



North East Tennis Association Juniors

RULES
2024/25 season



1. NETA Junior Competitions Committee

- 1.1 The Junior Competitions Committee will be made up of **Four** representatives from The North East Tennis Association and one Tennis SA staff member.
- 1.2 The Junior Competitions Committee is empowered to administer the competitions for NETA Junior Competition.
- 1.3 The Junior Competitions Committee may:
 - (a) Manage all minor round and Finals matches including setting match schedules, court scheduling including specifying standards and audit requirements and administer. The NETA Junior Competition Regulations and Rules;
 - (b) Administer the Rules of Tennis for the competitions.
 - (c) Conduct investigations and hearings, impose remedies, suspensions and penalties for breaches of the Code of Behaviour or infringements of any other Rules or Policies and deal generally with disciplinary matters arising from NETA Junior matches.

2. NETA Junior Grading Committee

The Junior Grading Committee will be made up of representatives from within NETA, select club representatives and one Tennis SA staff member.

- 2.2 The Junior Grading Committee may:
 - (a) Call for nominations from clubs for teams for each Competition and accept or decline nominations
- 2.3 For the respective junior competition Tennis SA will provide NETA Junior Grading Committee with a rating-based grading spreadsheet. The final grading of junior teams will be made by the respective NETA Junior Grading Committee.
Clubs may appeal the decision of the Junior Grading Committee for review, however the final decision will be made by the NETA Junior Grading Committee.

3. Nominations of NETA Junior Teams by Clubs

- 3.1 A Tennis Club affiliated with Tennis SA and The NETA may nominate a team to compete within the NETA Junior Competition.
- 3.2 Nominations shall be submitted online via League Manager.
- 3.3 Team Fees for NETA Junior competitions will be **\$64 (inc GST)** per team except Orange Ball which will be **\$30 (inc GST)**. Clubs will receive an invoice once teams are final.

4. Registered Members

- 4.1 Any Club who has teams competing in The NETA Junior Competition must have all those players registered in a Tennis Australia approved database management system by the date directed by Tennis SA.
 - a) In the case a club has not registered players into a Tennis Australia approved database management system by the date directed by Tennis SA penalties will be applied as per below.
 - b) No Premiership Points will be allocated, should players not be registered in a Tennis Australia approved database management system.
 - c) Newly added players to a team, must be registered within 7 days of play.
- 4.2 All players within NETA Junior Competition must have their details recorded in full on League Manager.
- 4.3 Any club playing a player listed on Tennis SA's list of ineligible players shall be penalised by losing any points the ineligible player has accrued and forfeit all sets played.

5. Restriction of Players

- 5.1 All players nominated must have registered and activated their own Competitive Player Profile to compete.
- 5.2 Friday night and Saturday morning competitions are two separate competitions. Players are permitted to play for one club in each competition. Friday night players are not permitted to play in Green Ball divisions Saturday mornings. Club fill-in players must continue to play in ranking order when playing Friday night/Saturday morning competitions.
- 5.3 A player shall not be allowed to play for more than one Tennis Affiliated club in the Junior Competition during a season unless they have received a clearance from the former club or obtained consent of the Junior Match Committee.
- 5.4 Saturday Morning matches ONLY - a player may play a second match only if it is in a higher division than his regular division.
- 5.5 A Junior shall be 18 years and under as at 30th September for Winter competition and 30th April for Summer competition.
- 5.6 Any club having two teams in any division shall, after each team's player's fourth match, not be allowed to play for the other team at any time without prior consent of the Junior Match Committee.
- 5.7 Newly nominated players who substantially alter the general standard of the team as originally graded may not be accepted by the Junior Match committee.

6. Affiliation

- 6.1 Any Club who has teams competing in NETA Junior Competition must have affiliation fees as directed by Tennis SA.
In the case a club has not paid affiliation fees by the date set by Tennis SA penalties will be applied as per below;
 - a) No Premiership Points will be allocated should affiliation fees not be paid.

7. Order of Merit

- 7.1 "Order of Merit" means that players will play in the order of players with greater ability playing higher in the team than players of lesser ability. Order of Merit shall be determined primarily but not solely by current match results. Players not listed on the original team Order of Merit will be included after they play a match.
- 7.2 Players must play in Order of Merit in all teams at all times. Number 1 or 2 highest ranked player in singles order of merit, playing doubles on the day must play in the top doubles pairing. Other players are flexible to move.
- 7.3 No player may move more than one ranking position up or down in consecutive matches.
- 7.4 The Competitions Advisory Group may at its discretion review the Order of Merit for any team at any time.
- 7.5 The Competition Advisory Group shall have the power to disapprove the Order of Merit within any team and within any club, and to adjust match results accordingly as it sees fit.
- 7.6 Disputes as to Order of Merit shall be determined by the Competitions Advisory Group which may impose such penalty as deemed necessary.

8. Competition – Match Play

- 8.1 Each team comprises up to 6 players. Teams shall be all Girls or all Boys except in the Green Ball Divisions where they can be mixed. A Club may apply to Tennis SA for permission to vary these requirements where there are exceptional circumstances.
- 8.2 Prior to the commencement of play the opposing Team Managers shall exchange match result forms with the names of doubles / singles combinations listed as per Rule 7. Once match result forms have been completed, they may only be altered with the agreement of both Team Managers.
- 8.3 Each player will play a one-set single against the corresponding player from the opposing team.
- 8.4 Players in all Divisions, except Green Ball, shall play one six game tie break set double and one six game tie break set Single. The tie break to commence at 5 games all. Green Ball Divisions will play straight 6 game sets.
- 8.5 Matches may, by prior agreement with the Venue Supervisor, be reduced to 4 games in an effort to gain a result. These matches must start at 2 games all with the first player to reach 6 games being declared the winner. (Players must be told before the matches begin.) If an agreement cannot be reached, the normal 6 game set stands.
- 8.6 If practicable, Doubles will be played first and both Doubles and Singles will be rotated according to the sequence listed in the Match Program. Each doubles combination will play against the corresponding combination from the opposing team.
- 8.7 Players will be permitted to a hit-up of no more than 3 minutes prior to the commencement of each double and each single.
- 8.8 SUMMER matches starting/finishing times: 8:30 am - 10:30 am and 10:30 am -12:30 pm.
WINTER matches starting/finishing times: 9:00 am -12 noon.
- 8.9 Any team not prepared to commence any Doubles set by the starting times shall forfeit doubles set.
- 8.10 Any team not prepared to commence any Singles set within **30 minutes** of starting times shall forfeit the match.
- 8.11 For the purpose of (8.8) 1 above any combination of players shall be used (taking into account Rule 7) to avoid the forfeiture of a doubles set in minor rounds only.
- 8.12 Any set commenced within 1/2 hour of the finishing times shown shall be reduced to a straight 4 game set. (See Rule 8.5).
- 8.13 At 1 hour after the starting times, only those players in attendance will be allowed to play.
- 8.14 Where the players are not in attendance in accordance with (8.8) 2 above, a forfeit shall be claimed and shall commence at the lowest listed singles (No. 4 position) except as provided by (8.15) below.
- 8.15 If a player is in attendance but is not prepared to play for reasons of illness or injury, that player may be listed on the match result sheet in **their** true position and the forfeit shall apply to that position.
- 8.16 SUMMER matches are to be conducted on a minimum of 2 courts per match. WINTER matches are to be conducted on a minimum of 1.5 courts per match. Team Managers shall use additional courts if and when they become available.
- 8.17 On completion of doubles matches, all players shall remain within close proximity of the playing venue and shall make themselves available to play in any singles order or rotation as agreed by the Team Managers of opposing teams. Any player not in attendance and prepared to play within 10 minutes of being required shall forfeit the match.
- 8.18 Venue Supervisors must use every endeavour to ensure that matches are completed in their entirety. Forfeits should only be claimed after careful consideration of the state of the match and the possible lateness of completion.

9. Friday Night Junior Competition

Unless otherwise stated here, the Saturday Morning match rules apply

- 9.1 A player shall not be allowed to play in more than one match on any Friday Night round of matches.
- 9.2 All matches shall play a tie-breaker at 5 games all except where Rule 8.5 applies.
- 9.3 Starting /finishing time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm.
- 9.4 The home team shall provide 4 new Balls for each match.
- 9.5 Matches will have a minimum of 2 courts each and commence at 6:30pm sharp. Any team not prepared to commence any Doubles set at 6:45pm shall forfeit a doubles match.

10. Forfeits

- 10.1 Any team not fielding a full team on 2 occasions shall have their position reviewed by the Junior Match Committee and may be forced to retire the team from the competition. No points won by or against such team in such division shall be scored. Clubs shall take all reasonable action to field complete teams by;
 - (a) Providing a satisfactory explanation in writing to Tennis SA for any set forfeited to receive any points.
 - (b) Notifying opposing teams at least 1 hour before the commencement of a match.

11. Umpires

- 11.1 Each Club shall appoint an adult or responsible person as Venue Supervisor for each home match venue who shall have the powers of a referee when a referee is needed.
- 11.2 Umpires must be Adults appointed by the Venue Supervisor and must not be a parent of any player involved in the set.
- 11.3 Teams in the lowest Green Ball division are permitted to be supervised at all matches by an adult who shall assist with umpiring in minor round matches only.
- 11.4 During the conduct of a match, only umpires, Venue Supervisors and players shall be permitted inside the playing area.

12. Tennis Balls

- 12.1 Saturday home team shall provide 2 pair of good tennis balls (i.e. WITH SOME BRAND REMAINING) for each minor round match. Friday Night Competition Home Teams shall provide 2 pair of new tennis balls for each match.
- 12.2 Green Ball Divisions shall provide 2 pair of low compression tennis balls (i.e. WITH SOME BRAND REMAINING) for every Home match. When worn, these must be replaced by new low compression balls.
- 12.3 For finals matches the home team shall provide 2 pair of Tennis Australia Approved balls.

13. Premiership Points for Completed or Forfeited Matches

- 13.1 The team scoring the greatest number of sets in a match shall be the winner. If sets are equal then the team with the greatest number of games shall be the winner. If sets and games are equal then the match shall be a draw.
- 13.2 In each match, each team shall receive one premiership point for each set won. In addition, the winning team will receive four points, or in the case of a draw each team will receive two points.
- 13.3 A team receiving a forfeit shall be credited with the maximum number of premiership points, sets and games. A team giving a forfeit shall receive no points, sets and games.
- 13.4 Premiership points shall be used in determining the premiership order at the completion of the minor round, except in the case of a division with a bye where Match Ratio (Premiership points

divided by number of matches) will decide the premiership order. Where premiership points are equal, sets then games will decide the premiership order on a Match Ratio basis.

14. Web Results

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 Penalty loss of 2 premiership points to both teams not entering results by 9:00am on the Tuesday following the match will apply.
- 14.3 If a player does not have a Competitive Player Profile (CPP) at the time of the match, they have until the following Tuesday to obtain a CPP. If they do not have a CPP and have not reached out to Tennis SA in efforts to form one, 1 premiership point will be deducted per player from the affected match. This will not apply to Orange Ball Competition.
- 14.4 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.
- 14.5 Both teams are required to print out a score sheet from match centre.
- 14.6 Teams should keep the score sheet for 1 week after matches in case of a disputed score.

15. Inclement Weather and Incomplete Matches

- 15.1 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](#) by;
 - Friday 4:30pm – Friday Night matches
 - Saturday 7:00am – Saturday Morning 8:30am matches
 - Saturday 9:00am – Saturday Morning 10:30am matches
- 15.2 Matches will be cancelled when the projected forecast maximum temperature for match time is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au is 36' Celsius or more.
- 15.3 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 venue supervisor for decision. Players must remain at the courts until the venue supervisor has made the decision to abandon the match. No match shall be abandoned before 7:00pm on Friday or 9:00am on Saturday, except in the event of cancellation due to excessive heat.
 - (b) If neither team is in an unbeatable position, no sets will count, and the match will be considered "unplayed" for purposes of ladder calculation only with the premiership ladder determined using a 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 set won, and the unplayed or unfinished sets will be deemed split between each team.
- 15.4 The premiership ladder will be calculated using points ratio (average points per match played) Supervisors may cancel matches after a 4pm TSA announcement only if they believe their courts will be unsafe for play. If courts can be prepared to enable safe play and weather conditions improve, matches should commence as programmed. However, cancellations can take place at any time between 4 and 6 given the prevalent conditions. The club must advise the opposition of any cancellation as well as a text or email to Tennis SA once a supervisor has made that decision.

16. Finals Matches

- 16.1 Matches must have a minimum of 2 courts each.
A) Summer matches will commence at 8:30am sharp. Any team not prepared to commence any singles set by 9:00am shall forfeit the match.
B) Winter matches will commence at 9:00am sharp. Any team not prepared to commence any set by 9:30am shall forfeit the match.
- 16.2 If a finals match is drawn, tied or unfinished the team who finished higher at the end of the minor round shall be declared the winner.
- 16.3 To facilitate the completion of any major round in a timely manner, the appointed Venue Supervisor, Referee or the Junior Competition Officer may direct that extra courts be used at the same venue or at a different venue.

17. Eligibility for Finals

- 17.1 A player shall not be entitled to play in any Semi-Final or Final unless he/ she has played at least four matches in the relevant competition, for his/her club, in the current season.
- 17.2 Any player who has played more minor round matches in a higher division cannot play in a lower division without the permission of the Junior Match Committee.
- 17.3 In considering an application under 17.2 the Junior Match Committee will be guided by team / player placing's over the last six matches of the season.
- 17.4 When a match is cancelled any Club may submit a list of players for the purpose of qualification under this rule. No player, however, can be given more than one such qualification.

18. Team List for Finals

- 18.1 Clubs shall review their teams lists in League Manager to reflect the correct order of merit for finals by 9:00am on the Tuesday preceding finals for checking of eligibility for finals. If any changes need to be made, please email kara.binka@tennis.com.au to review and approve/update the team list.
- 18.2 Any Club submitting a team listing under this Rule which includes ineligible players shall be advised accordingly by the Junior Match Committee and the listing shall be amended to comply with the requirements of Rule 17.
- 18.3 A Club unable to field a full team in its lowest division due to injury or illness may seek the permission of the Junior Match Committee to use an unqualified or ineligible player as a substitute.
- 18.4 In the event of emergencies being required, the Club's current list of Teams / players will determine the order in which these emergencies play.

19. Finals Method of Play

- 19.1 Finals will be played over 3 weeks **Summer** season;
- (a). The Qualifying Semi-final shall be played between the first and second ranked teams.
(b). The Elimination Semi-final shall be played between the third and fourth ranked teams.

The Preliminary Final shall be played between the winner of the Elimination Semi-final and the loser of the Qualifying Semi-final.

The Grand Final shall be played between the winner of the Qualifying Semi-final and the winner of the Preliminary Final.

Round	Fixture	Name	Team 1		Team 2
1	A	Qualifying Semi-Final	Rank 1	v	Rank 2
	B	Elimination Semi-Final	Rank 3	v	Rank 4
2	C	Preliminary Final	Loser A	v	Winner B
3	D	Grand Final	Winner A	v	Winner C

19.2 Finals will be played over 1 week in Winter season:

a) The Grand Final shall be played between the first and second ranked teams on a court ratio of 2 courts minimum.

b) All other teams will playoff on a court ratio of 1.5 courts minimum.

Round	Name	Team 1		Team 2
1	Grand Final	Rank 1	v	Rank 2

19.3 For finals, referees may be appointed. Should disputes arise the referee shall intervene as necessary in order for the match to be completed.

19.4 All major round matches to be played on best available courts according to the schedule set out in this program unless weather or other conditions beyond its control force the Junior Match Committee to approve alternative arrangements.

20. Rules Interpretation

20.1 Any question arising from or in connection with the interpretation or construction of these rules and regulations shall be determined by the NETA Junior Committee in its absolute discretion.

20.2 The NETA Junior Committee may alter or amend these rules and regulations from time to time without prior notice.

21. Match Disputes

21.1 All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to the Coordinator at Tennis SA (kara.binka@tennis.com.au) 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 21.2. For any Code of Behaviour Issues, refer to Rule 23.

Please be aware that all teams are responsible for following the rules stated by NETA. 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.

21.2 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.

21.3 The NETA Junior 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).

22. Appeals

22.1 A party may appeal a determination made by the NETA Junior Committee pursuant to Rule 21.3, by providing written notice to Tennis SA within three working days of the determination.

The written notice of appeal must contain a precise statement as to the basis and nature of the appeal. If the determination is appealable, Tennis SA may refer the matter to Tennis Australia. Tennis Australia will have the final determination on any appeal against a Metro League Committee's determination.

23. Code of Conduct

- 23.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour for Weekly Competitions.
- 23.2 All Code of Behaviour reports shall be lodged by filling out the [Tennis SA Competition Code of Behaviour Report](#) by COB Tuesday following the match in which the incident took place.
- 23.3 Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.
- 23.4 Team Managers are responsible for:
- Educating all players in their team on their responsibilities in the Tennis Australia National Policies (particularly the Code of Behaviour and Disciplinary Policy); and
 - Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship.
- 23.5 The following codes of conduct have been based on the Tennis Australia Code of Conduct. Code Violations include:
- Coaching of any type from any person while a set is in progress.
 - Audible Obscenity during any match within the precincts of the match.
 - Visible Obscenity during any match within the precincts of the match.
 - Physical Abuse of any official, opponent, spectator or other person.
 - Verbal Abuse of any official, opponent, spectator or other person.
 - Consumption of alcohol within the court enclosure.
 - Playing while intoxicated by alcohol or other substances.

24. Penalties

- 24.1 The NETA Junior Committee may impose penalties for any breach(es) of the NETA Competition Rules and/or the Code. The NETA Junior Committee may resolve a dispute in any way it sees fit and/or impose a penalty, subject to the principles of natural justice. Penalties that may be imposed by the NETA Junior Committee include (but are not limited to) suspension from the NETA Junior Competition of no more than four weeks, the forfeit of matches or sets, and the loss of premiership points, on any club, player or spectator found to have breached these Rules and/or the Code.
- 24.2 The NETA Executive Committee reserves the right to refer breaches of the code to the Tennis Australia Integrity and Compliance Unit for further investigation and to be resolved in accordance with the Code.

25. Rules of the Tie-Break System – Refer Rule 13

Singles

- A player who first wins seven points shall win the game and the set provided he/ she leads by a margin of two points. If the score reaches six points all, the game shall be extended until the margin has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tie-break system.
- The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. His/her opponent shall be the server for the second and third points and thereafter each player shall serve alternately for two consecutive points until the winner of the game and set has been decided.
- From the first point, each service shall be delivered alternately from the right and left courts, beginning from the right court.
- Players shall change ends after every six (6) points.



Doubles

In doubles the procedure for singles shall apply. The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter, each player shall serve in rotation for two points. In the same order as previously in that set, until the winners of the game and set have been decided.

