



Interdistrict Competition 2026

ADMINISTRATION & PLAYING RULES

Tennis NSW

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A1 Management

The competitions shall be under the general control of Tennis NSW (TNSW) which shall exercise the powers of a Referee.

The competition is open to all Associations affiliated with the NSW Hardcourt Tennis Association Inc and Invitee Associations & Clubs.

A2 Composition

The following Cups will be competed for:

F O Blackwell Cup	3 Men – Open
Angus & Coote Cup	3 Women – Open
Presidents Cup	3 Boys 16 years & under
Irene Matthews Cup	3 Girls 16 years & under
Esca Stephens Cup	3 Boys 14 years & under
J T Wade & H W Neal Cup	3 Girls 14 years & under
A J McAndrew Cup	3 Boys 12 years & under
M C Crakanthorp Cup	3 Girls 12 years & under
Stan Pedersen Cup	3 Boys 10 years & under
Harry Beck Cup	3 Girls 10 years & under

Age restrictions for “Seniors” Cups may vary to suit entry numbers.

A3 Invitee Associations

Subject to the approval of Tennis NSW, invitations may be issued to their affiliates who are not members of the NSW Hardcourt Association Inc to participate in this competition. All Associations entering the competition shall conform to these Rules. Any decision relative to this matter shall devolve upon the Hardcourt Competition Committee in consultation with TNSW.

A4 Playing Dates

Tennis NSW shall determine the playing dates of the competition, and each Association shall be notified accordingly.

A5 Entry Fees

TNSW shall determine all fees not later than February of each year. Payment of the prescribed fees shall be deemed to be acceptance of these Rules in their entirety. Should a team withdraw or be disqualified from the competition after entries have closed and grading has been completed, entry fees shall be Non Refundable unless under exceptional circumstances as determined by TNSW.

A6 Entries

- a) All entries shall be lodged in the required format online or as determined on or before the closing date.
- b) All Associations, including Invitee Associations, shall at the time of entry, submit a full list of the players of each team in the format required by TNSW
- c) For singles play each Association **MUST seed its players in order of merit**. Such seeding shall be subject to the approval of TNSW and shall not be altered during the progress of the competition without the permission of TNSW.
- d) Each team shall not contain more than eight (8) players at any one time except for "Seniors" Cups who shall be allowed ten (10) players. Associations may de-register players to meet this requirement but once de-registered a player shall not be permitted to compete in future matches of the current competition.

A7 Late Registrations

Late registration of players after the initial entry may be considered. Details of reserve players are to be provided on the Result Sheet together with the new seeded order & are to be forwarded to TNSW by the Monday following the match. TNSW may, at its discretion, reject the application for extra registration

A8 Eligibility of Players

- a) All players must be
 - 1. Registered members of the Association or club that they are chosen to represent
 - 2. Affiliated members of Tennis NSW
- b) No player shall represent more than one Association /Club during any one competition.
- c) Eligibility for Angus & Coote and Blackwell Cups is a minimum age of 15 years as at 30th September in the year of the competition.
Any alteration to this Rule is subject to twelve months notice.

- d) A player once ruled ineligible shall not compete in any future matches in the current competition and points forfeited for matches played
- e) Players who have competed in a Play Off, Semi Final or Final match of one Cup shall not be eligible to play in a Play Off, Semi Final or Final match of another Cup in the same competition.

A9 Grading

- a) All teams shall be graded on perceived ability using all aids available, with current UTR rating the main guideline. Only the UTR of the top 3 players in each team will contribute to the grading
- b) ALL Divisions in the competition will comprise 4 teams where possible.
- c) After the preliminary grading of teams by the Hardcourt Competition Committee, each Association will be advised & asked for comment where they may advise on grading. The Competition Committee will consider each request on its merits and make a decision accordingly.
- d) Where there are two teams from the same Association in the same division of a Cup they will be drawn in the earliest possible round.
- e) Junior players are required to participate in their own age group except where they are chosen to represent in the No 1 team of any higher age group. Junior players may be selected in the Association's 2nd team in a higher age group but are only permitted to advance one age group. Juniors may play in any team of the Blackwell or Angus & Coote Cups providing they have attained the age of 15 years as at 30th September in the year of the competition.
- f) Each Association may nominate any number of teams for each Cup
- g) Where the number of entries does not meet the constraints of the draw, TNSW in consultation with the Competition Committee may seek additional teams or reduce the number to meet these constraints.

A10 Match Results

- a) The official Score Sheet, signed by both captains, must be filled out & retained by the home association.
- b) The results of ALL matches, semi finals and Divisional Finals are to be entered into MATCH CENTRE by the Captains /Managers of both teams by 8.00pm on the day of the match.

A11 Court & Equipment

Suitable & properly equipped courts are to be provided & should comply with conditions of a Championship Court. This should include minimum 3.5 metres at back, 2 metres at side, an umpires stand, centre band and singles sticks.

ALL Blackwell & Angus & Coote matches & Premier 1 and 2 matches of all junior cups (except for Under 10 s) are to be provided with two (2) courts per match.

A12 Trophies- Provision of Trophies

A maximum of four (4) trophies to each team for Open & Junior events & five (5) trophies for Veterans events will be provided.

Trophies shall be awarded to Cup Winners & Finalists as well as Divisional winners and Finalists from Div 3 & below.

No player or team shall be awarded more than one (1) trophy or set of trophies.

Any team which forfeits a complete match at Divisional Play Off, Semi Final or Final stages shall not be entitled to the award of any prize, award or trophy. Individual players are still eligible for the Rosewall or Hardcourt medals.

Associations may purchase additional trophies.

A13 Safe Custody of Trophies

- a) The NSW Hardcourt Tennis Association shall arrange for the engraving of all trophies at the conclusion of each year's competition
- b) Trophies will be presented to winning teams and Associations on the completion of all matches on Finals Day or at a time determined by the Competition Committee.

A14 Behavioural Complaints

All matters concerning behaviour and breaches of the Code of Conduct shall be referred to TNSW for investigation on or before the Wednesday following the match in which alleged incident took place.

If further action is required, it will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for adjudication.

A15 Championship Shield

The NSW Hardcourt Tennis Association shall award the George McKerihan Championship Shield to the Association recording the highest number of points from the Interdistrict Competition. Points are to be allocated as follows:

Winners - All Cups	10 points
Runners Up - All Cups	7 Points
Losing Semi Finalists (Min 6 teams entered)	2 Points
All Divisional Winners	2 Points
All Divisional Runners Up	1 Point

A16 Disputes & Protests

- a) All matters under dispute shall be forwarded to TNSW for investigation on or before the Wednesday following the day on which the match took place for investigation.
- b) If necessary, It will then be referred to the Competition Committee for a decision.
- c) The Association against whom the complaint is made shall, within 7 days, forward a written reply to TNSW
- d) In all cases of protests upon the result of a match, or on a decision during the match, the Home Association shall forward the score sheet, duly signed by the captains with any necessary reports from the referee or Duty Officer present.
- e) A Referee appointed by TNSW will adjudicate on any disputes that might arise during the progress of Finals matches.

A17 Interpretation of Rules

- a) The interpretation of these Rules shall devolve upon TNSW, which shall have the power to adjudicate upon any matter not specifically covered by these Rules. Any adjudication so made shall operate as a decision on the Rules and the right of appeal shall lie in the same way.
- b) TNSW also promulgate any special Rule at the commencement of any competition series by circular to all participating Associations.
- c) TNSW shall have the power to alter the format of the "Final" if necessary due to stress of weather or failing light.

A18 Tennis Attire

The correct tennis attire as determined by Tennis Australia shall be worn by both sexes.

a. **Tracksuit Jackets**

Tracksuit jackets may have the identification in writing on the back of the jacket of the Association each player is representing. The Association crest/logo may also be displayed on the front left hand side. The size of any advertising Logo shall be in accordance with Tennis Australia Regulations

b. **Tracksuit (Jackets and/or pants)** May be worn in extreme weather conditions at the discretion of the Host Association.

c. **Tennis Attire Not Permitted**

- Leisure suit slacks or similar garments when playing
- Clothing bearing lettering, writing or other illustrations obviously designed as advertisements.
Small manufacturers motifs and monograms are permissible.
- Sleeveless singlets for men.
- Scoops, scamps, stubbies or any kind of similarly designed clothing.

A19 Venue for Play Offs, Semi Finals & Finals

TNSW in consultation with the Competition Committee shall select courts for divisional finals, Semi Finals and Finals matches.

If the Association on whose courts the Finals are being played has spare courts available, these courts may be used to help finalise all matches on one day, at the discretion of the Duty Officer/Referee/Competition Committee

A20 Duty Officer

It is a condition of entry to the Interdistrict competition that each Association shall provide a Duty Officer for all Home matches at each venue.

Playing Rules

P1 Authority

The Association Secretary or Inter District Representative shall be the sole authority to approach the NSWHTA any matters relating to the Interdistrict competition.

P2 Interference

During the progress of a set/rubber, neither the captain, manager, nor any other person, shall coach, advise or instruct any player participating in that particular set/rubber.

P3 Courts for Matches

All matches for the Under 10 s and Division 3 and below in all Junior cups shall be played on one (1) court in ordinary rounds, divisional finals, semi-finals and finals.

Premier 1 & 2 (except 10 s) and all Open Cups will use 2 courts for all matches except FINALS where one (1) court only will be used.

All divisions of "Seniors" Cups will play on one(1) court, however two (2) can be used if available.

P4 Teams Playing for Cup

Only teams from Divisions Premier 1 & 2 shall compete for the "Cup". All other divisions shall compete for medals awarded to Winners & Finalists at the venue where these matches are played. Points are awarded towards to each district to determine the winner of the George McKerihan Shield.

P5 Commencement of Play

- a) **Ordinary Rounds:** 12:30pm and not before that time
- b) **Divisional Playoffs & Semi Finals:** 12.30pm and must finish (with the aid of lights, if necessary)
- c) **Finals** (All Cups) 9.00 am
- d) If a team does not have a pair on the court at the scheduled starting time, the opposing team shall be awarded the first set 6-0 or rubber 6-0 6-0. Thereafter, whilst a team continues in default, a further set or rubber shall be awarded at 30 minute intervals. Should a team be unable to proceed with a match as laid down by the rules for 2hrs, the entire match shall be forfeited. The decision to claim a forfeit shall be left to the teams concerned & once a decision has been made the set or rubber claimed shall not be played

- e) In the event of any match not commencing by 1:30pm in round matches because of inclement weather, the match shall be declared abandoned and the points shall be shared between both teams.
- f) The “Home/Host Association, or in the case of “Finals”, the duly appointed Referee shall be the Sole Arbiter as to matches being called off due to inclement weather or court playability.

P6 Continuity of Play

- a) Play shall be continuous for the entire match and no interval is permissible, except in the case of inclement weather. No more than three (3) minutes, including a hit-up shall elapse between the conclusion of any set/rubber and the commencement of the next set/rubber.
- b) No hit-ups permitted after each player has played a set. The captains of both teams shall be jointly responsible for the observation of this rule.
- c) Matches suspended for more than one (1) hour, due to inclement weather may be called off by the Duty Officer/Association. .Duty Officers/Associations shall be the sole arbiter in determining whether play shall cease and/or recommence. In matches where three (3) set singles are the format, play shall be deemed to have commenced/restarted provided that play is possible on at least one (1) court within the prescribed period.

N.B. Time wasted between sets/rubbers or consequent upon prolonged hit-ups is often responsible for unfinished matches which is undesirable. Captains should have their players ready to commence the next set/rubber, and strictly observe this rule. Teams will be allowed to claim a forfeit if opposing player(s) are not ready to commence play within three (3) minutes of the completion of the previous set/rubber.

P7 Termination of Play – Round Matches

Unless both captains/managers agree to cease play due to failing light, then play shall cease at 6:00pm (lights may be used if necessary). Any game in progress at 6:00pm must be completed.

P8 Abandoned Matches

All teams shall be on the grounds whatever the weather, unless a team captain/manager has telephoned the venue and received the decision that the court is unplayable. This decision must be made by 11.00am
No postponements will be allowed for any reason, except under exceptional circumstances. TNSW shall have the authority to cancel/abandon matches as required.

P9 Format of Play Round Matches, Div Play Offs & Semi Finals:-

ALL SETS IN ALL MATCHES

- First to 6 games with a 2 game advantage
 - 7 point tie breaker at 6 all with 2 point advantage
 - Long Deuces (no add all)
 - Order of Serve:
Home team has the choice to serve or receive in 1st set and all odd number sets
Visiting team has the choice in all even number sets
- a) Two(2) rounds or as determined by TNSW shall be played in each Cup.
 - b) All singles play: seeded players shall meet the corresponding seeded player of the opposing team. Where sets are played out of order as seeded, the sets are to be forfeited by the defaulting team. Promoted or additional players must be seeded in the new team on merit with UTR's being the principal method for seeding
 - c) The following FIXED format shall be followed:-

All Open Cups & Premier Divisions 1 & 2 of all Junior Cups (except 10 s)

The first two (2) matches shall be

- the No 1 Singles players & the doubles between 2 & 3 V 2 & 3
- At the conclusion of the first doubles, the remaining two (2) singles matches are to be played with the No 2 players first followed by the No 3 players.
- The remaining doubles shall then be played with the No 1 players being paired with whichever of the above singles finishes first, followed by the No 1 players with the remaining players

All Junior Cups Division 3 & below & all 10s matches

The first 2 sets shall be

- doubles, 1 & 2 V 1 & 2
- followed by 2 & 3 V 2 & 3.
- The No 1 Singles will then be played
- Followed by the No 3 Singles
- Followed by the No 2 Singles.
- The final set will be the remaining doubles 1 & 3 V 1 & 3

Senior Cups

All teams shall nominate their player rankings prior to the commencement of all matches

Matches shall consist of eight (8) Tie Break sets of doubles played on 1 court in the following order:

- 1&2 V 1&2,
- 3&4 V 3&4,
- 1&3 V 1&3,
- 2&4 V 2&4,
- 1&4 V 1&4,
- 2&3 V 2&3,
- 1&2 V 3&4,
- 3&4 V 1&2

P10 Format of Play – Finals

- a) Finals play to commence at 9.00am
- b) **Open & Junior Cups** (except 10 s) format is the same as round matches. Teams that usually use 2 courts will have 1 court only allocated for finals
- c) **Finals for 10 s matches** At the end of the normal 6 sets there will be 3 additional singles matches:
 - Number 2 singles
 - followed by Number 1 singles
 - followed by number 3 singles
- d) **Finals for Seniors** All teams shall nominate their players rankings prior to the commencement of play.

“Seniors” (35years & over) Cups shall play 10 sets in the following order:

- 1&2 V 1&2,
- 3&4 v 3&4,
- 1&3 V 1&3,
- 2&4 v 2&4,
- 1&4 V 1&4,
- 2&3 V 2&3,
- 1&2 V 3&4,
- 3&4 v1&2,
- 1&2 v 1&2,
- 3&4 v 3&4

Choice of Serve (To be read in conjunction with Rule P 9 & P12)

- e) **Winners - Semis & Finals & Divisional Play Offs/Finals** The result shall be decided solely on sets won against sets lost.

If sets are equal then games will be taken into account to determine the winner.

If both sets and games are equal a single Tie Break SET of doubles shall be played to determine the winner. (Teams may nominate any pairing to play the deciding set).

Home team to declare pairing first

- f) In all Finals matches where play does not commence or is stopped by stress of weather, the Referee or the Competition Committee may abandon the match & the team which was higher placed after the Semi Finals shall be declared the Cup Winner
- g) **Teams for Semi Finals (All Cups)**
In ALL Cups where there is only one (1) Division there will be no Semi Finals with the two (2) teams leading on points at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds advancing straight to the Final
- h) A minimum of 2 Divisions are required for Semi Finals to be conducted. The 3 teams leading on points at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds from Premier Division 1 together with the team leading on points from Premier Division 2 shall comprise the Semi Finalists. The draw shall be 1 v 4 & 2 v 3 (No 4 being the leading team from Div 2)
- i) **Divisional Playoffs/Finals**
For Divisions 3 & below a Divisional Play Off (Final) shall be played between the 2 teams leading on points at the completion of the preliminary rounds in each division.
This will be played on the same week as semi-finals for Premier 1 & 2 at a venue to be determined.
- j) **Inclement Weather**
Should matches be washed out or are incomplete due to stress of weather or failing light at Divisional Play Off or Semi final stage, the team leading in the point score at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds in Division 3 & below shall be declared the Division Winner.

For Premier Div 1 & 2 the two (2) teams leading at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds from Premier Division 1 shall advance to the Final.

P11 Eligibility for Div Play Offs, Semi Finals & Finals

In Divisional Playoffs, Semi Finals & Finals, no player shall be eligible to play unless he/she has competed in at least two (2) matches in the preliminary rounds of the Cup they are competing in. If a team receives a total forfeit or teams have a complete wet match or bye, they may nominate the players who would have participated under normal circumstances. Notification of players in these circumstances must be received no later than 7pm on the Monday immediately following the match. Players can be credited with only one (1) match for either a Bye, forfeit or wet match in any competition period

Players who have competed in a Playoff, Semi Final or Final match of one Cup, shall not be eligible to play in a Playoff, Semi Final or Final match of another Cup in the same competition.

P12 Tossing

Before play off, Semi Final or Finals matches commence, the respective captains shall toss for the choice of being either the Home or Visiting team. At this point, both captains shall declare their team players, after which no player/s may be changed unless Rule P14 "Substitution of Players" applies.

P13 Promoted Players

- a) In the event of an Association entering more than one (1) team in any one Cup a player in a lower team may, if necessity arises, play in a higher team. Promoted players may return to their original team only if they have played in three (3) matches or less in the higher team.
- b) Players who are originally graded in Blackwell Cup, Angus & Coote Cup, Irene Matthews Cup, President's Cup, Wade & Neal Cup, Esca Stephens, McAndrew & Crakanthorp Cup are NOT permitted to play in a lower age group in the current competition.
(Seniors Cups are considered to be a lower grading than Blackwell Cup and Angus & Coote Cup).

P14 Substitution of Players

- a) In the event of a player becoming incapacitated during the progress of a match, he/she may NOT be replaced by another player in that particular set/rubber in which he/she was participating
- b) A replacement by a player of a lower grading shall be allowed to complete the remaining sets/rubber
 - (i) If the singles sets/rubbers have commenced the substituted player shall take the place and grading of the player for whom he/she is substituting subject to b) above.

- (ii). If the singles sets/rubbers have not commenced the player's grading shall be progressed as set out in Order of Play.
- (iii). Any player who is substituted, shall not take any further part in that match.

P15 Forfeits – Withdrawals

- a) Should a team forfeit any part of a round match for reasons other than illness or injury suffered by one or more of its players during the playing of a match, the team shall be fined as follows:
 - (i) For all “Seniors” competitions & divisions 3 & below of all Junior competitions one(1) point for each player not in attendance.
 - (ii) For Blackwell Cup, Angus & Coote Cup & divisions Premier 1 & 2 of all Junior Cups two(2) points for each player not in attendance.
- b) Should the player rather than the association be responsible for the forfeit, the players concerned may be disqualified from participating in the Interdistrict competition for four (4) matches inclusive of Divisional Playoffs, Semi Final and Final matches.
- c) In the event of a team forfeiting two (2) or more matches it shall be disqualified from further competition.
- d) Should a team withdraw or be disqualified from the competition during the first round, all points for and against shall be deleted. Should a team withdraw or be disqualified from the competition during the second round, all points for and against shall be deleted for the second round only.

P16 Point Scores – Round Matches Only

All matches shall be decided solely on SETS WON AGAINST SETS LOST.

If equal on sets, games shall be taken into account to determine the winner.

Premier 1 and 2 Matches (except 10 s) will be allocated fourteen (14) points per match .

All “Seniors” matches shall be allocated 10 points per match.

Stan Pedersen & Harry Beck Cups together with divisions 3 & below of remaining Junior matches shall be allocated 8 points per match

Points shall be allocated as follows:

- a) **Winning team:** 2 points, plus 1 point for each set won and $\frac{1}{2}$ point for each incomplete/unplayed set
- b) **Losing team:** 1 point for each set won and $\frac{1}{2}$ point for each incomplete/unplayed set
- c) **Drawn matches:** 1 point to each team and 1 point for each set won.
- d) **Unfinished matches:** 1 point each team and 1 point for each set won and $\frac{1}{2}$ point for each incomplete or unplayed set.
If either team has won HALF of the scheduled sets and the games accumulated amount to one (1) more than the opposition could have possibly win in this match, then the result would be scored as a winning team as detailed in (a).
- e) **Forfeited Matches:** All points allotted to team receiving forfeit - no points to team giving the forfeit.
- f) **Unplayed Matches (other than Forfeit):** Allotted points to be shared equally between each team.

P17 Declaration of Winners

- a) In the event of two (2) or more teams being equal on points at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds their respective positions for the right to progress will be determined on averages i.e. Sets won over Sets played, and if the sets averages are equal, then the games will be taken into consideration.
- b) All forfeited sets must be noted on result cards, and such sets will not be recorded in averages where applicable

P18 Umpiring Responsibilities

- a) Umpiring of preliminary round matches is to be shared by both teams. The "Home" team will umpire first set/rubber and alternate thereafter.
- b) Teams may agree to confine umpires to Singles only
- c) In any match where one team requests an umpire at any stage of the match the other team must agree to participate.

- d) For “Finals” matches, endeavours will be made for the TNSW to provide umpires, otherwise the opposing captains shall mutually agree upon umpires.
- e) Ball persons from the team not umpiring must be provided for all singles matches

P19 Provision of Balls

- a) New & Approved Championship balls are to be used in all matches. Associations who have a “Sponsorship” arrangement with a ball supplier are permitted to use those balls providing they are approved & of Championship quality.
- b) For All 10 & U matches- Green balls must be used.
- c) In ordinary rounds the “Home Association” shall provide not less than three (3) new balls for each court.
- d) For Divisional finals, Semi-Finals & Final Matches, TNSW will provide the balls.

P 20 Rosewall Medal & Hardcourt Medal

These medals were created to recognise the best & fairest player over the course of the competition

The Rosewall Medal shall be competed for annually by all players participating in Premier 1 & 2 Divisions only of all Open & Junior Cups. The NSW Hardcourt Competition Committee will determine the winner based on player’s results through the rounds.

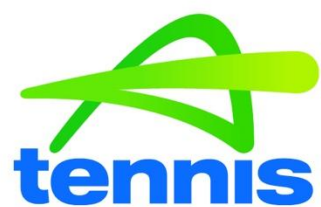
The Hardcourt Medal shall be competed for annually by all players competing in Seniors/Vets Cups. Team captains/ Managers are to email their nominations from the opposing team to the relevant contact following the conclusion of the match. If no one meets the criteria (as set out below) or you feel a player was not worthy of the “fairest” award on the day you need to write “NO NOMINATION”
Participating is compulsory.

Recipients of both medals are at the discretion of NSW Hardcourt Tennis Association.

Criteria

Open & Junior Cups - The nominee must win their singles match and at least one doubles.

Veteran Cups – The nominee must win at least three sets in the match.



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