

## Australian Ranking Tournament Regulations 2017

### ***Rules and Regulations changes***

\*\*Please note this is not the final list of rule changes for 2017, with all changes detailed in the final Rules and Regulations document. Any further rule changes will not have a negative financial impact on your tournament.

#### **1. Non-Penalised Late Withdrawals**

**A player's first three (3) late withdrawal offences within a calendar year are excused**, provided the withdrawal is received in person or in writing by the Tournament Director or Tournament Referee. Players' will not be required to submit a medical certificate to support their withdrawal. A late withdrawal is a withdrawal after the stated withdrawal deadline to the end date of the tournament.

Hospitalisation or death of immediate family members will not be counted towards a player's three excused withdrawals. However, official documentation will need to be provided to Tennis Australia.

Once a player has used their three free withdrawals during a calendar year, the next late withdrawal will result in a code violation, even if the withdrawal is legitimate and supported with medical documentation.

#### **2. Players receiving AMT points from the end of their 15<sup>th</sup> birth month**

Player's will now only receive points from Australian Money Tournaments (AMTs) from the end of their 15<sup>th</sup> birth month. For example, if a player turns 15 years-old on September 1, they will receive AMT points when the End of September rankings are released on October 8.

The rule will be worded as follows:

##### **Athletes aged 13 to 14 years**

**Singles:** Best eight (8) results can be calculated from tournaments contested in either 12/u or 14/u tournaments. If applicable, athletes can have results from a maximum of three (3) 16/u and one (1) 18/u events count towards their ranking.

**Doubles:** Best six (6) results can be calculated from tournaments contested in either 12/u or 14/u tournaments. If applicable, athletes can have results from a maximum of two (2) 16/u and one (1) 18/u events count towards their ranking.

### **Athletes aged 15 to 16 years**

**Singles:** Best eight (8) results can only include a maximum of four (4) post junior tournaments. (Note that the mix here could – for example – include eight junior results, however can only have a maximum of four post junior results);

**Doubles:** 25% of best six (6) results can only include a maximum of three (3) post junior tournaments. (Note that the mix here could – for example – include six junior results, however can only have a maximum of three post junior results);

### **Athletes aged 17 years or older**

**Singles:** No restriction on formation of best eight (8) results;

**Doubles:** No restriction on formation of 25% of best six (6) results;

### **3. Best of 2 or Fast4 scoring to be implemented in singles events at AMT and Junior Tournament Bronze Series tournaments**

Bronze AMT and Junior tournaments will be required to use either the “Best of 2” or Fast4 scoring format when operating their singles and doubles events.

### **4. White Level tournaments removed from the calendar**

Tournaments levels in 2017 will be in order:

- Platinum
- Gold
- Silver
- Bronze

**White level** tournaments will be removed from the calendar to create a more simplified tournament structure.

### **5. Junior Tournaments to be played during school holiday blocks in relevant state/territory**

All junior tournaments across the Gold, Silver and Bronze levels will be played during the relevant state/territory school holiday, public holiday or weekend period. Tournaments that start on a school day will be permitted to **start from 5pm**, but must still abide by the 7:30pm last match starting time regulation.

Consideration should also be given to Bronze and Silver AMTs being played on school days as we know from previous years that the majority of these player fields are made up of school-aged players.

## 6. Draw size restrictions for AMTs and Junior Tournaments

The maximum draw sizes for each Australian Money Tournament will be as follows:

- Platinum – 16 Main draw / Up to 64 Qualifying
- Gold – 32 Main draw / Up to 64 Qualifying
- Silver – 32 or 64 Main Draw / Up to 128 Qualifying
- Bronze – Up to a 128 Main Draw / Up to 64 Qualifying

The maximum draw sizes for each Junior Tournament will be as follows:

- Platinum – 32 Main draw / No qualifying
- Gold – 32 Main draw / Up to 64 Qualifying
- Silver – Up to 64 Main Draw / Up to 128 Qualifying
- Bronze – Up to a 128 Main Draw / No Qualifying

Pre-Qualifying or Qualifying wildcard events could be sanctioned for historically popular events, if required.

## 7. Prizemoney levels to be changed for AMTs

The minimum prizemoney levels at Australian Money Tournaments in 2017 will be:

- Platinum – Either \$10,000 or \$15,000
- Gold - \$7,500
- **Silver - \$3,000**
- **Bronze - \$2,000**

Tournaments will still be permitted to pay players higher amounts of prizemoney as well as give non-monetary rewards (e.g. sponsor provided product)

Platinum and Gold tournaments will also be better strategically placed during the year, in the lead-up and lead-out of Pro Tour events so Australia's highest ranked players have opportunities to obtain this money to assist with interstate and overseas travel during the year.

## 8. Tournaments required to create and advertise a match plan for the tournament

All Australian Ranking sanctioned tournaments will be required to **develop a tournament match plan** for each event day at their tournament. This will be made available to Tennis Australia during the sanctioning period and assist with tournaments being able to better plan their event to ensure its smooth operation.

**9. Additional officiating requirements at the lower level of tournaments, with partial funding provided by Tennis Australia**

The minimum court officiating ratio will change from 1 court supervisor for every 6 match courts to **1 court supervisor for every 5 match courts** across the Silver and Bronze levels of Australian Money Tournaments and Junior Tournaments.

The minimum ratio for Platinum and Gold AMTs and Junior Tournaments will remain at 1 court supervisor for every 4 match courts.

It must be noted that these ratios are minimums and if a tournament wants to go above that requirement, they can request that through their appropriate Officiating Development Coordinator.

Tennis Australia and Member Associations may decide to target specific Bronze and Silver tournaments during the year and provide funding to increase the number of officials present.

**10. Victorian pilot to restrict Top 10 players**

In a pilot for Victorian bronze junior tournaments only in 2017, the **Top 10 junior players** in Australia/Victoria (exact breakdown to be confirmed) will be restricted from participating in these tournaments based on the latest Australian Rankings available at the time of entries closing.