

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS TENNIS ASSOCIATION

JUNIOR COMPETITION MATCH RULES as approved 16/06/21 (Eff 1 October, 2021)



CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

1. All SDTA Matches are to be played in accordance with the following Match Rules and in conjunction with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour which provides a framework to preserve the image and integrity of tennis and promotes sportsmanlike conduct.
2. These match rules/bylaws apply in conjunction with the "Rules of Tennis" as in the Official Book of Tennis Umpires Australia Inc. (approved by Tennis Australia).
3. The Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour and the Tennis Australia Rules for Matches Played Without a Chair Umpire can be found on the SDTA website at www.sdta.org.au
4. The Junior Activities Committee shall publish annually in September the modified rules applicable to the Orange Ball Competition.

**** SPORTSMANSHIP, GOOD MANNERS AND COURT ETIQUETTE MUST BE PARAMOUNT AT ALL TIMES ****

EXPERIMENTAL RULES

5. The SDTA Management Committee shall have the power to suspend any of these match rules which are of an administrative nature (but not match "play" rules); for no longer than one season if approved by 75% of eligible voters at a Management Committee meeting.

COMPETITIONS COMMITTEES

6. All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to the Coordinator at Tennis SA and the Competitions Committee Chairperson by 9:00am on Tuesday following the match and the referral must contain a precise statement of the issue(s) in dispute and the relevant facts giving rise to the dispute. The statement will be sent to the other party by Tennis SA in line with Rule 7.
7. Tennis SA must, within two days of the date of request for such adjudication by any party, request any response to the dispute from the other party.
8. SDTA Competitions Committee has the power to adjudicate any dispute referred to it for determination in any way in its absolute discretion but subject to the principles of natural justice, these rules and regulations and any policy (if relevant).
10. The Junior Competitions sub-committee shall be constituted and have powers and responsibilities as contained in the SDTA Constitution.
11. Any submissions to the Junior Competitions sub-committee must be in writing and addressed to the Competitions Committee Chairperson as contained in the SDTA Constitution.
12. The Junior Competitions sub-committee shall be responsible for ensuring that all matches are played in accordance with the SDTA Constitution and these Match Rules and shall have the right to impose any suitable penalty for non-compliance with these Match Rules. The Competitions sub-committees have discretionary powers over these Match Rules which will ensure that the best interests of the players are met.

TEAM NOMINATIONS & GRADING

- 14.** Junior competition team nominations and grading shall be determined in accordance with the SDTA Constitution.
- 15.** All players are to be nominated at grading in applicable teams. When submitting teams for grading, clubs should include and label fill-in players.
- 16.** Once the competition has commenced, players originally graded to a team can be promoted into a higher division without permission but shall be subject to order of merit rules.
- 17.** New players (i.e. those players not originally graded in a team) must be given permission to play by the respective Competitions Committee regardless of whether they played as an emergency inclusion. Such permission should be sought prior to the player's first match or immediately following the match (within 48 hours). Should a player be deemed to be ineligible for a particular team by the relevant Competitions Committee, any results for that player will become forfeits and match results will be adjusted accordingly.
- 18.** Should a team be withdrawn from the competition, no player approved as a playing member of that team shall play in a lower division for that club without the permission of the Junior Competitions sub-committee.
- 19.** Divisions shall be numbered consecutively commencing at the number one (1) and no number shall be duplicated by sub-division unless the same division number is required for identification of gender specific teams. The number of teams per division will be determined by the respective Competitions Committees.
- 20.** There will be two grades playing Friday night with a maximum of ten teams per grade for both boys and girls. The grades playing Friday night will be named Premier and Division 1.

There is only one team per club allowed in the Junior Premier Division on Friday night unless by the recommendation of the Junior Competitions Committee and approval of the Junior Activities Committee.
- 21.** Any club granted Junior Division 1 Premier status will be excluded from the following season's nomination for that grade should they have any player originally nominated who fails to play at least five (5) completed matches for that club in that season. This rule may be waived in the event of the Junior Competitions Committee accepting extenuating circumstances.
- 22.** Junior matches on Saturday mornings shall be played in two sessions commencing at 8.30am and 10.45am respectively. The Junior Competitions Committee shall determine which grades are played in which session taking into account variations in teams nominated.
- 23.** Green and Orange Ball divisions are to be treated as a competition separate from the boys' and girls' competitions.
- 24.** Teams playing in the green ball or orange ball competitions and the lowest graded boys and girls yellow ball divisions may contain up to two players of the opposite gender unless that team is playing in a division designated as a mixed division whereby no restriction shall be in place regarding the gender composition of that team.

CLUBS HAVING TWO TEAMS IN ONE DIVISION

- 25.** Clubs may apply for two teams in any division other than Premier and Division 1. Acceptance shall be at the discretion of the Junior Competitions Committee.
- 26.** If a club has two teams in any division a player having played three (3) matches in any one side cannot play in the other side without the instruction or permission of the Junior Competitions Committee.
- 27.** If a club nominates two teams in a Division and is approved, those teams must be selected and play as near as practicable to how they were nominated.
- 28.** If the Association should request a Club to have more than one team in a Division, then the club shall have the right not to select those teams as near equal strength.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 29.** Any Club who has submitted teams into any SDTA Competition must have all club members registered in My Tennis within 6 weeks from the season start date.
 - a)** In the case a club has not registered their members into My Tennis by the specified timeframe, penalties will be applied as per below
 - b)** No Premiership Points will be allocated from 6 weeks from the season start date, should club members not be registered in My Tennis
 - c)** Newly added players to a team, must be registered within 7 days of play.
- 30.** No player who has played in an ATP or ITF event in the past twelve months shall be permitted to play in this Association without the prior approval of the Junior Competitions Committee. In considering approval, the Competitions Committee shall consider any relevant club history for that player.
- 31.** All Clubs or other bodies (Schools, Colleges etc) that are accepted into the Association and fielding teams in the Junior Competition must always abide by Association Rules and Policies regarding player transfers and clearances. This includes the right to freedom of association and the free and automatic transfer of players between Clubs, Schools or Colleges as long as normal clearance procedures occur. Clubs or other bodies (Schools, colleges etc) that fail to support the individual's right to freedom of association may have their affiliation with the association reviewed.
- 32.** The age limit for Junior Competition is 17 and under as at 1st October for Summer Season and 17 and under as at 1st April for Winter Season. The age on the paper nomination form will reflect the age as at 1st October for Summer Season and 1st April for Winter Season
- 33.** The age for the Orange Ball competition shall be 10 and under on the 31st March or the 30th September (whichever is applicable) of the current tennis season; and for Green Ball competition shall be 12 and under on the 31st March or the 30th September (whichever is applicable) of the current tennis season unless permission is given by the Junior Competition Committee due to extraordinary circumstances.
- 34.** Pennant players, if still eligible by age to play Junior Competition, are permitted to play provided they play in order of merit.
- 35.** Any player who played in the previous Tennis SA Winter Pennant Premier or Division 1 competitions or is playing in an equivalent competition (as deemed by the Junior Competition

Committee) in the current summer season, shall not be eligible to play Junior Competition Division 2 or lower.

CLEARANCES

- 36.** Clearance requests are not required between clubs. Should clubs detect an unfinancial player playing at another club playing in the SDTA competition they should contact the player, their new club and the Chair of the Junior Competitions Committee and advise the amount of money that is due by the player to their former club. Any unfinancial player will not be permitted to play until the previous fees have been paid to their former club or the former club advises that the player is free from financial liability to their club.
- 37.** No player shall be allowed to play for more than one club in the Association in SDTA Competition during the season. Players may play for another club in Tennis SA Premier League Competition (or an equivalent Premier League Tennis competition as approved by the SDTA). No exception shall be made to the foregoing conditions except in extenuating circumstances which must be submitted for consideration by the respective Competitions Committee prior to the player playing for a second club.
- 38.** No player, excepting those who play any matches in the Tennis SA Premier League Competition (or an equivalent competition as approved by the SDTA), shall be permitted to play in this Association who is a playing member of any other Association and playing matches in that Association, without prior written application and the consent of the Junior Competitions Committee. All applications must be in writing, accompanied by a written clearance from the applicant's previous club.
- 39.** Junior players playing in a Friday night SDTA competition are permitted to play in another (non-SDTA) competition on Saturday morning.
- 40.** No player nominated by a club may change clubs after grading of teams is approved without the permission of the nominating club. Should the permission be sought by the player and denied by the club, the matter may be appealed to the Junior Competitions Committee.

AFFILIATION FEES

- 41.** Affiliation fees cannot be refunded after the season's program has been completed.

TEAM COMPOSITION

- 42.** Teams of 4 may use up to 6 players. In a division of 2 men and 2 women no more than 3 men and 3 women may be used in any match.
- 46.** Clubs fielding teams in a minor round of a lower division who have teams in a higher division not playing that day, must not include any players for a lower division who would normally have been required to play that day in a higher division team.
- 47.** In the Junior Competition, each team must have a Match Supervisor responsible for ensuring that matches are played in accordance with the Match Rules. In addition, clubs may also appoint a Venue Coordinator for overall conduct of all matches at home court venue(s).
- 48.** Each Junior team Match Supervisor shall, PRIOR to the commencement of the match, furnish the Match Supervisor of the opposing team, on the prescribed form (own team on left) a list of players numbered consecutively in order of merit, showing both singles and doubles, and shall play his/her team in that order.
- 49.** Where possible, matches shall start with doubles followed by singles.

MATCH PLAY

JUNIOR SINGLES DIVISIONS

55. Matches consist of 2 sets of doubles and 4 sets of singles as follows:

Friday Night Competition	Doubles: 6 game sets with a standard (12 point) tie-break at 6 games. Singles: 9 game sets with a standard (12 point) tie-break at 8 games all
Saturday 8.30am matches	Doubles and Singles: 6 game sets with a standard (12 point) tie-break at 6 games all.
Saturday 10:45am matches	Doubles and Singles: 6 game set (first to win 6 games, no tiebreak).

START TIMES & FORFEITS

Junior Competition:

63. Friday evenings: Division 1 Premier and Division 1 shall commence at 6.30pm. These matches are to be played at venues where lighting is available and used as required.

64. Saturday mornings: There shall be two timeslots commencing at 8.30am and 10.45am. The Junior Competitions Committee shall determine annually the divisions that shall play in each timeslot.

The starting time will vary for finals with all Saturday morning junior division finals commencing at 8.30am.

65. Scheduled finish times shall be 10.45am (for the 8.30am session of matches) and 12.45pm (for the 10.45am session of matches) respectively. On Friday evenings the scheduled finish time shall be 5 minutes prior to the curfew time for the venue at which the match is being played. Matches-in-progress at the scheduled finish time are to be completed if courts are available to complete the match. If courts are not available to complete matches, any unfinished game within the set(s) being played, including the tie-break game, are to be completed and recorded on the score sheet.

66. If a player is not in attendance within 5 minutes of starting time then that player shall forfeit their doubles and if not in attendance within 30 minutes of starting time that player shall forfeit their singles. Players who have not commenced their singles should move up the order of merit where a higher ranked player in their team is forfeited (i.e. forfeits should be from the lowest team position).

67. Any forfeit claimed by a Team Supervisor is to be notified to the opposing Team Supervisor at the time the breach occurs. Retrospective forfeit claims or forfeit claims not notified to the opposing Team Supervisor are not permitted.

68. A forfeit shall rank as a win provided that the team receiving the forfeit, sends a correctly filled out score sheet to the designated Recording Officer by the prescribed time.

69. If any team finds it necessary to forfeit any set on any day (except for illness or injury of a player in attendance) those sets shall be forfeited commencing at the lowest unplayed singles and the lowest unplayed doubles in that team.

70. Clubs should notify opposing teams of pending forfeits.

All Competitions:

71. Where a team is advised prior to a match that they will receive forfeited set/s, the player/s receiving that set/s need not attend the match but will still have the forfeited set/s recorded in their favour. Such players must still be named in correct order of merit.

72. Where a team receives forfeited set/s at the courts, at the commencement of a match, from a team with an incomplete playing complement, the team receiving the forfeited set/s may choose which players receive the forfeit/s and may adjust their team playing order for that match. All players playing singles matches must however play in order of merit. Should players in a higher order position than the lowest playing member in the team receive any forfeited set/s in this situation, they must still be listed on the score sheet to receive the forfeited set/s and must return to their correct order of merit for any subsequent match that they play.

UMPIRES & COACHING

Junior Competition:

74. Junior Premier Division and Division 1 along with players in the first time slot, to umpire their own matches, but may request an umpire. Where possible, players in the second time slot are encouraged to umpire their own matches. If an umpire is required, then that person shall be appointed by the home court supervisor. Umpires shall not be immediate family members. Unless an umpire's chair is provided, the umpire must be standing. An umpire is required to call on all line calls. The umpire is to call their decision and game score at completion of each point and the set score at completion of each game, loudly enough for all participating players to hear.

75. No coaching during match play is permitted in junior competitions with the exception that for the lowest three programmed Junior divisions in the 10:45am time slot the Umpire, if required, can provide fair guidance (not tactics) to both teams at the change of ends.

COURTS ALLOCATED AND OTHER COURTS AVAILABLE

76. Matches are to proceed on allocated courts and any other court(s) available at that venue.

77. Each Club shall place at the disposal of the Association whatever courts are required for the playing of major round matches and Association Tournament Matches.

COURT REQUIREMENTS

78.

a) The club whose courts are being used shall be responsible to ensure that courts are free from hazard and that court hardware is in good condition. Nets shall be tied top and bottom and net straps shall be provided.

b) Matches shall be played in accordance with the draw determined at the commencement of the season. The first named team shall be responsible for providing the courts. A minimum of 2 courts shall be provided for all matches.

c) Court sweepers in good condition must be available at all court locations. There shall be one operational court sweeper per court and a suitable penalty shall be imposed by the Junior Competitions Committee for non-compliance.

BALLS

The head tennis ball is the official tennis ball for all SDTA competition matches and tournaments in **2021-22.**

81. Junior Competition:

Teams to provide new balls as approved by the association.

- a) Minor round matches: Boys Junior Premier to Division 4 and Girls Junior Premier to Division 3, the home team is to supply 4 new Tennis Australia approved balls for matches. In all other divisions, the home team is to supply 4 good quality SDTA approved balls.
- b) Major round matches: Boys Junior Premier to Division 4 and Girls Junior Premier to Division 3, the home team is to supply 4 new Tennis Australia approved balls for matches. In all other divisions, the home team is to supply 4 good quality SDTA approved balls.

ORDER OF MERIT

82.

- a) A player may only move up or down one position each week. A player may not move two positions or more without the approval of Tennis SA. The penalty for playing in the incorrect order of merit shall be the forfeiture to love of all sets from the correct order of merit playing position to the position played.
- b) Players from a lower division who are called upon to participate in Junior Premier Division or Junior Division 1 matches programmed for a different match day than their regular division, may revert to their regular position in the club order of merit in the round immediately following their participation in the Junior Premier Division or Junior Division 1 match. No player may participate in more than one match in each round of matches.
- c) No losing singles player may be promoted in the Club order of merit unless by permission of the Junior Competitions Committee.
- d) Please be aware that all teams are responsible for following the rules and regulations stated by SDTA. It is the team's and club's responsibility to dispute a ruling if they believe they have been unduly affected by the result of a rule breach. Penalties will only take place after a dispute has been made and proven true. If teams are to break the rules the opposition has the right to dispute the result.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE POINTS

83.

- a) Junior Competition Matches shall be played on a points system, 4 points awarded for a win, 2 points each for a draw and an additional one point for each winning set in a match. The team scoring the greatest number of sets in a match shall be the winner. If sets are equal, games count, if sets and games are equal, the match shall be a draw. In the event of no play or an unfinished match refer to Match Rules 101 and 102.
- e) A Singles division team of 4 receiving a forfeit shall receive 6 sets and 54 games to love.
- f) In all Divisions of the competition, teams shall be ranked on the premiership table based firstly on premiership points, then matches won, then sets won, then games won and finally games won as a % of total games played.

- g) In Divisions where there are an uneven number of teams that requires a bye to be programmed, the premiership table shall be determined firstly by dividing the match points won by the number of matches played; then sets won divided by the number of matches played, then games won divided by the number of matches played and finally games won as a % of total games played. In the event of no play or an unfinished match refer to Match Rule 101 and 102.

TEAMS & COURTS FOR FINALS (MAJOR ROUND) AND TOURNAMENTS

- 84.** Separate finals matches shall be played for all Divisions over a three week format with the first week of finals being played by the highest four teams ranked on the premiership table for that grade.

The format shall be:

- a) Week 1 – 1st team shall play the 2nd team.
- b) Week 1 – 3rd team shall play the 4th team.
- c) Week 2 – Loser of (a) above shall play the winner of (b) above.
- d) Week 3 – Winner of (a) above shall play the winner of (c) above.

- 85.** All clubs shall update their playing lists for all teams in League Manager to reflect the correct order of merit for all qualified players no later than 9am on Tuesday following the second last match for the season. All players not qualified for finals should be changed to Reserve Players. The squads will then be locked and reviewed by the Competitions Committee or by Tennis SA as the Competitions Committee delegate. Any changes required will be communicated with the relevant clubs no later than the Friday following. Teams must then play in the approved singles and mixed doubles order of merit and both orders of merit shall not be alterable for the Finals Series. Penalty for playing sets out of order – forfeiture of those sets to love.

- 86.** a) A player shall be eligible for inclusion in a Club's order of merit lists for finals in the Singles divisions only after that player has played one third (rounded down to the nearest whole number) of completed singles or doubles in the singles competition in this association during the current season.
- b) In addition to playing the overall number of matches to enable finals qualification, a player must have played a minimum of 50% of matches that the player has played in a team to play a final for that team unless by the permission of the Juniors Competitions Committee. This shall not apply to players moving to a higher Division for finals purposes than that grade in which the player has qualified for finals purposes.
- c) Byes will not count for qualification purposes.
- d) If a match is abandoned due to weather with players in attendance, the match shall count for qualification purposes.
- 87.** Clubs fielding teams in a semi-finals, preliminary finals and finals of a lower division who have teams in a higher division not playing that day, must not include any players for a lower division who would normally have been required to play that day in a higher division team.
- 88.** In the major round the matches are to be played in reverse order: i.e. second double first, fourth single/fourth mixed double first.
- 89.** The higher ranked team shall have home court advantage for the major round. If there are insufficient courts, the venue may be arranged by the club and the Competitions Committee is to be advised at the time the club lodges its team sheets. If the club does not arrange an alternative venue, the Junior Competitions Committee shall decide the venue.

90. In the event of a dispute arising between teams in connection with match play, failing light or inclement weather, the matter shall be referred to the Referee, whose decision shall be final.
91. Should any finals match that has commenced be incomplete for any reason the higher placed team shall be declared the winner.
92. Any major round match that results in a draw is to be decided by all male and female doubles playing tiebreaks. The team aggregating firstly the most tiebreaks or secondly the most points in these tiebreaks shall be the winner. If points are equal the match is to be decided by all doubles playing further braces of tiebreaks until a result is achieved.
93. Each Junior team competing in a major round must have a Supervisor present throughout the entire match. Each club conducting major round matches must have a Court Supervisor present throughout the entire match who acts as a referee for those matches. In the case of Junior Premier Division and Division 1 a neutral Court Supervisor will be appointed by the Competitions Committee to act as Referee. A fine of \$20.00 will be imposed for clubs failing to provide a supervisor.

RECORDING OF RESULTS

94. a) Clubs will be required to enter and confirm the results of their match on League Manager/ Match Centre by 9:00am on the Tuesday following the match. (for Finals this shall be Sunday 7pm)
 - b) Penalty \$10 fine to both teams not entering results by 9:00am on the Tuesday following the match will apply (for Finals this shall be Sunday 7pm).
 - c) Any player whose name is not entered into the Association's match results recording system by the time the match results are confirmed shall not have that match counted for finals qualification purposes. Any sets won by unspecified players will not be eligible for premiership points. The points will not be awarded to the opposition, and the result of the match will be determined as the team that won the most eligible sets and games.
 - d) Both teams are required to print out a score sheet from match centre.
95. Clubs are not required to forward match result sheets to the Junior Competitions Committee unless specifically requested to do so. Clubs are responsible for ensuring match sheets are retained and available to the Junior Competitions Committee.
 97. The Junior Competitions Committee shall annually advise requirements for finals series including penalties for non-compliance.

MATCH POSTPONEMENT / WEATHER CONDITIONS

98. In the event of extreme weather (including but not limited to rain or excessive heat) a message will be placed on the Tennis SA Website – [Inclement Weather Update](#) from 7am Saturday.
99. Where any doubt exists as to the suitability of the court surface for match play, the Venue Supervisor, Match Supervisor or Manager having responsibility for a team in that match shall together with their opposition make a determination having regard primarily for the safety of players.
100. If both team supervisors (in junior competitions) agree to commence or –recommence a match, all players must either play or continue playing their matches. Any player who does not wish to

play or continue playing after both supervisors have agreed that courts are fit for play, shall forfeit their match/es.

Heat:

101.

Juniors

- All matches will be played under the Tennis Australia Extreme Weather Policy
- Junior matches will be cancelled where the forecast temperature for match time is 36 degrees or higher
- For Friday evening matches, the [Tennis SA Website – Inclement Weather Update](#) will be updated from 4:30pm based on the projected temperature for match time.
- For first session Saturday matches, the [Tennis SA Website – Inclement Weather Update](#) will be updated by 7am on Saturday morning based on the projected forecast for first session match times
- For second session Saturday matches, the [Tennis SA Website – Inclement Weather Update](#) will be updated by 9am Saturday based on the projected forecast for second session matches

(Site is <http://www.bom.gov.au/places/sa/adelaide/forecast/detailed/>.)

Wet Weather – Minor Rounds:

- 102.** The players of each team shall attend at the courts specified for the playing of matches notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather unless the Junior Competitions Committee shall have given notice of the cancellation of that match.

In the event of no play after 1 hour from the scheduled start time for a Friday evening or Saturday morning junior match then the match is abandoned.

Abandoned minor round matches:

- 103.** In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather the following will occur.
- a) On the day set down for such, the matter shall be referred to the Committee for decision. Players must remain at the courts as specified in rule 101 before making any decision to abandon the match.
 - b) If neither team is in an unbeatable position, no rubbers will count and the match will be considered “unplayed” with the premiership ladder determined using points ratio (i.e. average points per matches played);
 - c) If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and given 4 premiership points, plus one point for each rubber won, and the unplayed or unfinished rubbers will be deemed split between each team.

The premiership ladder will be calculated using points ratio (average points per matches played)

Wet Weather – Major Rounds:

- 104.** In the event of no play after 1 hour from the scheduled start time for a Friday evening then the match is abandoned. The ultimate abandonment time for a Friday night match is 10pm or earlier if that venue has an earlier curfew.

- 105.** In the event of no play after 2 hours from the scheduled start time on a Saturday morning then the match is abandoned. If 2 sets are not completed after 2 hours from the scheduled start time the match shall be abandoned. If 4 sets are not completed after 3 hours from the scheduled start time the match shall be abandoned. All matches shall be abandoned if incomplete at 12:30pm.

Alteration to finals series affected by weather:

107. There will be a three week finals series played unless the first week is cancelled (not abandoned) whereby the finals series will be reprogrammed as a two week finals series.

If a match is abandoned, the higher ranked team is declared the winner.

If a three week finals series commences and week 2 is cancelled (or abandoned) then the higher placed team (first named) shall proceed in the finals series unless a result has already been achieved.

If a three week finals series commences and week 3 is cancelled (or abandoned) then the higher placed team (first named) team shall be declared the premier unless a result has already been achieved.

There will be no Sunday or mid-week finals matches played.

TENNIS ATTIRE

- 108.** a) All players shall dress in customarily acceptable tennis attire.
b) Individual clubs are responsible to enforce this rule.