



Tennis SA Junior State League

RULES

2023-24 season

1. Schedule of Matches

- 1.1 First round commencing 20 October.
- 1.2 Last round before Christmas 8 December.
- 1.3 Break after 8 December, and resuming 2 February.
- 1.4 Last round to be played on 1 March.
- 1.5 Finals to be run over 2 weekends, commencing 15 March with the Grand Final on 22 March
- 1.6 Matches will not be played over the Adelaide Cup Long Weekend – 8 March

2. Matches

- 2.1 Each match will comprise 4 singles matches and 2 doubles matches.
- 2.2 A team may use up to 8 players in each match with persons who played singles being substituted in the doubles matches.
- 2.3 A team must play its singles players in singles Order of Merit. Number 1 or 2 highest ranked player in order of merit on the day must play in the top doubles pairing if they are playing doubles. Other players are flexible to move.
- 2.4 Team uniforms will be compulsory for the originally nominated players. All players of a team shall wear their clubs top and JSL logo.
- 2.5 All players nominated must have registered and activated their own Competitive Player Profile to compete.

3. Manager/Captain

- 3.1 Each team must have an appointed Team Manager (non-playing)
- 3.2 Each Team Manager must, prior to the scheduled start time of the match, complete the team score sheet by writing a list of singles players on the score sheet showing the order in which his/her team will play and exchange the score sheet with the Team Manager of the opposing team. The doubles players may be named after the completion of the scheduled singles matches.
- 3.3 Both teams are required to print out a score sheet from Match Centre. In the case one or both teams do not have their scoresheet printed from League Manager with all players listed, as outlined above, the Junior State League Working Group have the right to issue a penalty in the form of loss of premiership points.
The Team Manager must attend from the commencement and remain at the Junior State League match until the match is completed and will be responsible for the team abiding by State League Match Rules, Order of Merit and Code of Behaviour and any other policies as referred to in the State League Rules.

4. Balls and Ball allocation

- 4.1 Tennis Australia approved balls are to be used. Three cans of TA balls will be used for the match in total (1 dozen).
- 4.2 The HOME team is responsible to provide all balls necessary to complete a match (including super rounds).
- 4.3 Tennis SA will distribute the balls required for home matches. Club contacts will be advised where balls and score sheets can be collected prior to the commencement of the first match.
- 4.4 For Singles matches - at all venues - 2 new tennis balls to be used in every match.
- 4.5 For Doubles matches - at all venues - 2 new tennis balls to be used in every match.

5. Match Times

- 5.1 The scheduled starting time will be 6:30pm for home and away matches on a Friday night (unless otherwise notified) – 2 courts per match.
- 5.2 Junior State League teams are able to apply to the Junior State League Working Group in writing to hold matches at different times. These requests must be sent to the Junior State League Recording Secretary prior to the commencement of the season.
- 5.3 Players must be ready to play at the stipulated match time.

6. Order of Play

- 6.1 Teams are permitted to use up to eight (8) players in a match. Singles matches shall be played first. After commencement, play is to be continuous. In normal matches singles shall be played in order of merit, e.g. No. 1 & 2 followed by No. 3 & 4. However, the order of play may be amended by prior agreement between team managers.

7. Scoring

- 7.1 Matches shall be decided by rubbers, where rubbers are even, by sets and where sets are even, by games.
- 7.2 Singles shall be the best of one, nine game tiebreaker set with a 12-point tie-break (traditional, first to seven points) at eight games all.
- 7.3 Doubles shall be the best of one, six game tiebreaker set with a 12-point tie-break (traditional, first to seven points) at six games.

8. Forfeits

- 8.1 Forfeit of a singles rubber, except in the case of injury or sickness during the match, must be from the number 4 position up. If a player is unable to play in a doubles match due to injury or illness in a singles match, and no substitute player is available, and a doubles rubber must be forfeited then the bottom double must be forfeited first. Failure by a team to forfeit in the correct order will result in a loss of four (4) Premiership points.
- 8.2 A team proposing to forfeit a match or a rubber shall notify the opposing team as soon as possible. A team so giving a forfeit, shall in the absence of providing a reasonable written explanation to the Recording Secretary prior to 6:00pm the following Tuesday, be liable to lose four (4) Premiership points
- 8.3 Any team forfeiting three matches may be removed from the competition.
- 8.4 If a team is to be removed from the competition or if a club withdraws a team from the competition, their matches and previous results will be replaced with a bye and the ladder will be calculated by match ratio.

9. Weather implications

- 9.1 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 4:30pm on the day of the scheduled match.
- 9.2 Matches will be cancelled in accordance with the Tennis Australia Heat Policy.
- 9.3 In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather the following will occur:
- (a) If no rubbers are complete, the match will be considered “unplayed” for purposes of ladder calculation only with the premiership ladder determined using a points ratio (i.e. average points per matches played)
 - (b) If at least one rubber is complete and neither team is in an unbeatable position, both teams will receive 2 premiership points, plus one point for each rubber won, and the unplayed or unfinished sets will be deemed split between each team.
 - (c) If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and given 4 premiership points, plus one point for each rubber won, and the unplayed or unfinished rubbers will be deemed split between each team
- The premiership ladder will be calculated using points ratio (average points per matches played)
- 9.4 In major round matches players must remain at the courts until 7:30pm before making any decision to abandon the match. Before leaving the courts, arrangements must be made to complete the match, started or not, on the Sunday following, times by mutual agreement. Some sets may be played early in the next week if agreed.
- 9.5 In the case finals matches are cancelled the following process will occur:

- (a) If it is in week one of finals a 1v4, 2v3 system will be used for week 2. In the case it is on the second week of finals, the higher placed teams will move through.
- (b) If a weather cancellation is to take place on Grand Final day, then the match will be played on the Monday evening following at 6pm.
- (c) If there is a Weather cancellation on the substitute weekend, the higher placed team will be considered the winner.
- (d) In a three week final format if the second placed team defeats the top team in the first week of finals, they will be considered the highest ranked team in the Grand Final.

10. Results

- 10.1 Tennis SA will be using the Tennis Australia approved competition software, League Manager. Team Managers will be required to **enter and confirm** the results of their match on League Manager/ Match Centre by 11:59pm on the Sunday following the match.

11. Match Disputes

- 11.1 All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to the Coordinator at Tennis SA (mitchell.reilly@tennis.com.au) by 9:00am on Tuesday following the match and the referral must contain a precise statement of the issue(s) in dispute and the relevant facts giving rise to the dispute. The statement will be sent to the other party by Tennis SA in line with Rule 11.2. For any Code of Behaviour Issues, refer to Rule 17.
- 11.2 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
- 11.3 Tennis SA must, within two days of the date of request for such adjudication by any party, request any response to the dispute from the other party.
- 11.4 The Junior State League Working Group has the power to adjudicate any dispute referred to it for determination in any way in its absolute discretion but subject to the principles of natural justice, these rules and regulations and any Policy (if relevant).

12. Interpretation of Rules and Regulations

- 12.1 Any question arising from or in connection with the interpretation or construction of these rules and regulations shall be determined by the Junior State League Working Group in its absolute discretion.
- 12.2 The Junior State League Working Group may alter or amend these rules and regulations from time to time without prior notice

13. Appeals

- 13.1 A party may appeal a determination made by the Junior State League Working Group pursuant to Rule 11.3, by providing written notice to Tennis SA within three working days of the determination. The written notice of appeal must contain a precise statement as to the basis and nature of the appeal. If the determination is appealable, Tennis SA may refer the matter to Tennis Australia. Tennis Australia will have the final determination on any appeal against a Junior State League Working Group determination.

14. Premiership table

- 14.1 Four premiership points will be awarded for a winning match and two points for a draw plus one premiership point for each winning rubber.
- 14.2 Premiership tables to be decided by points and in the case of equality of points at the end of the minor round, the team with the best percentage for and against (rubbers, then sets, then games) shall be deemed minor premiers. In divisions with a bye, 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 rubbers, then sets, then games.

15. Finals

- 15.1 The four teams securing the highest number of points shall play off in the major round.
- 15.2 Finals will be played in a two week or three week format, subject to the release of the Tournament Calendar
- 15.3 In the event of a bye in a draw or partly cancelled round, the four teams securing the highest match ratio shall play off in the major round. In the semi-finals, the Minor Premiers and the 3rd placed team will each have the option of hosting a home final on courts of a standard approved by the Junior State League Working Group. If the team declines, the decision as to where the match is to be played shall be made by the Junior State League Working Group.
- 15.4 Any major round match that results in a draw is to be decided by all doubles playing tiebreaks. The team aggregating firstly the most tie breaks or secondly the most points in these tiebreaks shall be the winner. If points are equal the highest ranked team is deemed the winner.

16. Finals Qualification

- 16.1 All clubs shall update their playing lists for all teams in League Manager to reflect the correct order of merit for all qualified players no later than 9am on Tuesday following the second last match for the season. All players not qualified for finals should be changed to 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. 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.
- 16.2 No player may play in finals matches unless that player is a registered member of Tennis SA and has played in no less than five minor round matches at Junior State League level or at a lower level competition. In the event of 12 or less matches being played during the season, players will be required to play in no less than four minor round matches to qualify for finals. There are no grounds for appeal for players who have played less than the required amount of matches to qualify for finals.

17. Code of Behaviour issues

- 17.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour for Weekly Competitions.
- 17.2 All Code of Behavior reports shall be lodged by filling out the [Tennis SA Competition Code of Behaviour Report](#) by 9am Wednesday following the match in which the incident took place.
- 17.3 The Board of Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.
- 17.4 *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*
 - (b) *Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship.*

18. Penalties

- 18.1 The Junior State League Working Group may apply penalties for any breaches of the Junior State League Competition Rules other than Code of Behaviour matters. The Junior State League Working Group 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.

