



## Tennis Victoria Country Week 2025 – Events Conditions and Rules

1. All matches shall be played under the Country Week Conditions of Participation, ITF Rules Tennis as adopted by Tennis Victoria except where altered by the regulations, policies, and conditions as followed, Tennis Australia's Procedures for Matches without a Chair umpire, and the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour Policy and Disciplinary Policy. The Sports Medicine Australia Extreme Heat Policy in conjunction with The Tennis Australia National Extreme Weather Policy shall apply when making decisions on heat management for the safety of players. A copy of these documents is available via the Country Week website: [www.tennis.com.au/vic/countryweek](http://www.tennis.com.au/vic/countryweek)
2. Team entries are completed through the Match Centre online software with each player entering with their Competitive Player profile (CPP).
3. Each team may register up to ten players. Each player must be registered through Match Centre. Any team playing a non-nominated player in any match shall forfeit the set(s) that this player has played.
4. Teams may nominate their section, but the final grading is at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
5. A nominated player cannot play in a lower grade than the team they are nominated for unless prior permission has been obtained from the Tournament Director
6. Players are to nominate for one team. A player having played three matches with a team in that grade is then tied to that team only. Said player can play up in a higher-graded team but not in a lower-graded team or in another team in that same grade.
7. The format of each team match is played with the following doubles combinations:
  - Rubber 1: Player 1+2 v Player 1+2
  - Rubber 2: Player 3+4 v Player 3+4
  - Rubber 3: Player 1+2 v Player 3+4
  - Rubber 4: Player 3+4 v Player 1+2
8. As per the fixture, the first named team on a scorecard is the Home team and the other team is the Away team. For finals, the home team will be the highest placed team.
9. All rubbers in all grades shall play an 8-game set. If scores are level at 7 all, a tie-break (first to 7 points with a 2pt advantage) is played. Long deuce (No advantage deuce will be played). This applies to all rounds and all finals matches. Please note for finals Condition No.21

### To substitute an injured player

10. In case of injury, a substitute player may be used only when a rubber is incomplete. The players of the teams shall be nominated prior to the commencement of each rubber, by recording their names on the official score sheet provided. No alteration to the players of the team shall be allowed during the progress of a rubber except with the permission of the Tournament Director for illness, injury, or another sufficient reason.

Should the Tournament Director approve the substitution of a player, the team is to forfeit the uncompleted set (games played will stand) and the substitute can take the subbed-out player's place in the remaining un-played set only. A substitute player will not be permitted if the first rubber is completed.

## To play a fifth player

11. Teams will be permitted to play a fifth player in any match. This player must be named on the scorecard prior to the round commencing. The player may take the place of another player in the team, allowing 2 players only to play 1 rubber each. Your remaining pair must remain consistent for both rubbers. Matches played will contribute to players' eligibility. (The intent of this rule is to allow more than 4 players to play a round). Teams may use the 'fifth player' ruling in all matches, including finals.
12. If a team is 10 minutes late reporting to the Tournament Box for their match, the team at fault shall lose 1 game for each 5 minutes that they are late. If they are more than 30 minutes late, the team at fault shall lose the first set 8-0. If a team is unable to field a complete team (4 available players named on the scorecard for that round), 60 minutes after the scheduled time of play, that team shall forfeit the match and no points shall be awarded to that team. The other team will be awarded the four sets 8-0 8-0 8-0 8-0.
13. If a default (including a team withdrawal) occurs, their opponents shall be awarded the win (6 points on the ladder) and shall be credited with 4 sets, 32 games and the match will apply for that teams' players for finals eligibility. This decision is at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
14. All round matches will be of 3 hours duration. E.g. 9am to 12 noon. When time is called by the Tournament Box, matches are to finish (the game or tiebreaker currently being played is to be completed only). Prior to the end of each round, a 15-minute warning will be announced. In the case of inclement weather (rain or heat etc.), the Tournament Director has the discretion to reduce the time allocated for each round. (Refer to clause 1).
15. Teams must only use the courts allocated for that match. Where possible, an extra court may also be used for some matches as advised by the Tournament Box before play commences. First use of the extra court will be given to the first complete match (both the home and away team) that has checked in at the tournament box. Extra courts are to be shared with all teams within the section. The first complete checked-in match starts with the extra court, and then another match can utilize it. Please note that the extra court cannot be utilized by the same match for two consecutive rubbers unless it is unable to be used by others in the section. The second team checking in to complete a match will be given balls for the extra courts.
16. The winner of each match shall be decided by the number of games won, and if equal on games, then by the number of sets won. A point shall be awarded for each set won and two points awarded for winning the overall match (6 points maximum if you win everything). At least one set must be completed to award the overall win. No point(s) shall be awarded for an incomplete set due to inclement weather or due to time constraints at the end of each round, however, the games won will tally to the overall game total of the match. If a minimum of one set is not completed in a round, no win points will be allocated. No point(s) shall be awarded for a bye.
17. At the conclusion of each match, the captain of the winning team will confirm the scores with the opposition captain and will then return the signed completed scorecard and balls to the allocated Tournament Box. Should an addition or any other error be discovered by the Tournament Box, the Tournament Director will call one or both Team Captains to the Tournament Box to resolve any error.
18. In the event of any teams in a grade being equal on points at the conclusion of the rounds, the ladder shall be decided, by the percentage of games won over games lost. If equal, then the head-to-head result of the teams will be used to determine the placing. Should no head-to-head result exist, one pair nominated by each team shall play a 7-point tie-break to decide the higher placed team. All nominated players for this tie-break must meet the eligibility to participate in the semi-finals.



19. In the semi-finals and finals only, in the event of a drawn outcome, one nominated pair from each team shall play a first to 7-point tie-break to decide the winner of the match.
20. To be eligible to participate in semi-finals or the final, a player must have played in a minimum of three matches with that team. Players must only play in semifinals or finals with one team.
21. In all finals matches, should inclement weather interfere and cause matches to be abandoned after they have commenced, the following will apply unless an overall team win result has been obtained. If a result is not consolidated then the team finishing higher on the ladder after the rounds, shall be declared the winner.
22. Should finals be abandoned before commencing, the team who finished higher on the ladder after the rounds shall be declared the winner.
23. All semi-final and finals matches will be played to a result only. I.e., when a team has scored enough games/sets won that it is impossible for the other team to win, the match is complete.
24. Tennis Victoria will provide match balls for all matches and share courts, and scorecards for each round.
25. Team names, and logos displayed on tennis uniforms must be appropriate and not contravene Tennis Victoria or Event sponsors. This decision will be at the Tournament Directors' discretion.
26. Conditions 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 21 may be altered at the discretion of the Tournament Director.