High School Championship as the premier secondary school team tennis event in NSW. This event provides an opportunity for the best secondary school teams to come together to play against each other, celebrating their achievements at the state level and offering an opportunity for further representation nationally. The event also provides a unique opportunity to forge new friendships and memorable experiences.

For some of you, it will be your first opportunity to play representative team tennis at a state level, while for others it presents an opportunity to capitalise on quality matchplay opportunities as you look towards future national and international tennis success. To all competitors, whatever your goals, we wish you all the very best for the tournament ahead.

We would finally like to recognise the schools, their teachers and coaching staff who provide high quality, year-round tennis programs and competitions within their school and school sport association environments, without which this level of competition would not exist.

Patrick Landy

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background, appearing to read "Patrick Landy".

School Development Manager  
Tennis New South Wales

## EVENT DATES

Friday 11 September 2026 – Sunday 13 September 2026 (official arrival Thursday 10 September 2026).

## EVENT VENUE

Newcastle & District Tennis Association ([Cnr Curley Road, Lambton Rd, Broadmeadow NSW 2292](#) - primary venue) and Kotara Park Tennis Club ([202 Park Ave, Kotara NSW 2289](#) - secondary venue).

## EVENT ENQUIRIES

For all event enquiries, please contact the following Tennis NSW and/or Tennis Australia staff.

Patrick Landy – Schools Development Manager – Tennis NSW / Tournament Director

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M: 0478 664 450

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## WET WEATHER CONTINGENCY

There are multiple wet weather contingency plans, these are as follows:

**Plan A:** Should wet weather come into play when the event has already commenced, match formats can be reduced at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

**Plan B:** Proposed wet weather postponement dates - Friday 18 September 2026 – Sunday 20 September 2026.

Wet weather decisions will be made as early as possible in the days leading up to the event.

All other extreme weather situations will be guided by the relevant Tennis Australia [Regulations and Code of Behaviour | Competitive Play | Tennis Australia](#).

## OFFICIALS

Tennis NSW will provide a Tournament Director and officials for the event.

## EVENT ENTRIES

Nominations (including wildcard applications) can be submitted [online here](#) and will close 5pm Friday 14 August 2026\*

\*late entries can be accepted when a School Sport Associations playoff event occurs shortly after this deadline.

## QUALIFICATION

**Schools qualify for this event as follows:**

- Winning boys and girls team from CIS\*
- Winning boys and girls team from CSNSW
- Top 2 boys and girls teams from CHS
- 4 x wildcard applications will be approved based on the team's average UTR rating NB: wildcard applications must have competed in their relevant school sport association pathway.



Wildcard applications will be assessed using the team's average UTR rating based on their 4 strongest players. Because this is a singles and doubles competition, the highest UTR will be used for each player).

\*this year (2026) there is no CIS playoff so the 1 x CIS position will be offered as an additional wildcard position that is only available to a school affiliated with CIS.

### **Gallipoli Youth Cup (National High School Championship)**

The winners of the NSW High School Championship will gain automatic acceptance into the 2026 GYC (1 boys and 1 girls team). Teams who do not win the NSW event can apply for a wildcard into the GYC (only if they have participated in the NSW High School Championship). Wildcard applications into GYC are not guaranteed.

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to compete in the 2026 NSW High School Championships, all players must be a current student, enrolled with the relevant school. Please note – proof of enrolment may be requested by Tennis NSW to confirm eligibility from time to time. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit from the event.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

If parents and families are interested in visiting tourist attractions whilst in Newcastle, please visit [Newcastle, North Coast – Accommodation, things to do & more | Visit NSW](#).

## TOURNAMENT TIMETABLE

### THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER (OFFICIAL ARRIVAL DAY)

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00am – 4:00pm	Teams to arrive in Newcastle
1.00pm – 5:00pm	Practice sessions at Newcastle & District Tennis Association – court allocation provided closer to the tournament
4:15pm – 4:45pm	Team Manager Meeting – Tennis NSW to explain rules and procedures of the tournament. Team Managers to ask and clarify any rules and regulations at this time. This will be held in the Newcastle & District Tennis Association clubhouse.
5:00pm – 5:45pm	Opening Ceremony – All Players and Team Managers to be in attendance.
6:00pm – onwards	Welcome BBQ Dinner

### DAY 1

### FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00am-8:15am	Teams listed on the left of the schedule to warm-up on the lower number match court assigned for the morning match tie. Teams listed on the right of the schedule to warm-up on the higher number match court assigned for the morning match tie.
8:30am-12:30pm	Round 1 matches
12-1pm	Lunch Break
1:00pm-5:00pm	Round 2 matches
6:00pm	Teams free to do independent dinner

## DAY 2

### SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00am-8:15am	Teams listed on the left of the schedule to warm-up on the lower number match court assigned for the morning match tie. Teams listed on the right of the schedule to warm-up on the higher number match court assigned for the morning match tie.
8:30am-12:30pm	Round 3 matches
12-1pm	Lunch Break
1:00pm-5:00pm	Semi Final matches (all teams play for position)
6:00pm	Teams free to do independent dinner

## DAY 3

### SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00am-8:15am	Teams listed on the left of the schedule to warm-up on the lower number match court assigned for the morning match tie. Teams listed on the right of the schedule to warm-up on the higher number match court assigned for the morning match tie.
8:30am-12:30pm	Final (all teams play for position)
12:30-1pm	Closing Ceremony & Presentations <i>Please note that all players and Team Managers are expected to stay for the Presentations which includes team photos. Presentations will be conducted at 12:30pm or as soon as possible once the final match concludes.</i>
1:00pm	Teams Depart

## FORMAT

- 1) There will be 8 teams involved in each division of the competition (Boys and Girls). The makeup of each division is:
  - 2 x CHS
  - 1 x CSNSW
  - 1 x CIS
  - 4 x wildcard teams\*

\*Wildcard applications will be assessed using the team's average UTR rating based on their 4 strongest players. Because this is a singles and doubles competition, the highest UTR will be used for each player. See the 'qualification' section of this document for further information.

- 2) There will be a Round Robin stage made up of two pools of four teams. Following the completion of the round robin stage, there will be Semi Final and Finals (Positional Playoffs) stages as follows.
- 3) Semi Finals:
  - 1st Pool A Vs 2nd Pool B (Semi Final #1)
  - 2nd Pool A Vs 1st Pool B (Semi Final #2)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Pool A Vs 4<sup>th</sup> Pool B (Semi Final #3)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Pool A Vs 3<sup>rd</sup> Pool B (Semi Final #4)
- 4) Finals (Positional Playoffs):
  - Winner of Semi Final #1 Vs Winner of Semi Final #2 (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Loser of Semi Final #1 Vs Loser of Semi Final #2 (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)
  - Winner of Semi Final #3 Vs Winner of Semi Final #4 (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>)
  - Loser of Semi Final #3 Vs Loser of Semi Final #4 (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)

NB: all teams are required to play their allocated semifinal and final (Positional Playoff) to maximise match play and determine overall ladder positions.

- 5) School teams will consist of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 players.
- 6) Matches will consist of 6 rubbers (4 singles and 2 doubles matches).
- 7) Singles matches will be best of 3 sets; the first 2 sets will be first to 6 games with a tie breaker (first to 7 points) at 6-6. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and deciding set (if needed) will be a match tiebreaker (first to 10 points).
- 8) Doubles matches will be best of 3 sets, the first 2 sets will be short 'Fast Four' sets first to 4 games with a tie breaker (first to 7 points) at 4-4. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and deciding set (if it is needed) will be a match tiebreaker (first to 10 points).

## RULES

- 1) Each Team will consist of 4-6 players: 4-6 boys in the boys and 4-6 girls in the girls. Boys and girls' competition are conducted as separate events.
- 2) Players will be numbered 1 to 4 within each team (or 1 to 5 to 6 for teams with more than 4 players), with 1 being the strongest player and 4 being the weakest. Each player's singles UTR rating (taken at the time of competition entry) must be used for each team's order.
- 3) This order cannot be changed throughout the event i.e. when a player is substituted then each player must move up a position. If two players are substituted, then players will need to move up two positions.
- 4) The match will consist of 6 rubbers: - 4 x singles matches 1 v 1, 2 v 2, 3 v 3, 4 x 4 and 2 x doubles matches (top pair and second pair). NB: Doubles pairs can be any combination from the team e.g. 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 1 and 4, 2 and 3 however if the number one doubles player (player with the highest UTR doubles rating) is playing doubles in any given round, then they must be the top pair.
- 5) Doubles pairs may be changed from match to match but not during a match.
- 6) The winner will be decided on rubbers first e.g. 5 rubbers to 1.
- 7) If the rubbers are tied at 3-3 then the team winning the most sets will be declared the winner. If sets are equal, then the team winning the most games is the winner.
- 8) During the finals/playoffs, if rubbers, sets and games are equal then tie breakers will be played for each singles match using a match tie breaker only (first to 10 points) – the team winning the most tie breaks will be declared the winner. If tie-breaks are tied, then a final doubles match tie break will be played to decide the winning team, teams may select any two players to compete in this final match tie breaker.
- 9) All rubbers must be played in the round robin/pool stages. During the finals/playoffs, if a result has been determined then play can cease if both team managers agree.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. Eligibility

Team members must be enrolled as fulltime students at the school in which they are representing. This is to be verified by the principal of the school.

### 2. Match Rules / Conditions of Play

#### 2.1 Team Eligibility

- 2.2 Each representative team shall have a maximum of six (6) players. Eligible players will be printed on the scorecards.
- 2.3 Players are to be ranked in order of singles ability 1-6 based on their singles UTR Rating (As displayed on the scorecards)
- 2.4 Ranking of players for singles matches are to be based on singles UTR i.e. the player with the highest singles UTR must play in the number 1 singles position.
- 2.5 The singles rankings are to remain the same for the duration of the competition. Example: If the No.1 ranked singles player is not chosen to contest a tie, all players would move up one place for the tie, to retain singles ranking order.
- 2.6 Doubles rankings and/or pairings may be altered from tie to tie. The highest rated player (based on doubles UTR Rating) selected to play doubles in that tie, must play in the number 1 doubles rubber. In the case of a Provisional or Unrated player in doubles, the Tournament Director will discuss and finalise a confirmed doubles position with the relevant coach.
- 2.7 A maximum of six (6) players only may be used in any Tie, singles and/or doubles, at the coach's discretion.
- 2.8 Doubles pairings must be nominated at the completion of the 2nd singles rubber (if not before). Play should be continuous, and the first available doubles to commence on the first available court.

### 3. Match Format

- 3.1 The same type of draw is to be used for boys and girls.
- 3.2 Subject to court availability, only 3 singles rubbers, per tie are to be scheduled at one time.
- 3.3 Singles rubbers are the best of two sets, traditional tie break at 6 games all. At one set all, a match tie breaker (first to 10 points) to be played for the third set. Doubles matches will be best of 3 sets, the first 2 sets will be short 'Fast Four' sets first to 4 games with a tie breaker (first to 7 points) at 4-4. The 3rd and deciding set (if it is needed) will be a match tiebreaker (first to 10 points).
- 3.4 The playing format is subject to change if there are weather delays or other scheduling impacts.

#### 3.5 National Disciplinary Policy

With the inclusion of these rules, all matches will be conducted in accordance with all of Tennis Australia's national policies, including but not limited to the Code of Behaviour policy.

#### 3.6 Forfeit

- 3.7 In the event of a forfeit in a match due to illness or injury, that player may be substituted for a

remaining match.

**3.8** In the event of a forfeit in a rubber due to illness or injury, the score that has been reached in the rubber stands and is recorded on the result sheet as same. The injured player automatically loses the rubber. If a player is injured in a singles rubber and were nominated for doubles, they may be substituted. No player that retires due to injury shall retake the court unless cleared by a physio or doctor.

**3.9** All ties must commence at the specified time given as per program/referee's discretion. If a team does not have a player/s ready to commence a rubber after 10 minutes has elapsed from the commencement time, the offending team will forfeit the rubber. If after another 10 minutes has elapsed from the commencement time (i.e. 20 minutes in total), the offending team will forfeit the entire tie.

### **3.10 Determining a tie winner**

Ties will be decided firstly in favour of the team winning the most rubbers. In the situation where the rubbers are equal, then the following rules will apply:

- If rubbers are even, then the team winning the greater number of sets will win the tie.
- If sets are even, the team winning the greater number of games will win the tie.

### **3.11 Final placings**

Placing of teams after the round robin order will be based on the following in all competitions –

- The team which wins the greatest number of ties.
- If two teams win an equal number of ties, the head-to-head result between the teams shall decide the winner.
- If three or more teams win an equal number of ties, the following procedure will be used:
  1. The number of matches won shall decide the winner.
  2. If matches won are equal, the percentage of sets won of sets played against all teams in the pool shall decide the winner.
  3. If percentage of sets won is equal, the percentage of games won of games played against all teams in the pool shall decide the winner.

When three or more teams are tied, head-to-head results are never used to determine the positions in the group.

### **3.12 Postponement of Play**

If ties are postponed due to inclement weather, those ties will be completed before the next round of ties commence. If inclement weather prevails, the final decision for play will be made by the Tournament Director/s.

### **3.13 Officials**

### **3.14 Continuity of Play**

A nominated team manager may elect to sit inside the court during play but may only give

instructions to his/her player/s at the change of ends (i.e. within the specified time limit of 90 seconds). The nominated person must be registered on the team scorecard at the commencement of the tie.

### **3.15 Disputes**

Complaints concerning infringements of rules must be made to the Tournament Director/s and/or officials who will decide if an infringement has occurred and act accordingly.

### **3.16 Uniforms**

Identifiable team uniforms are encouraged.

## **4. Competition Requirements**

4.1 Each Competition shall, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned, be open to a team representing NSW at the Australian High School Championship (Gallipoli Youth Cup) or a second team from a School with the strongest depth in the relevant age group (based on UTR Rating), in each case as approved from time to time by Tennis NSW in its absolute discretion.

4.2 The competitions shall be held annually, unless otherwise determined by Tennis NSW, and in accordance with these regulations and with those adopted from time to time by Tennis NSW.

4.3 The Management of each competition may be delegated to an Organising Committee appointed by Tennis NSW.

4.4 The competition shall take place on dates and at a venue determined by Tennis NSW. Tennis NSW shall in each case determine the venue for each competition.

4.5 The minimum requirement shall be to provide 24 courts per competition (12 for Boys and 12 for Girls division) of the same surface. In the case of inclement weather, alternate court surfaces may be used at the discretion of the Tournament Director to complete the tournament.

4.6 The Venue hosting a competition shall provide:

- i) Sufficient courts of an approved surface and standard.
- ii) Singles sticks (2) and one measuring stick (unless appropriate markings appear on one of the singles sticks) per match court.
- iii) Adjustable centre net strap per match court. iv) Scoreboards v) Court Lights vi) Umpires' chairs (for chair-umpired matches if applicable), player & manager seating (preferably with shade). Spectator seating is also recommended.
- vii) Access to a clubhouse, lounge area, changerooms (with toilets & showers), and Tournament Director/Referee office.

## **5. Competition Scheduling**

5.1 All teams' events will be played as three-day events.

5.2 All matches within the round robin or pool stage of a tie must be played. The order of play for all ties is as follows –

- 1 v 1 Singles
- 2 v 2 Singles

- 3v 3 Singles
- 4 v 4 Singles
- Doubles (top pair)
- Doubles (second pair)

5.3 The order of play for a tie of the day can be changed if in the interests of time. This decision will be made by the Tournament Director in consultation with the relevant team managers.

5.4 The order of merit of the team shall be maintained throughout the event, replacements shall occupy the last position, with the other players moving up accordingly.

## 6. Competition Requirements (cont.)

6.1 Any team giving a walkover without sufficient reason (of which the Tournament Director/s shall be the sole judge) shall forfeit all possible points which it may score throughout the entire competition.

6.2 Except at the Tournament Director/s discretion, there shall be a thirty (30) minute maximum interval between the morning and afternoon ties. The Tournament Director will determine the exact length of the break. There will be a maximum interval of thirty (30) minutes between the singles and doubles rubbers within a given tie, unless all parties consent to a lesser time.

6.3 A Tournament Director shall be appointed by Tennis NSW for each competition. He/she shall be the final on-site authority for the interpretation and implementation of the Rules of Tennis and the Tennis NSW Code of Behaviour. The Tournament Director/s has the authority to alter the conditions of play, the format of the competition and any other matter considered necessary.

6.4 Tournament Director/s duties include:

- Deciding whether courts are fit for play.
- Determination as to the awarding of a rubber shall a player be absent or unwilling to play when called.
- Deciding whether a match shall be postponed if, in his opinion, the state of the courts, the state of the weather, or the light, or other sufficient reason renders it expedient for him to do so.
- Determine a suspension of play for an accidental injury (An unlimited injury assessment period will be allowed. A suspension period of three minutes per injury will be allowed).
- Determine the resumption of play after a postponement.

If play cannot be continued on the same day, a program of matches shall continue as drawn.

- At the discretion of the Tournament Director, four singles rubbers in a match be played at the same time.

6.5 Only balls approved by Tennis NSW shall be used in the competitions. Each match will be played with three new tennis balls.

6.6 The Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour and all other relevant Tennis Australia and Tennis NSW policies, guidelines and procedures shall apply to these competitions.

- 6.7 A player defaulted during a match shall be defaulted for the remainder of the tie against that team.
- 6.8 The Tournament Director/s and/or officials shall then determine whether the offence warrants suspension for the remainder of the competition or whether the player shall be allowed to play further matches against other States/Countries.
- 6.9 Any player retiring or forfeiting a match due to injury can only be permitted to compete in subsequent matches within that same tie and subsequent ties (either on the same day or other competition days) by a physiotherapist or doctor.
- 6.10 Any dispute arising from the competition except as herein before provided, shall be determined by Tennis NSW, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

## 7. Format & Seedings

- 7.1 An 8-team round robin will be played, with teams being split into two pools of four. Teams will be seeded 1-8 and will be drawn into the two pools as follows:
- Team 1 & Team 2 – Placed into separate pools
  - Team 3 & Team 4 – Placed into separate pools at random
  - Teams 5 through to Team 8 – Placed randomly into pools
- 7.2 Each team will play the other three teams in their pool once during the competition, with each team having to play two ties for the first two days of the competition.
- 7.3 Teams will then play off in semi-finals based on their order after the completion of the round robin stage.
- 7.4 The Universal Tennis Rating (UTR Rating) will be used to determine seedings for the tournament.
- i) For all competitions seeding will be based on the top four players UTR Ratings per team.

## 8. Administration

- 8.1 The Entry Fee will be AUD\$660.00 per team entered (inclusive of GST).
- 8.2 Tennis NSW reserves the right to alter or amend these regulations at any time and in any within seven (7) days of the completion of the competition the Tournament Director/s and/or officials shall forward to Tennis NSW:
- i) A report on the competition; ii) Completed code of behaviour violation forms.

Except as expressly described above, Tennis NSW shall have the sole and absolute discretion to determine any matter relating to:

- 8.3 The interpretation and/or implementation of these regulations and any matter or things arising from them; or
- 8.4 the conduct and administration of the competitions the subject of these regulations.