



School Competition Guidelines

GRADE 5 & 6

Tennis Australia, in conjunction with School Sport Associations, is pleased to offer a pathway for students to participate in tennis during primary school. This new primary school competition uses modified equipment, numeric scoring and mixed gendered teams. The competition progresses from District/Zone Gala Days to Region Finals and finally culminates in a State Championships in each state where participating schools will receive an opportunity to attend their local Summer event.

The exciting introduction of the Hot Shots Tennis School Competition, specifically for students in Grade 3 to 6, is not just about selecting the best students, but encouraging participation, providing a positive experience playing tennis, growing friendships and giving students the opportunity to represent their school in a team environment. For the majority of students, this may be their first experience representing their school.

Equipment Specifics

- 21, 23 or 25 inch racquets for participating players
- Low compression (25%) red tennis balls
- 3m or 5.5m nets as required; alternatively barrier tape may be used
- Drop down lines as required

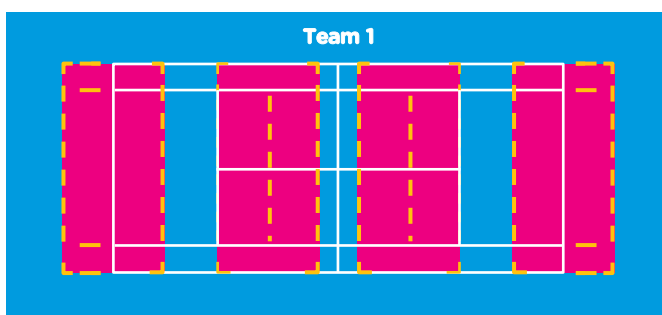
Team

- Grade 5 & 6 students
- Separate boys (and/or mixed) and a girls section (mixed gender teams play in the boys section)
- 8 players per team with up to two substitutes (teams can only substitute players between rounds)
- Schools can enter multiple teams (one teacher required for every 3 teams)
- Small schools with a combined enrolment of no more than 300 may enter a combined team
- All players to wear school sports uniforms

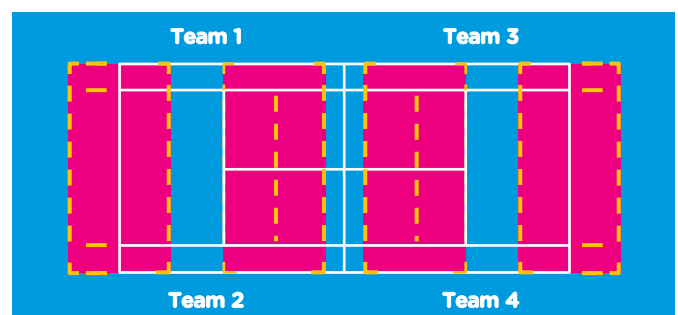
Court Setup

- Red Ball tennis court
- 5.5m in width by 11m in length, if 5.5m nets are unavailable join 2 x 3m nets together, alternatively barrier tape may also be used if you have limited nets
*the use of 3m singles courts may only be used at DISTRICT/ZONE level if space is limited
- Courts to be set up the following ways depending on the number of courts (tennis, basketball, netball etc.) available and the number of teams competing (see diagram below)
- Use drop down lines to mark court area and allow a 1m gap between red courts (if possible)

Option 1.



Option 2.



Order of Play

- **Option 1:** Singles players ranked 1–4 play first, then players 5–8. Once completed, all play a doubles match (in order of ranking) at the same time (**30 min**)
- **Option 2:** Reduce singles matches to 5min. Singles players ranked 1 & 2 play first (players 3 & 4 assist with scoring), then players 3 & 4 play (players 1 & 2 assist with scoring). Singles players 5 & 6 then play followed by players 7 & 8. Players 1 - 4 play doubles followed by players 5 - 8 to finish the round (**45min**)

Format of Competition

1. A Round Robin Draw with teams divided into even pools is the preferred format.
2. Matches are timed (**usually 8mins**) and all begin and end at the same time.
3. Matches are scored numerically e.g. 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1 etc.
4. Players are ranked in **order of ability** (Player 1 – 8) and can only move down one spot when substitutes are used during the competition.
5. Players umpire themselves and play **one singles & one doubles** match per round.
6. The **Court Supervisor (Team Manager)** records the scores from each set e.g. 24 - 15 on the Score Card circling the winner of each set for that round.
7. Teams score **1 point for each set win** that are tallied up throughout the round robin. If teams are tied on the sets then the team which won more sets in their round robin match finishes higher. If it is still a tie, then the team that won the most individual points in each set from that round finishes higher.
8. Top teams from each pool play off in **Finals matches** to determine the overall winning team. Remaining teams also play off to determine overall finishing positions. If teams are tied on sets at the end of a play-off match, the team who won the most points will win the match. If teams are tied on sets and points, both teams will choose two players to play a **doubles tiebreaker** (first to 7 points) to decide the match.

Rules of Competition

1. To begin, players do **paper, scissors, rock** and the winner chooses to serve or receive.
2. First and second serves to be a **drop bounce hit** over the net, across the court into the service box, with the receiver allowing the ball to bounce once before returning. If the ball lands outside the receivers service box or it goes into the net it is a 'fault' and the player serves again. If the player serves a fault on the second serve it is the opponents point.
3. If the ball touches the net on the way over and lands in the receivers service box it is called a 'let' and the player serves again.
4. If the ball bounces twice or the player hits the ball out or into the net it is the opponents point.
5. Players cannot reach over the net or touch the net during a rally otherwise it is the opponents point.
6. **Unsportsmanlike behaviour** such as deliberately wasting time, dangerous play or abusive language needs to be reported to the **Court Supervisor** who will then penalise the player by **forfeiting the set**.
7. When the siren sounds to end the match, players **finish the rally** then **shake hands** and sit down on their court.
8. If a set is tied at the end of the allocated time players then play **next point wins** to decide who wins the set.

School Competition Score Card (example)

	ROUND:	1	COURT:	1-4
Team Names:	Leopold PS	Team 1 Score	Torquay College	Team 2 Score
Singles (1 v 1)	Billy	20	Nick	22
Singles (2 v 2)	Shawn	17	Thomas	25
Singles (3 v 3)	Paul	14	Flynn	25
Singles (4 v 4)	Ben	22	James	18
Singles (5 v 5)	Josh	12	Trent	20
Singles (6 v 6)	Adam	17	Hamish	24
Singles (7 v 7)	Andrew	16	Brett	15
Singles (8 v 8)	Heath	21	Tim	20
Doubles (1 & 2)	Billy & Shawn	25	Nick & Thomas	13
Doubles (3 & 4)	Paul & Ben	20	Flynn & James	23
Doubles (5 & 6)	Josh & Adam	14	Trent & Hamish	17
Doubles (7 & 8)	Andrew & Heath	18	Brett & Tim	12
	TOTAL SETS	5		7

Resources

Sign up to our online learning platform Bounce (bounce.tennis.com.au) to download printable resources to assist you in running your School Competition.

For further assistance contact us via Schools@tennis.com.au or on 1800 PLAY TENNIS.



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