



Green Ball Rules

EDTA JUNIORS 2026/27



Key Dates

- Start of season, 8-9 May 2026
- Bye Rounds
 - 6 – 7 June 2026 (Kings Birthday)
 - 3-4 July 2026 (School Holidays)
 - 10 – 11 July 2026 (School Holidays)
 - 17 – 18 July 2026 (School Holidays)
- Last round to be on 28-29 August
- Finals to be run over 2 weekends
 - Semi Finals: 4-5 September
 - Grand final round: 11-12 September

1. Eligibility / Registrations / Clearances

- 1.1 All players must be registered with their club, have an active Competitive Player Profile (CPP) and have their details entered in League Manager by 9:00am Tuesday following the match. *Penalty: 1 premiership point deduction per player from the affected match.*
- 1.2 The green ball junior competition is open to players aged 12 and under. For eligibility, age is taken to be as at the first match of the relevant season.
- 1.3 If a club has more than one team in a division, a player may play four matches before being bound to a team. *Penalty: Forfeit of all sets played by the ineligible player.*
- 1.4 Players may not represent more than one club in a season without written clearance from their original club and approval from Tennis SA. *Penalty: Forfeit of all sets played by the ineligible player.*
- 1.5 New players not listed in the original squad must be approved by Tennis SA. If not notified before match day, clubs have until 5:00pm Monday to submit the request. Players who significantly alter the team's standard may be rejected. *Penalty: Forfeit of all sets played by the ineligible player*
- 1.6 Any player listed as unspecified player in League Manager will have the following penalty imposed: *Penalty: 1-point deduction per unspecified player.*

2. Format and Procedure (Summer)

- 2.1 Teams may consist of up to 6 players.
- 2.2 Singles & Doubles – one straight 6 game set with no tiebreaker (i.e. the set is finished when the score reaches 6 games to 5).
- 2.3 No Advantage – Receivers choice, if a game gets to deuce the winner of the next point will win the game. The receiver will get to choose which side of the court they will receive the serve from.
- 2.4 Matches should commence with the 2 doubles sets followed by the 4 singles sets. Where 2 courts are allocated per match, the venue supervisor can change the order of play with a single being played before a doubles in the event of the non-attendance of players, to allow 2 matches to commence. Forfeits cannot be claimed if a single can be played on an available allocated court.
- 2.5 Players must serve overhead, or underarm on the full. One ball should be held in hand to serve and the second ball in a pocket, behind the fence, or tucked into clothing. The second ball should NOT be left at or near feet.
- 2.6 In the event a player is in doubt then the ball should be called in.
- 2.7 If a score cannot be agreed upon, both players should wait on court for a venue supervisor to resolve the disagreement.
- 2.8 Forfeiting teams must:
 - Notify the opposing team and supervisor before match start.
 - Provide a written explanation via WhatsApp to Tennis SA/Supervisor before match start.

3. Format and Procedure (Winter)

- 3.1 Saturday Morning (Green Ball) Mixed Gender – 4 singles, 2 doubles.
- 3.2 Teams: Up to 6 players
- 3.3 No Advantage – Receivers choice, if a game gets to deuce the winner of the next point will win the game. The receiver will get to choose which side of the court they will receive the serve from.
- 3.4 Matches should commence with doubles matches first, followed by singles

3.5 If a score cannot be agreed upon, both players should wait on court for a venue supervisor to resolve the disagreement.

3.6 Doubles pairings flexible (top singles not required in top doubles)

3.7 Forfeiting teams must:

- Notify the opposing team and supervisor before match start.
- Provide a written explanation via WhatsApp to Tennis SA/Supervisor before match start.

4. Requirement of clubs

4.1 Green-ball venues will be provided with balls for matches by the EDTA for all Saturday morning matches. The EDTA will allocate balls to each venue and each club will be invoiced by the association.

5. Order Of Merit

- 5.1 If a team has more than four players and a player is injured in doubles he or she can be replaced (in singles) by a player who played doubles but was not originally listed in singles. Order of merit rule must be followed
- 5.2 Order of merit – 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.
- 5.3 In the event of any sets having to be forfeited due to non-attendance of players, those forfeits shall commence from the bottom. If a set needs to be forfeited, the player to receive the forfeit must be present.
- 5.4 Tennis SA, in conjunction with the Competitions Advisory Group, may review and amend a team's Order of Merit (OOM) at any time throughout the season. *Penalty: If a player continues to compete in the same order of merit for the same team after the club coordinator has been notified, all sets played by that player will be forfeited.*

6. Finals Qualification

- 6.1 Tennis SA will assess all teams to determine player eligibility and rank qualified individuals in order of merit as base players. Each team may include a maximum of six base players. Any players deemed not qualified will be placed on the reserve list. All players listed as base players are considered qualified.
- 6.2 If a reserve player needs to be changed to a base player, an email request must be sent to Tennis SA for clearance. Players who remain on the reserve list should be considered unqualified. Any necessary changes will be communicated to the relevant clubs.
- 6.3 Teams must then compete in the approved order of merit and remain in the same order of their position of merit throughout the Finals Series.
- 6.4 To play in a major round match, a player must have played in four minor round matches in that Division or lower within the EDTA Junior Competition in the current season to be eligible for finals.
- 6.5 Any matches NOT cancelled by Tennis SA will count towards qualification, provided all listed players attend the venue and submit a scoresheet in League Manager / Match Centre. If the match is not affected by inclement weather, then players must take the court to qualify.

7. Score Sheets and Recording Results

- 7.1 Score Sheets will be provided by the Venue Supervisor at the venue allocated. Each individual Team is required to print and bring their own scoresheet to the venue for their information and may take a photo of the Venue Supervisors or club representatives scoresheet at the conclusion of the match.
- 7.2 Team Managers or club representatives will be required to enter or confirm the results of their match on League Manager/ Match Centre by 9:00am on the Tuesday following the match.
- 7.3 Players may enter their own scores via match centre
- a) If neither team enters the score by 9:00am Tuesday following the match, the result will be considered cancelled. No premiership points will be awarded, and the round will not count toward finals qualification. Late entries will not be accepted.
- b) The Semmens vote must be recorded via the QR code displayed at each venue and on the TSA Website or by this link [Click Here](#) by 9:00am on the Tuesday following each match.
- 7.4 Any unspecified player entered with a match result will not be able to use this record for the purpose of qualification for finals unless the match is disputed to allow the known player's name to be included.
- 7.5 The venue is to retain the score sheets.

8. Match Disputes

- 8.1 All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to the Coordinator at Tennis SA (Jordan.odonohoe@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. A signed score sheet must be provided.
- 8.2 Please be aware that all teams are responsible for following the rules and regulations stated. 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.*

9. Venue Supervisors, General Duties

- 9.1 Ensure courts are prepared for match play and be present during the allocated times.
- 9.2 Confirm that all players have arrived by the designated report time to allow matches to start promptly.
- 9.3 Club Shirt Compliance and Match Attire.
- 9.4 Ensure all matches are completed within a 2-hour timeframe from the scheduled start.
- 9.5 Rotate singles order of play weekly (where possible) for fairness.
- 9.6 Ensure players do not leave the court without supervisor approval.
- 9.7 Be visible and available to players; wear Tennis SA-approved Hi-Viz vest or cap.
- 9.8 Assess court safety in case of weather and cancel matches if necessary.
- 9.9 Administer and verify Match Centre score sheets; ensure all details are correct and legible.
- 9.10 Retain all score sheets at the venue.
- 9.11 Remind teams to enter scores into Match Centre by 9:00am Tuesday following the match.
- 9.12 Handle player concerns (e.g., score disputes, poor sportsmanship) via direct report or through team manager. Remind team managers of their responsibility for player conduct and sportsmanship.
- 9.13 May warn players for poor sportsmanship or bad line calls; monitor and overrule if necessary.
- 9.14 Tactical coaching during play is not permitted and must be addressed immediately.
- 9.15 May adjust order of play (e.g., singles before doubles) if players are absent.
- 9.16 Has authority to disqualify players for persistent poor sportsmanship (e.g., swearing, racquet abuse).
- 9.17 May intervene in cases of parental interference; enforce 1.5m distance from fence.
- 9.18 Report unresolved parental interference to Tennis SA under TA Member Protection Policy
- 9.19 Rule and match procedure queries must be raised by team managers promptly after incidents.
- 9.20 After points are played the players must collect their own balls.
- 9.21 If a player makes an incorrect line call, the supervisor must issue a warning. If further incorrect calls occur, the supervisor may overrule subsequent calls. Players should be advised of this process immediately after the first incorrect call.
- 9.22 A supervisor should ensure that there is no interference from parents / spectators / resting players.
- 9.23 The only person who can adjudicate is in the first instance the players and if an umpire is required and the venue supervisor is unavailable, one neutral parent agreed upon by both teams is permitted to umpire.

10. Match Attire

- 10.1 All players must wear the approved club shirt.
- 10.2 Shorts or skirts must be white, black, or navy, unless a different colour is part of the approved club uniform.
- 10.3 Football shorts or socks are not considered suitable attire.
- 10.4 Players must have a club shirt by Round 5.
- 10.5 Clubs must notify Tennis SA and the EDTA Junior Coordinator if there is a valid reason for noncompliance (e.g., supply issues). Any other reason for noncompliance will result in a 1-point deduction.
- 10.6 The Association will conduct spot checks from Round 5 onwards.
- 10.7 Supervisors must record any noncompliance regarding club shirts on the match sheet.
- 10.8 Reports of noncompliance will be reviewed by the EDTA Junior Coordinator and referred to Tennis SA for appropriate action.
- 10.9 Penalties may include warnings or point deductions.
- 10.10 In major rounds, all players must wear the approved club shirt to participate in any sets
- 10.11 In major rounds, players must check in with the Venue Supervisor before the scheduled match start time.
- 10.12 In major rounds, a 45-minute grace period (starting 15 minutes before the scheduled match time on League Manager) is allowed to obtain a club shirt.
- 10.13 In major rounds, if a shirt is not worn within the grace period, the player's rubber will be forfeited.
- 10.14 In major rounds, shirt swapping between team members is not permitted.

11. Support from Parents/ Spectators

- 11.1 Each team is required to have one appointed Team Manager.
- 11.2 Only the Team Manager may report issues to the venue supervisor.
- 11.3 If there are continuous questionable line calls, the Team Manager should notify the Venue Supervisor and request monitoring
- 11.4 Parents, spectators, and resting players are **NOT** allowed on court while matches are in progress and are to remain at least one metre back from the court. Penalties may be imposed by EDTA Management Committee for this breach.
- 11.5 Hanging on the fence is not permitted. Penalties may be imposed by EDTA Management Committee for this breach.
- 11.6 Only the players and the agreed neutral umpire may be on court.
- 11.7 Players are expected to collect their own balls.
- 11.8 Players umpire their own match, with assistance from the neutral umpire only if a call cannot be made without delay.
- 11.9 All line calls must be made by the players or the neutral umpire, with no outside influence
- 11.10 If players disagree on the score, the neutral umpire or venue supervisor will confirm the correct score so play can continue.

12. Code of Behaviour Issues

- 12.1 All matches must be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour.
- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal Parents/spectators must not contact the supervisor or interfere; only team managers may report issues.
- 12.4 Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.
- 12.5 *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.

13. Penalties

- 13.1 The EDTA Advisory Group may impose penalties for any breach(es) of the EDTA Junior Competition Rules and/or the Code. The EDTA Advisory Group 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 EDTA Advisory Group include (but are not limited to) suspension from the EDTA 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.
- 13.2 The EDTA Advisory Group 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.

14. Regrading Policy

- 14.1 Regrades may occur after Round 5, based on the best interests of the competition.
- 14.2 All regrade requests will be reviewed by Tennis SA and the EDTA Advisory Committee.
- 14.3 If a request is declined, the team will remain in its current division.
- 14.4 If a team is regraded to a different division, **match points will not carry over**, as ladder positions are based on match point ratio.

15. Rule Interpretation and Amendments

- 15.1 Any questions regarding the interpretation or application of these rules and regulations will be determined at the sole discretion of the EDTA Advisory Committee.
- 15.2 The EDTA Advisory Committee reserves the right to amend or update these rules and regulations at any time without prior notice.

16. Weather Implications

- 14.1 In extreme weather (rain, heat), updates will be posted on the Tennis SA website:
 - Saturday 7:00am – 8:15am matches

- Saturday 9:00am – 10:15am matches
- 14.2 If Tennis SA has not cancelled the match, supervisors should monitor the temperature at their respective venue should the temperature near 36°C and may cancel matches after a TSA announcement only if courts are unsafe. If courts can be made safe, matches should proceed. Cancellations must be reported to Tennis SA via text or email.
- 14.3 Matches are cancelled if the forecast (Adelaide West Terrace via www.bom.gov.au) is 36°C or higher.
- 14.4 Tennis SA may also cancel if below 36°C. Notify cancellations via EDTA Weather WhatsApp group.
- 14.5 If matches are interrupted or incomplete due to weather:
- a) Venue supervisor decides; players must remain until decision. No match may be abandoned before 7:00pm (Friday) or 9:00am (Saturday), except for heat cancellations.
 - b) If no team is in an unbeatable position: both receive 2 points + 1 per set won; unfinished sets split.
 - c) If one team is in an unbeatable position: winner gets 4 points + 1 per set won; unfinished sets split.
- 14.6 In affected matches, ladder rankings use average points per match.
- 14.7 Venues must have equipment to dry courts.
Matches proceed unless cancelled by the supervisor.



Tennis acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, rest and play, and pay our respect to Elders past and present.