



2025 TV PENNANT RULE CHANGES

Format Changes

All Pennant grades will have the same scoring and match formats as 2024 with the exception of Grade 2.

Grade 2 matches will move in line with State Grade and Grade 1 formats, that is 2 Doubles and 4 Singles each week with a best of 2 tie break sets and a match tie-break in lieu of a third set. Further detail about these changes can be found on page 7 of the Tennis Victoria Pennant Rules and Conditions of Play.

Club eligibility for Tennis Victoria Pennant

Clubs must be affiliated members of Tennis Victoria to be eligible to participate in Tennis Victoria Pennant. All clubs affiliated with Tennis Victoria are eligible to participate in Tennis Victoria Pennant. However, for those clubs that are situated more than 100km from the Tennis Victoria Offices, they must nominate a home venue that is within a 100km radius of the Tennis Victoria offices for their entry to be accepted.

All entry fees must be paid prior to the commencement of Round 4. Failure to do so may result in the team being ineligible to compete in further matches or accumulate any premiership points, until the monies are received.

Minimum Age Eligibility

A player is eligible for Pennant if they have reached their thirteenth(13th) birth year and meet the minimum UTR Rating.

Female - 6+ minimum

Male - 7.5+ minimum

More information regarding this rule can be found on page 16 (Rule 21.0) of the Tennis Victoria Rules and Conditions of Play.

Number of Nominated Base Players (5 Base Players)

Teams will need to list a minimum of five (5) male players of the same club or a minimum of five (5) female players to enter a team in Tennis Victoria Pennant. These players will be then classified as the teams' base players.

Playing Out of Order and Strengthening a Team

Tennis Victoria will be implementing a 'UTR Playing Order' rule, whereby the players that are listed to play on the day of the match, must play in order based on UTR at the time of the match, as listed on Match Centre.

Both team captains will need to agree on this playing order before the first rubber is played. If there is a disagreement regarding the UTR playing order, an opposition team can submit on the scorecard that this fixture was 'Played under protest'. The UTR playing order is enforceable for all Pennant grades. Team captains are expected to know the correct playing order and adhere to this playing order for the upcoming fixture.

There will be a 0.50 UTR rating leeway allowed for base players in terms of their playing position within the team (see FAQ's below for examples).

The player with the highest UTR doubles rating will need to play in the #1 doubles rubber. The highest rated doubles player can play with any listed player on that team.



2025 TV PENNANT FAQs

What is the team entry fee for 2025?

The team entry fee will remain unchanged this season - that being \$225 for all teams except for State Grade, which will be \$550.

Will uniforms be made compulsory this season?

After consultation with key Pennant stakeholders, uniforms will remain compulsory at State Grade and Grade 1 levels (Men's and Women's Pennant) this season. They will also be strongly encouraged at other Grades and Master's but not be made compulsory.

Clubs entering State Grade and Grade 1 teams are encouraged to include all Pennant teams when purchasing and organising uniforms for their club this season.

What is the UTR Playing Order rule and why is it being implemented?

Tennis Victoria will be implementing a UTR Playing Order for the 2025 TV Pennant Season (Rule 22, page 16-17 of the Tennis Victoria Pennant Rules and Conditions of Play).

The intended purpose of this ruling is for players to play in UTR order using what is listed on Match Centre on the day of the match. There will be 0.50 UTR rating leeway applied to allow players within a team to change order if they wish.

Tennis Victoria will be implementing this UTR playing order to ensure greater clarity so all teams can participate in the correct order of playing ability, in addition to providing flexibility to accommodate some variation of UTR ratings.

Examples of Team Playing Order

On Saturday 10 May, Player A has a UTR rating of 7.20 and played in #2 singles, whilst Player B who has a UTR rating of 7.50, played as #1.

On Tuesday 13 May when the latest UTR rating is updated shows Player A's UTR singles rating increasing to 7.90, whilst Player B's UTR singles rating dropped to 7.20.

As of Saturday 17 May, Player A would need to play in singles #1 and Player B would need to play in singles #2, as Player A now has a UTR rating that is higher than Player B.

Examples of Team Playing Order

Players and UTRs on the morning of the match

Player A's UTR 7.89

Player B's UTR 7.56

Player C's UTR 7.44

Player D's UTR 6.51

Because the UTRs of Player A, Player B and Player C are within 0.50 of each other, the three players can alternate playing order without penalty. That is, Player C can play #1, Player A can play #2, Player B can play #3 while Player 4 must remain in #4 as his UTR is not within 0.50 of the player above them.

Another example of a correct and incorrect singles lineup can include;

#1. 6.40, #2. 6.70, #3. 6.80

Is followed correctly

Whilst, a singles lineup of #1. 6.91, #2. 6.40, #3 6.70 is acceptable too, but #1 6.40, #2 6.70, #3 6.91 is **not acceptable** along with any additional lineup where 6.40 is ahead of 6.91.



Why is there an Age Eligibility for Players in Victorian Pennant?

Tennis Victoria will be implementing an Age Eligibility criterion for Victorian Pennant players in 2025.

This is being implemented to ensure that Tennis Victoria Pennant continues to promote the development of junior players to ensure that they have the skills and maturity before they are ready to compete in senior competition.

This Age Eligibility will read as;

- Players are eligible to play in Pennant if they have reached their thirteenth(13th) birth year.
- If the player is in their thirteenth(13th) birth year, and they meet the minimum UTR rating requirement by the entry deadline

Female -6+ minimum

Male- 7.5+ minimum

If for example a Player A has a UTR rating of 5.7 and their respective birthdate falls in December 2012, this player would be eligible to participate in the 2025 Pennant season as this fits the criterion of the player turning 13 in the 2025 calendar year.

If a female player has a UTR rating of 6.2 at the time of the team application and their respective birthdate falls in 2013, this player would be eligible to participate in the 2025 Pennant season as they fit the UTR rating eligibility despite being younger than 13 for the entire 2025 calendar year.

We have tried as hard as I can to find a fourth, but my team only has three players available for my Men's or Women's Pennant match. Should we forfeit?

No. Teams can and should play with only three players, and they are still eligible to win the team match. However, they should contact their opponents to let them know ahead of time they are only bringing three players.

Who decides if there is a washout?

No team can solely decide if there is a washout. Washouts are decided if there has been 90 continuous minutes with no play, or 120 minutes in a finals match. On the day of a match where the courts are very wet and rain looks like it will continue for considerable time, the home team can contact the away team to ask if they would agree to a washout. However, the away team is within their rights to refuse and still travel to the courts.

Who enters scores after a match and how long do they have?

It is the home team's responsibility to enter scores by 9am Monday following a weekend match. Away teams have until 5 pm Tuesday to verify or dispute scores.

However, given all players should have access to Match Centre on their mobile devices, we are strongly encouraging all teams to enter their scores online before leaving the facility for the day. This provides all teams with timely match and ladder updates.