



**EDTA Juniors**

**Green Ball Rules &  
Guidelines**

**2025/26**



## GREEN BALL RULES

### Key Dates: Summer

- Start of season, 18 October 2025
- Last match before Christmas 6 December 2025
- Season Resumes 31 January 2026
- Last minor round to be on 28 February 2026
  - Semi Finals: 14 March 2026
  - Preliminary Finals: 21 March 2026
  - Grand final round: 28 March 2026
- **No Matches** over the Adelaide Cup Long weekend 7 March 2026

### 1. Eligibility / Registrations / Clearances

- 1.1 All players must be registered with their club, have an active Competitive Player Profile (CPP) and have their details entered in League Manager by 9:00am Tuesday following the match. *Penalty: 1 premiership point deduction per player from the affected match.*
- 1.2 The green ball junior competition is open to players aged 12 and under. For eligibility, age is taken to be as at the first match of the relevant season.
- 1.3 Players may not represent more than one club in a season without written clearance from their original club and approval from Tennis SA. *Penalty: Forfeit of all sets played by the ineligible player.*
- 1.4 If a club has multiple teams in a division and requires a fill-in player, they may select the lowest-ranked player from the order of merit from the other team. The team in which the player has participated most frequently will be considered their designated team for the final's series. Players cannot switch teams for finals without a request for exemption being submitted and approved in writing.
- 1.5 New players not listed in the original squad must be approved by Tennis SA. If not notified before match day, clubs have until 5:00pm Monday to submit the request.  
Players who significantly alter the team's standard may be rejected. *Penalty: Forfeit of all sets played by the ineligible player*
- 1.6 A player cannot play in a Friday night and a Saturday morning match of the EDTA junior competition during the same round of matches.

### 2. Format and Match Procedure

#### Summer Format

- 2.1 Teams may consist of up to 6 players.
- 2.2 Format: 4 singles, 2 doubles
- 2.3 All sets: Straight 6 games, No AD scoring (*at deuce "next point wins" receivers' choice on what side to receive*)
- 2.4 Play order: Doubles first, then singles
  - If 2 courts are allocated and players are absent, the venue supervisor may start with singles to allow both matches to proceed
  - No forfeit can be claimed if singles can proceed
- 2.5 Injured doubles player may be replaced in singles by a teammate who played doubles
- 2.6 Forfeiting teams must:
  - Notify the opposing team and supervisor before match start.
  - Provide a written explanation via WhatsApp to Tennis SA/Supervisor before match start.

#### Winter Format

- 2.7 Saturday Morning (Green Ball) Mixed Gender – 2 singles, 1 double and 2 reverse singles
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 Matches should commence with singles matches first, followed by doubles and then reverse singles.
- 2.11 Forfeiting teams must:
  - Notify the opposing team and supervisor before match start.
  - Provide a written explanation via WhatsApp to Tennis SA/Supervisor before match start.

## Match Procedure

### 2.12 Match start time: **8:15am**

- Arrive by 8:00am, report to supervisor.
- 5-min hit-up prior to match start by 8:15am.
- Finish by 10:15am; results stand.
- Forfeit:
  - Not ready by 8:30am → set(s) forfeited.
  - Not arrived by 8:45am → team forfeits.

### 2.13 Match start time: **10:15am**

- Arrive by 10:00am, report to supervisor.
- 5-min hit-up prior to match start by 10:15am.
- Finish by 12:15pm; results stand.
- Forfeit:
  - Not ready by 10:30am → set(s) forfeited.
  - Not arrived by 10:45am → team forfeits.

### 2.14 Scoring

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

## 3 Order Of Merit

3.1 Tennis SA may revise team order of merit at anytime

**3.2 Order of merit is based on players current playing strength, based on recent results and overall ability.**

3.3 Should a team play out of the approved order of merit the following penalty may apply.

3.4 Order of merit disputes must be lodged by 9:00am on Tuesday following the match.

3.5 Penalty: Continued breach after notice → all sets forfeited.

## 4 Team Manager

5.1 Each team must have a Team Manager appointed for each match.

5.2 The Team Manager must attend from commencement and remain at the match until the match is completed and will be responsible for the team.

## 5 Finals Qualification

5.1 Tennis SA will assess all teams to determine player eligibility and rank qualified individuals in order of merit as base players. Each team may include a maximum of six base players. Any players deemed not qualified will be placed on the reserve list. All players listed as base players are considered qualified.

5.2 If a reserve player needs to be changed to a base player, an email request must be sent to Tennis SA for clearance. Players who remain on the reserve list should be considered unqualified. Any necessary changes will be communicated to the relevant clubs.

5.3 Teams must then compete in the approved order of merit and remain in the same order of their position of merit throughout the Finals Series.

5.4 To play in a major round match, a player must have played in four minor round matches in that Division or lower within the EDTA Junior Competition in the current season to be eligible for finals.

5.5 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.

## 6 Venue Supervisors, General Duties

6.1 Ensure courts are prepared for match play and be present during the allocated times.

6.2 Confirm that all players have arrived by the designated report time to allow matches to start promptly.

6.3 Club Shirt Compliance and Match Attire.

6.4 Ensure all matches are completed within a 2-hour timeframe from the scheduled start.

6.5 Rotate singles order of play weekly (where possible) for fairness.

6.6 Ensure players do not leave the court without supervisor approval.

6.7 Be visible and available to players; wear Tennis SA-approved Hi-Viz vest or cap.

6.8 Assess court safety in case of weather and cancel matches if necessary.

6.9 Administer and verify Match Centre score sheets; ensure all details are correct and legible.

6.10 Retain all score sheets at the venue.

6.11 Remind teams to enter scores into Match Centre by 9:00am Tuesday following the match.

6.12 Handle player concerns (e.g., score disputes, poor sportsmanship) via direct report or through team manager.

6.13 Remind team managers of their responsibility for player conduct and sportsmanship.

6.14 May warn players for poor sportsmanship or bad line calls; monitor and overrule if necessary.

6.15 Tactical coaching during play is not permitted and must be addressed immediately.

6.16 May adjust order of play (e.g., singles before doubles) if players are absent.

- 6.17 Has authority to disqualify players for persistent poor sportsmanship (e.g., swearing, racquet abuse).
- 6.18 May intervene in cases of parental interference; enforce 1.5m distance from fence.
- 6.19 Report unresolved parental interference to Tennis SA under TA Member Protection Policy
- 6.20 Rule and match procedure queries must be raised by team managers promptly after incidents.

## 7 Balls and Ball allocation:

7.1 EDTA allocates balls to venues for minor and major round matches clubs are invoiced based on team numbers, ball types, and rounds.

## 8 Match Attire

- 8.1 All players may wear the approved club shirt.
- 8.2 Shorts or skirts may be white, black, or navy, unless a different colour is part of the approved club uniform.
- 8.3 Football shorts or socks are not considered suitable attire.
- 8.4 Players must have a club shirt by Round 5.
- 8.5 Clubs must notify Tennis SA and the EDTA Junior Coordinator if there is a valid reason for noncompliance (e.g., supply issues). Any other reason for noncompliance will result in a 1-point deduction.
- 8.6 The Association will conduct spot checks from Round 5 onwards.
- 8.7 Supervisors must record any noncompliance regarding club shirts on the match sheet.
- 8.8 Reports of noncompliance will be reviewed by the EDTA Junior Coordinator and referred to Tennis SA for appropriate action.
- 8.9 Penalties may include warnings or point deductions.
- 8.10 In major rounds, all players must wear the approved club shirt to participate in any sets
- 8.11 In major rounds, players must check in with the Venue Supervisor before the scheduled match start time.
- 8.12 In major rounds, a 45-minute grace period (starting 15 minutes before the scheduled match time on League Manager) is allowed to obtain a club shirt.
- 8.13 In major rounds, if a shirt is not worn within the grace period, the player's rubber will be forfeited.
- 8.14 In major rounds, shirt swapping between team members is not permitted.

## 9 Support from Parents

- 9.1 Parents/spectators must not contact the supervisor or interfere; only team managers may report issues.
- 9.2 While matches are in progress, parents are not allowed on court
- 9.3 Each team is required to have one appointed Team Manager.

## 10 Code of Behaviour Issues

- 10.1 All matches must be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.
- 10.4 *Team Managers are responsible for:*
  - 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.

## 11 Penalties

- 11.1 The EDTA Advisory Group may impose penalties for any breach(es) of the EDTA Junior Competition Rules and/or the Code. The EDTA Advisory Group may resolve a dispute in any way it sees fit and/or impose a penalty, subject to the principles of natural justice. Penalties that may be imposed by the EDTA Advisory Group include (but are not limited to) suspension from the EDTA Junior Competition of no more than four weeks, the forfeit of matches or sets, and the loss of premiership points, on any club, player or spectator found to have breached these Rules and/or the Code.
- 11.2 The EDTA Advisory Group reserves the right to refer breaches of the code to the Tennis Australia Integrity and Compliance Unit for further investigation and to be resolved in accordance with the Code.

## 12 Regrading Policy

- 12.1 Regrades may occur after Round 5, based on the best interests of the competition.
- 12.2 All regrade requests will be reviewed by Tennis SA and the EDTA Advisory Committee.
- 12.3 If a request is declined, the team will remain in its current division.
- 12.4 If a team is regraded to a different division, **match points will not carry over**, as ladder positions are based on match point ratio.

### 13 Rule Interpretation and Amendments

13.1 Any questions regarding the interpretation or application of these rules and regulations will be determined at the sole discretion of the EDTA Advisory Committee.

13.2 The EDTA Advisory Committee reserves the right to amend or update these rules and regulations at any time without prior notice.

## Green Ball Guidelines

Remember this is a learning process for the players who whilst they can be helped in this Division, when they move on to the next higher Division they will be expected to score for themselves without help. So help them only.

- They must serve overhead (or underarm on the full) – not by bounce and hit. Ask them to have one ball in hand for serving and to place the other ball behind by the fence, in a pocket or tucked into tennis pants. Do not allow them to leave the 2<sup>nd</sup> ball at their feet as this can be a dangerous habit to form.
- After points are played the players should collect their own balls. (The court supervisor may allow parents to collect balls in circumstances where it is deemed necessary).
- There must be a parent on court to assist / umpire.
- Parent assistance is aimed at helping players develop throughout the season.
- Players will umpire their own match, but the on court parent can assist if a call cannot be made without obvious delay.
- All decisions for line calls must be made by the players or parent umpire, without external influence.
- Remind players that if they are in doubt then the ball should be called in.
- The parent umpire will assist the players with scoring – pointing out if they have made mistakes with the score or serving from the wrong side. Ask players to call the score out loud after every point.
- If they make a bad call – you should warn that the call was bad and if bad calls continue you may overrule. Advise that this will happen after the first bad call.
- If the score in any match is disputed by any on court player, the parent umpire, who should be keeping the score, will advise the correct score so the game can continue.
- No one other than players and the parent umpire are allowed on court. (unless help is felt to be required for ball collection ONLY).
- All resting players and spectators must remain outside the court. No closer than at least a meter back and certainly NOT hanging on the fence. Please let me know if you have any persistent problems from parents.
- The court Supervisor should make sure that there is no interference from parents / spectators / resting players. The only person who can umpire is in the first instance the players and then the parent on court.



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