

Frequently Asked Questions

Why move from a ranking to a rating?

Your feedback showed that there is rankings and ratings clutter and their purpose and audiences are not well-defined. There is an opportunity to design and adopt a primary rating system which leads to a better player experience, player development and more competitive matches. That way all players can play at their appropriate level.

What do these changes mean for me?

We soon make available information about hosting competitive play opportunities at your venue.

Players and coaches will see an increased variety of competition options, with a year-long calendar for players of every standard. Essentially, it will mean more level-based playing opportunities more often.

A rating system will allow every player to better understand their playing standard and standing. This helps competition deliverers to facilitate level-based play across the country. It also means more competition opportunities found locally with a reduced need for extensive and frequent travel.

How will this new landscape affect our top-rated players?

The primary rating system easily identifies top players in each segment for selection to compete in higher level events. The competitive play calendar will offer regular opportunities for them to test themselves against the best within their state and across the country.

What will the primary rating be?

We are working through the integration of the current ratings and rankings into a primary rating to be used across all competitive play opportunities in Australia.

We will let you know more about the phased implementation plan and exactly what you will be required to do shortly.

Why is there a focus on team tennis?

Your feedback and our research highlighted the value of team-based tennis in increasing player retention and enjoyment.

The sense of belonging and heightened purpose achieved through team-based sport helps improve player experiences and the overall culture of the competition.

There is currently a generally poor perception of 'Tournaments' which are often seen as hyper-competitive environments with examples of poor behaviour from players and parents. The outcome of the match is seen as main determiner of the competitive experience.

The competitive play calendar will offer the right blend of singles play and team tennis. The application of one rating system across both team tennis and individual tennis will enable this balance to be achieved.

What do the three competition types mean for the naming of our local offerings?

We are working through the classification of all levels of competition.

The three competition types will be focused on:

1. **Leagues** – team competition played over non-consecutive days
2. **Events** – individual or team domestic competition played over consecutive days
3. **Professional Events** – individual international sanctioned competition (ITF/UTR/ATP/WTA)

Research has shown that ‘Tournaments’ have become associated with negative experiences both real and perceived while ‘Events’ provoke a competitive experience that goes beyond the match result and encourages all stakeholders to find value in an overall end-to-end experience.

Will Australian Ranking points continue to be used in the future?

Once the new rating system is implemented, Australian Ranking points will no longer be allocated for participating and/or winning matches. All matches will instead count towards a player's primary rating, with an endorsed competition series providing players the opportunity to qualify for additional competitive opportunities.

What will the Event (previously tournaments) landscape look like?

The number of endorsed Events won't change substantially from its current state. The primary change will be that events will be advertised and classified by ratings, with ratings also used for entry and seeding. This will allow all players to participate in events appropriate for their standard.

How will I enter events/leagues moving forward?

In the short-term, the process for Event and League entry will not change. Events will be entered via tournaments.tennis.com.au as they are now, and League entry will be determined by your league organiser. As the systems used to administer competition evolve, there will likely be changes to entry processes to ease administration for players, parents and competition deliverers.

When will these changes happen?

We are currently consulting with the entire tennis community on the outcomes of the review by sharing our findings and the Blueprint. For the rest of the year, we'll be looking at the product, rating and calendar design to support the phased delivery from 2022.

We will also begin the change management process for the new competitive play landscape. We expect the introduction of some recommendations to commence at the beginning of 2022.