



SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA

TENNIS – SECONDARY

Proudly supported by Tennis Victoria



These rules apply to State, Region and Division competitions. Any variations to these rules at Region and Division levels will be found on the relevant page on the SSV website.

Match Format: For Regions and Division match format, please consult the relevant page on the SSV website or contact the relevant Coordinator.

Team Size: A team consists of 4 to 8 players.

A maximum of eight (8) SSV medallions plus one (1) for the team coach will be awarded to placegetters.

Extra medallions will NOT be available.

State Format: Split Round Robin, Semi Final, Final

State Match Schedule: There will be a Pre-Championships Briefing for all competitors prior to the first round of matches

See the Tennis Draw, on the SSV website, for the Match Schedule

State Match Format: All matches (Round Robin, Semi Finals, Final) are to consist of 6 sets, 4 singles & 2 doubles.

Where players have a Universal Tennis Rating (UTR), individuals must be seeded according to their current rating. They must also list their current Universal Tennis Rating on the team sheet.

To search for and check on player Universal Tennis Ratings go to <https://www.universaltennis.com/>

All seedings must be adhered to. Any player playing in the order below their correct seeded order will forfeit their set 0:4.

Each player in rank order will play one Singles Set [first to 4 games] with a short tiebreak at 3 games all [first to 5 points, sudden death at 4 points all].

A short tiebreak is a tiebreak played as the first to five (5) points, sudden death at 4-4.

The player whose turn it is to serve at the commencement of the tie break (Player A) will serve one (1) point.

The opposing player (Player B) will then serve two (2) points. Player A (or the team mate of Player A in doubles) will then serve two (2) points.

Player B (or the team mate of Player B in doubles) will then serve the following two (2) points.

If the score reaches 4-4, Player B (or the team mate of Player B in doubles) will serve the final point of the tiebreak with Player A choosing which side the ball will be served.

Players will change ends only after the first four (4) points have been played.

Doubles set will be played first to 4 games with a short tiebreak at 3 games all [first to 5 points, sudden death at 4 points all].

All Singles and Doubles sets will be played using sudden death no-ad scoring with the receiver choosing the serve side when the game reaches deuce. [That means the receiver decides to which side the server will serve either forehand or backhand side when deuce is reached and whoever wins that point wins the game]

When players change ends at the end of a game and during a tiebreak game play will be continuous and the players shall change ends with players having to be ready within 60 seconds of the previous game's end. Players are NOT permitted to sit down during the change of ends during a set.

Any pairings may be used for the doubles to comprise a First Pair and a Second Pair.

Players are restricted to one singles game and one doubles game in each match.

Teams must nominate their doubles pairings before the start of play in each match.

Pairs may only be changed following the singles by mutual agreement of the two coaches involved.

The Convener has the right to halt play in any match once a result has been determined.

State Match Winner:

Winners will be determined on number of sets won. If equal, then games won. If still equal, then a draw shall be declared.

State Round Robin Winner: Points will be allocated for Round Robin matches as follows: 4 points for a win, 2 point for a draw and 0 for a loss.

The State Round Robin Winner will be decided on matches won. If, at the end of the round robin, two teams are equal on matches won, then the winner of the face to face match will be declared the winner. If their face to face match was a draw, then each team shall nominate one doubles pair to play one tie-breaker set.

If more than two teams are equal on matches won, then total sets won from the matches involving the other tied teams will be compared. If still equal, total games from the matches involving the other tied teams will be compared.

State Final Winner: The Final will be decided on sets won. If equal, on games won. If still equal, then each team shall nominate one doubles pair to play one extra tie-break set.

Conditions: See the School Sport Victoria '[General Conditions of Competition](#)'. All players, teachers, spectators and officials are bound by the '[SSV Codes of Conduct](#)'. A girl cannot play in a girls' team and a boys/mixed team in the same sport. The level of competition chosen by a student at Division level remains binding through to Region and State levels.

Rules: Tennis is conducted under the rules of the International Tennis Federation unless otherwise stated.

Hitting Up The maximum time permitted for a hit-up before commencement of each set is 5 minutes including serves from each player. Following the set warm-up, players are not permitted to sit down however they may go back to their chair/seat for a drink, but the player must be ready to play within 1 minute of the conclusion of the warm-up.

A maximum of 5 minutes is permitted between the conclusion of the singles sets and the commencement of the warm-up of the doubles set.

Coaching: Coaches/teachers are not permitted on court and must not coach or communicate with players during play.

Dress: Competitors must be dressed in their school sports uniform or in neat tennis clothing.

Tracksuits may not be worn during play.

Board shorts (surf shorts) are not acceptable.

Shirts with designs, large manufacturer's logos or advertising are not acceptable.

Tennis shoes with flat tread must be worn.

Players not correctly dressed will not be permitted to compete.

Lateness Penalty: If a team is late for the start of their match for reasons beyond their control and the team communicates with the convener, then the convener will try to accommodate the team as best he/she can.

If a team is 30 min late without notice or communication **or** in the convener's opinion their lateness makes the draw impracticable, then they will forfeit the first 2 sets. This continues for each 30 min.

Equipment to Bring: Competing schools must provide:

- 8 new balls approved by Tennis Australia
- Match balls will be provided for the State Final, teams will need to bring their own practice balls.
- A first aid kit - Competing schools are responsible for ensuring that reasonable provision is made for the treatment of injuries. All schools participating in SSV Team Sports final are required to bring their own applicable first aid kit (appropriate to the location as there is potential for sporting activities to be some distance away from emergency services) – For more detailed information: [First Aid for Students & Staff](#) & [First Aid Kit Contents Checklist](#). Sports Tape **MUST** be supplied by the student/competing team. Strapping for injury prevention as required **MUST** be performed by the student/competing team. NB. The First Aid Responder attending the state finals are **NOT** permitted to perform strapping.

NOTE: An up-to-date team sheet must be handed to the convener on the day of competition. This team sheet must include the players in the correct seeded order. Any players on the team with a Universal Tennis Rating must also have this rating listed on the team sheet.