



# *PLAYER FAQs*

1 January 2022 will see the implementation of the Australian Competitive Play Framework, a structure encompassing all Endorsed competitive play formats across the country. The framework will provide clarity of competitive play options for all players. Matches from Tennis Australia Endorsed events will count towards the Universal Tennis Rating (UTR Rating), which will be used for all event entry and seeding purposes.

The use of the UTR Rating will ensure all players receive level-based, competitive matches across all events. Although the use of the UTR Rating for entry into events is not new, there is some key information to be aware of for 2022 events onwards.

The following outlines key information to allow you to compete in level-based, competitive matches all year round, while developing into the best player possible.

## ***WHAT IS DIFFERENT TO PREVIOUS YEARS?***

### ***Use of the UTR Rating***

The UTR Rating will be used for all event acceptance and seeding procedures. The Australian Ranking system will cease from 1 January 2022.

### ***Event naming***

To ensure you are competing in level-based competitive matches, events will no longer be referred to as platinum, gold, silver and bronze.

Events will be classified under the following categories and series, each with a recommend player UTR Rating level, allowing you to easily identify which series is best for you and your development.

### ***Junior Events:***

#### **National Series (level 1):**

National Series events will provide the best players from around the country the opportunity to come together and compete at the highest level and be crowned an Australian champion. Tennis Australia will conduct a series of these events throughout the year to assist in the development of our high-performing players.

#### **Signature Series (level 2):**

Signature Series events will provide opportunities for the higher-level player to travel around the country and compete against the best outside of the National Series. Each state will designate one of these events each year, where a wildcard entry will be on offer to the next National Series events for the eventual winner.

#### **Premier Series (level 3):**

Premier Series events will provide the higher-level players within each State and Territory, the opportunity to compete against each other throughout the year.

#### **Junior Series (level 4):**

Junior Series events will make up a large portion of the Endorsed event calendar, with majority of players receiving their best level-based, competitive match opportunities at this level. Junior Series events will provide players with an opportunity to participate in level-based, competitive matches and provide the platform to continue their development.

**Junior Development Series (level 5):**

Junior Development Series events will provide players the chance to compete in match play opportunities to establish and develop their rating. The Junior Development Series is designed for beginner or new players to the events space.

**Community Series (level 6):**

Community Series events are made up of a variety of internal club event offerings, that provide players the opportunity for level-based, competitive matches within their local environment.

***Open Events:***

Open events are designed to offer players appropriate level-based play matches, while providing earning opportunities for developing players.

**National Series (level 1):**

(Not applicable in 2022)

**Signature Series (level 2):**

Signature Series events offer \$15,000 in prize money across the top tier draws. These events will be positioned to compliment the Australian Pro Tour calendar.

**Premier Series (level 3):**

Premier Series events offer \$7,500 in prize money across the top tier draws. These events will provide quality matches and earning opportunities throughout the year for the higher-level players within each State and Territory

**Open Series (level 4)**

Open Series events offer \$3,000 in prize money across the top tier draws. These events will make up majority of the Endorsed event calendar and provide majority of the playing cohort their best level-based, competitive match opportunities.

**Community Series (level 5)**

Community Series events are made up of a variety in internal club event offerings, that provide players the opportunity for level-based, competitive matches within their local environment.

***Draw structures***

The make-up of draws will be different than previous years, where all players were entered into the same draw irrespective of their ability. This led to poor player experiences.

For all events from 1 January 2022, players will be split into the most appropriate draws based on their UTR Rating and standard of play.

Example: A Junior Series event could accept 128 players into a 12/U boy's event. The event organiser working with their Member Association will then look at the rating bands and create appropriate draws. In this instance four draws of 32 could be created to provide the best experience for all players.

All players will benefit from the new structure, with level-based competitive matches, aiding in their development.

### ***Draw types***

Junior, Junior Development, Open and Community series will have the option of offering three types of draws:

- Age and Gender-based events. E.g. 12/u Girls Singles, 12/u Boys Singles
- All Gender rating-based events. E.g. Junior Singles (UTR Rating 2-4), Junior Singles (UTR Rating 4-6). Draws will include all genders.
- Rating and Gender-based events. E.g. Junior Girls Singles (UTR Rating 2-4), Junior Boys Singles (UTR Rating 4-6).

The new draw types will allow deliverers flexibility to ensure all players experience quality level-based matches.

All draws for events within National, Signature and Premier series will offer gender and age-based draws only.

Refer to the events fact sheet to determine which type of draw is being offered.

### ***National qualifying participation criteria***

National Series events will require a participation criterion to be met, in order to be eligible to compete at these events. Each Member Association will set the required participation criteria.

The purpose is to have players participating and performing in their relevant State/Territory competitions and earning their position in the national event. The qualification criteria will also ensure team-based competition is featured as part of this qualification process.

### ***UTR Ratings to be displayed different dependant on a player's age? (Change will occur early January)***

A progressive approach to unveiling additional rating detail as players age, will ensure younger player's focus is on enjoying their tennis and taking to the court making friends and developing their skills. The review identified exposing players early to a rating can place too much focus on the rating itself and not on the development of them as a player. As players become older and understand that the UTR Rating is designed to enable competitive matches, additional rating details become available.

Player UTR Rating displays will be updated in early January to the following for Australian players:

**Players aged 0-9:** No rating will be displayed

**Players aged 10-12:** Displayed to one decimal number. E.g. 3.1

**Players aged 13 and above:** Displayed to two decimal places. E.g. 5.23

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Why Change to a level-based play structure?**

Previously players did not experience level-based matches for large portions of a draw or were competing in an event not suitable for their standard.

The change to a level-based structure will allow players the best opportunity to achieve their tennis goals and compete in appropriate events for their standard. Once a player has established their UTR Rating, they should cross reference this with the Competitive Play Framework for their age, and identify which level of event will provide them with the best experience.

Consistent level-based, competitive matches provide players with several benefits including:

- Improved player experience
- Improved player development trajectory
- Increased fun and enjoyment

Throughout the Competitive Play review, a consistent callout from the player's voice was to increase opportunities to partake in competitive matches, across both event and league play.

### **What are Australian Competitive Play Endorsed events?**

Tennis Australia Competitive Play Endorsed events have met a minimum criteria and are being delivered to the Competitive Play Framework standards. This includes screening checks for the event delivery team, onsite Officials (where required) and delivery operational requirements.

Players and parents can be assured these events will provide a safe environment, fun and appropriate competitive matches relative to a player's standard.

These events will be easily identifiable with the Tennis Australia Endorsed kitemark clearly being displayed.

### **Why is team-based play and a balanced schedule important?**

A player's development is benefited by competing in a well-balanced schedule of singles, doubles and team-based offerings throughout the year. Each format of our game offers players the opportunity to develop and focus on different skillsets, allowing them to achieve their best standard possible. Team-based tennis offers players the chance to participate in both singles and doubles matches usually within the one timeframe, developing your complete range of skills.

With the introduction of the UTR Rating, team-based play matches can now count towards your UTR Rating, ensuring you can seamlessly find level-based competitive matches across all formats of the game.

### **How do I know which events to participate in?**

Finding which event is best suited for you has never been easier. Using your UTR Rating, view the competition matrix and cross reference your UTR Rating and age to see which series of events is recommended for you. These events will provide you with the best competitive match possible.

[View the competition matrix here.](#)

### **Where can I find the calendar?**

[The 2022 Australian Competitive Play calendar can be found here.](#)

### **How do I enter events and begin competing?**

The process for entering events has not changed. We will still use Tournament Planner to administer our Endorsed events.

From the Australian Competitive Play calendar, click on the name of the event you wish to enter, and you will be redirected to the entry page. Use your existing credentials to login and submit your entry.

### **Why do I not have a rating displayed but I am of the appropriate age?**

If you are of the appropriate age to have a rating displayed, but are currently unable to view your rating, this is due to incomplete data and a missing date of birth in your profile.

Head to [tennis.com.au/competitiveplay](https://tennis.com.au/competitiveplay) to register/login to update your details. These updated details will be provided to our partners Universal Tennis for the next weekly update of ratings.

## ***PLAYER UTR RATING INFORMATION***

### **What is the UTR Rating?**

The UTR Rating is a global tennis rating that identifies and reflects a player's current skill level based on head-to-head match scores, and rates all players across age, gender, and nationality on the same 16-point scale.

Australian players can have a UTR Rating – from the pros to juniors to social tennis players. If you've played in any Tennis Australia competitions, you might already have a UTR Rating.

### **Which UTR Rating will be used?**

Throughout the Australian Competitive Play environment, the verified UTR Rating will be used. This rating reflects results from Australian Endorsed competitive play offerings.

### **How does the UTR Rating work?**

The UTR rating calculates a player's standard by looking at their past 30 matches within 12 months. A player's UTR Rating is the weighted average of all 30 matches, so one, two or three specific matches will not have any great effect on a player's rating. As a player improves, their UTR Rating will improve to ensure level-based play is always achievable. A player's UTR Rating is compared to all players with a UTR Rating, ensuring your standard is always relative.

The full inputs associated with the algorithm can be found at: [support.universaltennis.com](https://support.universaltennis.com) and [blog.universaltennis.com](https://blog.universaltennis.com).

### **How do I get a UTR Rating?**

You will need to register and activate your UTR Rating. Current players may have already completed these steps.



To register and activate for your UTR Rating, head to [tennis.com.au/competitiveplay](https://tennis.com.au/competitiveplay) to find out more.

### **When will my rating be updated?**

UTR Ratings for domestic play in Australia will be updated on a weekly basis as of a Tuesday. Each Tuesday the updated UTR Rating will be published to your profile (available by logging in to Match Centre) to view. The ratings published here will be used for acceptance and seeding for the following weeks events.

### **Where can I view where I stand in relation to other players? (Coming January 1)**

The top 64 Australian players within the below age and gender categories will be displayed via [tennis.com.au/competitiveplay](https://tennis.com.au/competitiveplay). Players outside the top 64 will be able to view their rating only.

This is a different approach to the previous ranking system. Players should focus on playing in the appropriate competitive offering for their standard and not focus on the rating/standing itself. A player's UTR Rating will improve as players continue to develop.

Top 64 player list will be update on a Tuesday morning for the following categories:

- 12/U Boys
- 12/U Girls
- 14/U Boys
- 14/U Girls
- 16/U Boys
- 16/U Girls
- 18/U Boys
- 18/U Girls
- Open Men
- Open Women

### **Do both Event and League matches count towards my UTR Rating?**

Australian Competitive Play Endorsed Events will contribute towards your UTR Rating.

Across Leagues, there are a range of rating systems currently in use and as such, the UTR Rating will incrementally be introduced across 2022 following completion of the summer leagues season.

If your League is currently contributing to the UTR Rating, this will continue from 1 January 2022. If you are not sure if your league is currently contributing, please contact your local League deliverer or Member Association to find out more.

Note that all players must provide appropriate consent for League matches to be sent to Universal Tennis.

### **How do I ensure my matches count towards the UTR Rating?**

To ensure your matches are provided to Universal Tennis, you need to ensure you have registered with Tennis Australia and activated your rating with our partners Universal Tennis. To register or activate, head to [tennis.com.au/competitiveplay](https://tennis.com.au/competitiveplay) to find out more.

### **What is the difference between the UTR Rating and a ranking?**

Ratings have a demonstrated superiority in being able to better identify a player's level as opposed to a ranking.

A rating considers a number of data inputs, including but not limited to your opponent and the final score of the match, ensuring every game counts.

As opposed to a ranking which only considers win/loss, regardless of the opponent you played. The previous Australian Ranking system promoted a culture of points chasing. This saw players with inflated rankings that were not a true reflection of their standard, the UTR Rating uses a number of inputs to indicate a player's standard relative to their peers, allowing them to find appropriate standard of play and aides in their development trajectory.