



# Eastern Districts Tennis Association Juniors

RULES  
2023-24 season

## 1. Schedule of Matches

- 1.1 13 minor round matches will be played
- 1.2 First round commencing 20/21 October 2023
- 1.3 Last round before Christmas to be 8/9 December 2023
- 1.4 Break after 8/9 December 2023, and resuming on 2/3 February 2024
- 1.5 Last round to be played on 23/24 February 2024
- 1.6 Finals to be played over 3 weekends commencing 1/2 March with Grand Final on 22/23 March 2024
- 1.7 Matches will not be played over the Adelaide Christmas Pageant for Orange Ball Divisions – 4 November 2023
- 1.8 Orange Ball will not play finals and the premiership will be awarded to the team with the highest points and if then equal, the highest number of games. Last round to be played on 16 March 2023

## 2. Eligibility / Registrations / Clearances

- 2.1 Players must be registered members of their club, and details must be recorded in full on League Manager by 9:00am on the Tuesday following the match.
- 2.2 All players nominated must have registered and activated their own Competitive Player Profile in order to compete.
- 2.3 The junior competition is open to players aged under 18 years. For eligibility, age is taken to be as at the first match of the relevant season.
- 2.4 Any team playing a player listed on Tennis SA's list of ineligible players shall be penalised by losing any points the ineligible player has accrued and forfeit all sets played.
- 2.5 If a club has more than one team in a division, a player may play four matches before being bound to a team.
- 2.6 No player shall play for more than one club in any one series unless with a written clearance from that club and the written approval of Tennis SA. No clearance will be approved after four programmed matches. PENALTY: Loss of all sets played by offending player.
- 2.7 New players into a team who are not in the initial squad list must be approved by Tennis SA. If Tennis SA is not notified before match day, you will have until 5:00 PM Monday to notify Tennis SA or penalties will be opposed. Newly nominated players, who substantially alter the general standard of the team as originally graded, may not be accepted by Tennis SA. Penalty if player is not accepted – Loss of sets played by that player if the player is to play again in that team after being notified they are not eligible to play in that grade.
- 2.8 State League players who have played in the current calendar year cannot play in the EDTA Junior Competition.
- 2.9 A player cannot play in a Friday night and a Saturday morning match of the EDTA junior competition during the same round of matches.

## 3. Match Procedures

- 3.1 A) Friday night 6:00pm commencement - All players are to be at the venue by 5.45 pm to report to the allocated venue supervisor before the scheduled start time of 6:00pm. Players are permitted to a hit-up of no longer than 5mins – matches must commence no later than 6:05pm. Matches must conclude by 10:30pm and the result will stand. Any team not prepared to start the first programmed sets or set by 6:10pm shall forfeit that set or sets. Whole team forfeit if the team hasn't arrived by 6:45pm.  
 B) Saturday Morning Split-time 8:15am commencement – All players are to be at the venue by 8.00am to report to the allocated venue supervisor before the scheduled start time of 8:15am. Matches must conclude by 10:15am and the result will stand. Any team not prepared to start the first programmed sets or set by 8:30am shall forfeit that set or sets. Whole team forfeit if the team hasn't arrived by 9:00am  
 C) Saturday Morning Split-time 10:15am commencement – All players are to be at the venue by 10.00am to report to the allocated venue supervisor before the scheduled start time of 10:15am. Matches must conclude by 12:15pm and the result will stand. Matches may be put back 5 minutes to allow for a changeover period, if required by the venue supervisor. Any team not

prepared to start the first programmed sets or set by 10:30am shall forfeit that set or sets.  
Whole team forfeit if the team hasn't arrived by 11:00am.

- 3.2 Minimum of 1.5 courts available on Friday nights and minimum 2 courts available per match Saturday mornings.
- 3.3 Players must be ready to play at the stipulated match times.
- 3.4 Supervisors are required to rotate the singles order of play (where possible) on a weekly basis in fairness to all players in a team.
- 3.5 After commencement, play is to be continuous. The order of play may be amended by prior agreement between team managers and approval by the venue supervisor.
- 3.6 Whilst a match is in progress, no player(s) may leave the court without the approval of the Venue Supervisor. Failure to do so may result in forfeiting the set(s) in progress at the discretion of the venue supervisor.
- 3.7 If a team has more than four players and a player is injured in doubles he or she can be replaced (in singles) by a player who played doubles but was not originally listed in singles. Order of merit rule must be followed

#### **Friday Night (Yellow Ball) – under 18 years (boys and girls) – 4 singles and 2 doubles**

- 3.8 Teams may consist of up to 6 players.
- 3.9 Singles & Doubles – one six game set (tiebreak at 5 all, 1st to 7 points with advantage of 2). Number 1 or 2 singles player in order of merit does not have to play in the top doubles pairing.
- 3.10 Matches are to be played at the supervisor's discretion. Forfeits cannot be claimed if a single can be played on an available allocated court.
- 3.11 Order of merit – A player may only move up or down one position each week. A player may not move two positions or more without the approval of Tennis SA.
- 3.12 In the event of any sets having to be forfeited due to non-attendance of players, those forfeits shall commence from the bottom. If a set needs to be forfeited, the player to receive the forfeit must be present.
- 3.13 For all clubs who do not have lighting, Yellow Ball will play no advantage deuce. However, if the venue has lighting, Yellow Ball players will play advantage deuce.

#### **Saturday Morning (Orange Ball) Mixed Gender - 2 singles and 1 double**

- 3.13 Teams must consist of 1 to 4 players. A player may play between 1 and 3 sets. A player can only play once in the opening singles and once in the reverse singles. A club must use their best endeavours to ensure that two players are available to play. Please notify opposition if only one player is available.
- 3.14 Singles & Doubles – one straight 4 game set with no tiebreaker (i.e. the set is finished when the score reaches 4 games to 3). No Advantage – Receivers choice, if a game gets to deuce the winner of the next point will win the game. The receiver will get to choose which side of the court they will receive the serve from.
- 3.15 Matches should commence with singles matches first, followed by doubles.
- 3.16 In the event of any sets having to be forfeited due to non-attendance of players, those forfeits shall commence from the bottom. If a set needs to be forfeited, the player to receive the forfeit must be present.

#### **Saturday Morning (Green Ball) Mixed Gender – 4 singles and 2 doubles**

- 3.17 Teams may consist of up to 6 players.
- 3.18 Singles & Doubles – one straight 6 game set with no tiebreaker (i.e. the set is finished when the score reaches 6 games to 5). No Advantage – Receivers choice, if a game gets to deuce the winner of the next point will win the game. The receiver will get to choose which side of the court they will receive the serve from.
- 3.19 Matches should commence with the 2 doubles sets followed by the 4 singles sets. Where 2 courts are allocated per match, the venue supervisor can change the order of play with a single being played before a doubles in the event of the non-attendance of players, to allow 2 matches to commence. Forfeits cannot be claimed if a single can be played on an available allocated court.
- 3.20 If a team has more than four players and a player is injured in doubles he or she can be replaced (in singles) by a player who played doubles but was not originally listed in singles. Order of merit rule must be followed

- 3.21 Order of merit – A player may only move up or down one position each week. A player may not move two positions or more without the approval of Tennis SA.
- 3.22 in the event of any sets having to be forfeited due to non-attendance of players, those forfeits shall commence from the bottom. If a set needs to be forfeited, the player to receive the forfeit must be present.

#### **Saturday Morning (Yellow Ball) – (Boys) 4 singles and 2 doubles**

- 3.23 Teams may consist of up to 6 players.
- 3.24 Players aged under 13 years of any sex or gender identity will be allowed to participate in any yellow ball competitions.
- 3.25 Singles & Doubles – one straight 6 game set with no tiebreaker (i.e. the set is finished when the score reaches 6 games to 5).
- 3.26 Matches should commence with the 2 doubles sets followed by the 4 singles sets. Where 2 courts are allocated per match, the venue supervisor can change the order of play with a single being played before a doubles in the event of the non-attendance of players, to allow 2 matches to commence. Forfeits cannot be claimed if a single can be played on an available allocated court.
- 3.27 If a team has more than four players and a player is injured in doubles he or she can be replaced (in singles) by a player who played doubles but was not originally listed in singles. Order of merit rule must be followed
- 3.28 Order of merit – A player may only move up or down one position each week. A player may not move two positions or more without the approval of Tennis SA.
- 3.29 In the event of any sets having to be forfeited due to non-attendance of players, those forfeits shall commence from the bottom. If a set needs to be forfeited, the player to receive the forfeit must be present.

#### **Saturday Morning (Yellow Ball) – (Girls) 2 singles, 1 double and 2 reverse singles**

- 3.30 Teams must consist of 1 to 4 players. A player may play between 1 and 3 sets. A player can only play once in the opening singles and once in the reverse singles. A club must use their best endeavours to ensure that two players are available to play. Please notify opposition if only one player is available.
- 3.31 Players aged under 13 years of any sex or gender identity will be allowed to participate in any yellow ball competitions.
- 3.31 Singles & Doubles – one straight 6 game set with no tiebreaker (i.e. the set is finished when the score reaches 6 games to 5).
- 3.32 Matches should commence with singles matches first, followed by doubles and then reverse singles.
- 3.33 Order of merit – A player may only move up or down one position each week. A player may not move two positions or more without the approval of Tennis SA.
- 3.34 in the event of any sets having to be forfeited due to non-attendance of players, those forfeits shall commence from the bottom. If a set needs to be forfeited, the player to receive the forfeit must be present.

#### **4. Balls and Ball allocation**

- 4.1 On Friday nights: 8 cans of balls (32 balls) will be provided to the venue per team prior to the commencement of the first round. Excess balls will be retained at venues for finals. **The EDTA will allocate balls to each venue and each club will be invoiced by the association.**
- 4.2 On Saturday mornings: each yellow-ball team will provide to their allocated venue 4 cans (16 balls) of approved balls for all Saturday morning matches. The fourth can will be retained to replace lost / damaged balls and for finals. **The EDTA will allocate balls to each venue and each club will be invoiced by the association.**
- 4.3 Orange-ball and Green-ball venues will be provided with balls for matches by the EDTA for all Saturday morning matches. **The EDTA will allocate balls to each venue and each club will be invoiced by the association.**
- 4.4 All yellow-ball teams playing in finals may be asked to provide additional balls (2 per team) should the pre-season allocation be depleted.

## 5. Scoring

- 5.1 Matches shall be decided by sets and where sets are even, by games.

## 6. Forfeits

- 6.1 Clubs are expected to fill teams each week, however Clubs are not required to fill teams from top down.
- 6.2 A team proposing to forfeit a match, or a set shall notify the opposing team and venue supervisor as soon as possible (before match Commencement). A team so giving a forfeit, shall in the absence of providing a reasonable written explanation to the Recording Secretary prior to 9:00am the following Tuesday, be liable to lose four (4) Premiership points. **Via text, do not use the chat group (so the forfeit is in writing not verbal).**
- 6.3 Any team forfeiting three matches may be removed from the competition.

## 7. Weather Implications

- 7.1 In the event of extreme weather (including but not limited to rain or excessive heat) a message will be placed on the Tennis SA Website – [Inclement Weather Update](#) by ;  
 Friday 5:00pm – Friday Night (Yellow Ball)  
 Saturday 7:00am – Saturday Morning Split-time 8:15am commencement  
 Saturday 9:00am – Saturday Morning Split-time 10:15am commencement  
 Supervisors may cancel matches after a TSA announcement only if they believe their courts will be unsafe for play. If courts can be prepared to enable safe play and weather conditions improve, matches should commence as programmed. Any cancellation should be advised by text or email to Tennis SA when a supervisor has made that decision.
- 7.2 Matches will be cancelled when the projected forecast maximum temperature for match time (based on Adelaide West Terrace forecast), is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) is 36' Celsius or more. If the said forecast includes a temperature of less than 36' Celsius then Tennis SA may still also so cancel the said round in the manner set out above. **Any cancellation should be advised by via the EDTA Weather What's App group.**
- 7.3 In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather the following will occur:
- On the day set down for such, the matter shall be referred to the venue supervisor for decision. Players must remain at the courts until the venue supervisor has made the decision to abandon the match. No match shall be abandoned before 7:00pm on Friday or 9:00am on Saturday, except in the event of cancellation due to excessive heat.
  - If neither team is in an unbeatable position, both teams will receive 2 premiership points, plus one point for each set won, and the unplayed or unfinished sets will be deemed split between each team.
  - If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and given 4 premiership points, plus one point for each set won, and the unplayed or unfinished sets will be deemed split between each team.

The premiership ladder will be calculated using points ratio (average points per match played)  
 All venues must have equipment available for wet weather to dry courts. Every effort should be made to sweep or squeegee the courts before considering cancellation. If there has been no cancellation made by the Court Supervisor, matches shall proceed as scheduled.

## 8. Score Sheets and Recording Results

- 8.1 Score Sheets will be provided by the Venue Supervisor at the venue allocated. Each individual Team is required to print and bring their own scoresheet to the venue for their information and may take a photo of the Venue Supervisors or club representatives scoresheet at the conclusion of the match.

- 8.2 Team Managers or club representatives will be required to enter or confirm the results of their match on League Manager/ Match Centre by 9:00am on the Tuesday following the match.
- 8.3 Any unspecified player entered with a match result will not be able to use this record for the purpose of qualification for finals unless the match is disputed to allow the known player's name to be included.
- 8.4 The venue is to retain the score sheets with Semmens Award slip attached.

## 9. Match Disputes

- 9.1 All match disputes must be made to the venue supervisor for decision.
- 9.2 Please be aware that all teams are responsible for following the rules and regulations stated. It is the team's and club's responsibility to dispute a ruling if they believe they have been unduly affected by the result of a rule breach. Penalties will only take place after a dispute has been made and proven true. If teams are to break the rules the opposition has the right to dispute the result.

## 10. Premiership Table

- 10.1 Four premiership points will be awarded for a winning match and two points for a draw plus one premiership point for each set won. In Orange Ball, one point shall be awarded for each set won with no premiership points awarded for the winning match.
- 10.2 The premiership table will be decided by match ratio. (Match ratio is the Premiership points divided by the number **of matches played**) **If equal on match ratio then by sets, then games.**

## 11. Finals

- 11.1 Orange Ball will not play finals and the premiership will be awarded to the team with the highest points and if then equal, the highest number of games.
- 11.2 In all other Competitions The four teams securing the highest match ratio shall play off in the major round.
- 11.3 (A) The team finishing 1<sup>st</sup> plays the team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>;
- 11.4 (B) The team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> plays the team finishing 4<sup>th</sup>;
- 11.5 (C) the loser of (A) plays the winner of (B);
- 11.6 (D) The winner of (C) plays the winner of (A) in a Grand Final.
- 11.7 A Major Round draw shall be decided by both teams nominating their best doubles pairing and a match tiebreak (first to 10 points with an advantage of 2 points) played to decide the match.
- 11.8 In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather and no result is achieved the higher placed team will be considered the winner.

## 12. Finals Qualification

- 12.1 Nominations of teams for the finals must be submitted to League Manager no later than 9 am on the Tuesday following the 2nd last match of the season. Only qualified players are to be listed in order of merit noting that a maximum of 6 players can play in a team. Only qualified players are to be listed in order of merit noting that a maximum of 4 players for teams comprised of 2/3 players and noting that a maximum of 6 players for teams comprised of 5/6 players. All players not expected to play should be moved in League Manager to the Reserve list. Unqualified players can only be listed as fill-ins and should not be listed as base or reserve players. The squads will then be locked and reviewed by Tennis SA. Any changes required will be communicated with the relevant clubs no later than the Friday following. Teams must then play in the approved order of merit.
- 12.2 Players in the major rounds are to remain in the same order of their position of merit throughout the Finals Series– unless injury or similar requires any replacement players.
- 12.3 To play in any major round match, a player must have played the required number of minor round matches in that Division or lower within the EDTA Junior Competition. No player may play in finals matches unless that player is a registered member of Tennis SA and has played in no fewer than four (4) minor round matches at EDTA Junior Level in the current season.



- 12.4 Any matches not cancelled by Tennis SA will count towards qualification, provided all listed players attend the venue and submit a scoresheet in League Manager / Match Centre. If the match is not affected by inclement weather, then players must take the court to qualify.

### 13. Code of Behaviour Issues

- 13.1 All matches must be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour.  
 13.2 All Code of Behaviour reports shall be lodged by filling out the Tennis SA Competition Code of Behaviour Report by COB Tuesday following the match in which the incident took place.  
 13.3 Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.  
 13.4 *Team Managers are responsible for:*  
 (a) Educating all players in their team on their responsibilities in the Tennis Australia National Policies (particularly the Code of Behaviour and Disciplinary Policy); and Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship.

### 14. Penalties

- 14.1 Tennis SA may apply penalties for any breaches of the EDTA Junior Competition Rules other than Code of Behaviour matters. Tennis SA may determine a dispute in any way it sees fit and impose a penalty, including but not limited to the forfeit of matches or sets, and the loss of premiership points, on any club or player involved in such a dispute.

### 15. Venue Supervisors, General Duties

- 15.1 Shall ensure courts are prepared for match play and be in attendance during the times allocated, as well ensuring all players have arrived by the designated report time for matches to commence in a timely manner.  
 15.2 In the case of Saturday Morning competition, the Venue Supervisor is to ensure 8:15 matches are completed for 10.15 matches to commence and exercise the option, if appropriate, for the 10.15 matches to commence at 10.20.  
 15.3 Is required to rotate the singles order of play (where possible) on a weekly basis in fairness to all players in a team  
 15.4 Ensures players are not leaving the court without Venue Supervisor approval  
 15.5 Ensures any teams forfeiting any matches or sets to advise the team that they are scheduled to play and the supervisor prior to the commencement of the match. Ensure they also provide a written explanation to the Recording Secretary prior to the start of the match.  
 15.6 Be visible and available to players. This includes the wearing of Tennis SA approved Hi-Viz vests, caps, or any other easily identifiable clothing.  
 15.7 In the case of courts being affected by weather, the Venue Supervisor is to determine if the courts are safe to play on, and enforce any appropriate action such as cancellation of matches.  
 15.8 Shall administer the completion of the Match Centre score sheets and will verify and sign the retained Score Sheets at the completion of matches, ensuring all details are correct and legible. This will also include the Semmens vote which must be completed at the venue, attached to the Match Centre Scoresheet and retained by the Venue Supervisor. **The supervisor is to ensure that the voting is done privately by each team.** The Venue Supervisor will be required to collate and send all votes onto the Recording Junior Coordinator. **The venue is to retain the score sheets with the Semmens Award slip attached and to be made available to the recording secretary. Award slips may also be forwarded by email or text.**  
 15.9 Shall remind players/teams of the requirement to enter their score sheets to Match Centre by 9:00am on the Tuesday following the match.  
 15.10 Players requesting assistance in regard to score disputes, inappropriate line calling, bad sportsmanship or inappropriate behaviour (from other players, spectators or parents), shall report this to either the Venue Supervisor directly or through their team manager who will alert the Venue Supervisor. Parents or spectators (unless the team manager) are NOT to call the Venue Supervisor on behalf of the player or interfere.  
 15.11 When appropriate, the Venue Supervisor is to remind Team managers of their responsibility for control over their own players in all respects relating to match play, discipline, and sportsmanship, etc.

- 15.12 May, in the event of observed bad sportsmanship or line calling, in the first instance, warn the offending player(s). The Venue Supervisor will then monitor the match and may over-rule blatant bad calls. Tactical coaching is not permitted during play and should be pointed out as soon as it is observed.
- 15.13 Has the authority to remove/disqualify a player if persistent bad sportsmanship occurs, e.g. swearing, racquet-throwing or ball abuse.
- 15.14 Parental interference will not be tolerated, and the Venue Supervisor has the authority to request parents refrain from speaking with players and standing in a position considered too close or intimidating players, i.e. standing, or seated closer than 1.5 metres from the fence. Should this interference not cease the Venue Supervisor will report this interference to Tennis SA, and the matter will be dealt with under the conditions of these rules and the TA Member Protection Policy.
- 15.15 Queries on the rules and match procedure are to be referred to the Venue Supervisor by the team manager as soon as possible after any incident has occurred.

#### 16. Interpretation of the rules and regulations

- 16.1 Any question arising from or in connection with the interpretation or construction of these rules and regulations shall be determined by Tennis SA / EDTA AC in its absolute discretion.
- 16.2 Tennis SA / EDTA AC may alter or amend these rules and regulations from time to time without prior notice.

#### 17. Team Regrade

- 17.1 Regrades will only be considered between rounds 3-5 after a written request to [kara.binka@tennis.com.au](mailto:kara.binka@tennis.com.au)
- 17.2 The team being asked to move has the right to confirm or decline.
- 17.3 If request is declined, then the team will remain in their current Division.

#### 18. Attire

- 18.1 All players are required to wear the approved Club shirt, accompanied by either white, black or navy shorts / skirts as appropriate, unless a different colour is part of the approved club uniform. Football shorts or socks are not considered suitable attire. Penalties can range from warnings and points loss. Players must have a club shirt by round 5. Clubs must advise the Association Secretary if they have a reason for noncompliance e.g., supply not available. Any other excuse will incur a warning or point loss.
- 18.2 In finals all players in a team must wear a club shirt. Players will not be permitted to participate in any sets in the match if the shirt is not worn. They will have a grace period of 45 minutes to have a shirt before their rubbers are forfeited. Exchanging shirts between team members will not be permitted.



