Current at January 2026

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

12 Years & Under Tennis Championships

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Section A – Championship Overview

A - 1. These Rules and Guidelines should be read in conjunction with School Sport Australia Policies, Championship Protocols and the Sport Championship Organisational Manual.

A - 2. The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of Tennis Australia unless otherwise stated.

A - 3. The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with a current Memorandum of Understanding between School Sport Australia and Tennis Australia.

A - 4. Championship Length

Each Championship shall comprise three (3) to seven (7) playing days.

The Championship shall comprise of the 'Bruce Cup' Teams Event.
Amended October 2022

A - 5. Age Dispensation

Age Dispensation may be granted to a State or Territory for these Championships as allowed through the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Policy.

A - 6. Team Size

For the Bruce Cup Teams event, there will be one team from each member body consisting of seven (7) girls and seven (7) boys, from which any six (6) members from each gender shall be selected to play in the singles in each Tie. Should a member body not be able to field a team of seven (7) girls and seven (7) boys through injury to a selected player, approval to field six (6) players should be sought from School Sport Australia in consultation with the National Tennis Advisor.

A - 7. Attendance at Championships

All students who participate in the School Sport Australia Tennis Championships must remain at the Championship location throughout the duration of the Championships and be bound by all Championship arrangements, except in exceptional circumstances as per School Sport Australia policy.

Added December 2020

A-8. Age Eligibility

All students must be 12 years of age and under on 31 December of the year of competition unless age dispensation has been granted as per rule A-5.

Section B – Competition Structure

B - 1. 'The Bruce Cup' – Teams Event

B - 1.1 Program / Schedule

B - 1.1.1 The competition shall consist of a series of Ties, each being a separate entity.

B - 1.1.2 Each Tie shall consist of:

B - 1.1.2.1 3 Boys Doubles

B - 1.1.2.2 3 Girls Doubles

B - 1.1.2.3 6 Mixed Doubles

B - 1.1.2.4 6 Boys Singles

B - 1.1.2.5 6 Girls Singles

B - 1.1.3 Order of play shall be:

B - 1.1.3.1 Boys and Girls Doubles

B - 1.1.3.2 Boys and Girls Singles

B - 1.1.3.3 Mixed Doubles

B - 1.1.4 Where possible, the itinerary shall be designed to include some practice sessions.

B - 1.2 Draw

Each state shall play the other only once.

B - 1.3 Duration of matches

B - 1.3.1 Singles are to be two Tie-Break sets (7 pt Tie-Break at 6-6) with a Match Tie-Break (10 pt) to be played if needed.

Amended October 2022

B - 1.3.2 All doubles matches will be the best of three short sets (Short Deuce and a 7-point Tie-Break at 4-4) with a Match Tie-Break (10pt) to be played if needed.

Amended Jan 2026

B - 1.3.3 One of two nominated team officials from each state is allowed on court once per set to provide positive and constructive feedback during the 90 seconds allowed during the change of ends during both singles and doubles matches in the Bruce Cup.

Amended November 2018
Amended March 2017

B – 1.3.4 In the event of tie break third set, the win should be written as 1 set and 1 game.
For Example 6 – 3
3 – 6
10 – 8
Would be 631 360
1 Rubber, 2 Sets, 10 Games to 0 Rubbers, 1 Set, 9 Games.

B - 1.4 Game Protocols / Specific Rules / Results

B - 1.4.1 All team members will be graded on ability from 1-7 for each gender.

B - 1.4.2 In the singles, the players ranked 1-6 for each gender on that day, play against their opponent of the same position.

B - 1.4.3 In doubles, 12 players are selected from the 14 team members to play in both doubles (3 boys/3 girls) and mixed doubles (6).

B - 1.4.4 The addition of singles rankings is to be used to rank boys, girls and mixed doubles pairs. The lower the addition the higher the doubles ranking. In the boys and girls doubles if the addition of the rankings is the same then the pair with the highest ranked player becomes the higher ranked pair. In the mixed doubles if the addition of the rankings is the same then the pair with the highest ranked boy player becomes the higher ranked pair. Any breach of this rule means that Men's, Women's or Mixed doubles pairing played out of order means a loss of 4-0, 4-0.

Amended Jan 2026

B - 1.4.5 The order of players in the girls and boys doubles, singles and Mixed is to be declared in writing and presented to the opposing managers before the commencement of a Tie. Singles matches should be started as soon as practical once courts become available after each doubles match finishes. Mixed doubles should also be started as soon as practical once courts become available after each singles match finishes.

Play these extra matches 2 days apart ie, Monday and finish that match on Wednesday

B - 1.4.6 There will be two days of play where 1 & ½ matches will be played. These extra matches are to be played 2 days apart ie; Start on Monday afternoon and finish on Wed

Amended Oct 2026

B - 1.4.7 For the Mon/Wed match don't fill in your mixed teams until end of singles on Wednesday

Amended Oct 2026

B - 1.4.8 In the event of a forfeit in doubles due to illness or injury, or subsequent illness/injury after the doubles match (subject to

medical certification), that player may be substituted in the singles. A lower rested player can replace the injured player from a doubles match only into the injured player's singles position. If there is no lower ranked player available then the two Team Managers will negotiate with the National Tennis Advisor and the Tournament Director a possible replacement of the order of play and thus some rescheduling of matches. This rule also applies if there is an injury/illness in a singles match (subject to medical certificate) in regards to affected Mixed doubles matches.

Amended October 2019

B - 1.4.9 No player shall move up or down more than one position in consecutive Ties without the approval of the Tournament Director in consultation with the opposing team manager. No player shall move up or down more than 2 places from the list presented at the Pre-Championship meeting through the course of the Championship. Mixed doubles nominations after the singles have been played.

Amended October 2022

B - 1.4.10 Any breach of rule B - 1.4.7 means that any Singles player played out of order means a loss of 6-0, 6-0.

B - 1.4.11 The National Tennis Advisor and Tournament Director must ensure that all players are involved in a minimum of two rubbers per Tie notwithstanding injury or illness. Any breach of this rule means a 3 match penalty for that block of doubles.

B - 1.4.12 In the event of inclement weather interrupting play, the managers will meet to decide proceedings i.e. the order of play and/or any changes to the existing format. A Tie should only be abandoned if no other alternatives can be applied.

B - 1.4.13 At the pre-Championship meeting the conduct and behaviour of competitors whilst on court shall be emphasised. All team officials shall be issued with the published *Codes of Behaviour*. During competition, any evidence of dissent by players may be dealt with by automatic disqualification from the match by the Championship Organiser in consultation with the Championship Referee and Team Managers of the offending player.

Amended October 2022

B - 1.4.14 The Tennis Australia Code of Conduct will apply for all Bruce Cup play.

B - 1.5 Points Allocation

Win - 3 points
Draw - 2 points
Loss - 1 point

In the event of a player retiring hurt, the opposing player/team shall be awarded the maximum number of sets/games available in that match i.e.

Singles – 2 sets (6, 6 games), Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles – 2 sets (4, 4 games). The team that forfeits the match will retain the games they have won.

Amended Jan 2026

B - 1.6 Method of Determining a Winner

B - 1.6.1 Ties

B - 1.6.1.1 The winner of each Tie is the team winning the most number of rubbers.

B - 1.6.1.2 Should the total number of rubbers in a Tie be equal, the results will then be decided on sets. Should the total number of sets be equal, the results will then be decided on games. Should games be equal then a draw shall be declared.

B - 1.6.1.3 An abandoned Tie shall be declared a draw.

B - 1.6.2 Championship

B - 1.6.2.1 The winner of the Bruce Cup will be the team with the highest points score tally. In the event of a tie joint winners / placings will be declared.

Amended June 2017

B - 1.6.2.2 If all Ties have been abandoned, then the competition shall be struck out for that year and the Bruce Cup will be retained by the state currently holding it at that time.

Section C – Facilities / Equipment

C - 1. All courts used should have a surface approved by the controlling State Tennis Association. Preferably, only one type of surface should be used.

C - 2. New tennis balls, conforming to standards approved by Tennis Australia shall be used for all rubbers and shall be provided by the host state.

Section D – Uniform

D - 1. Players shall compete in state/territory team uniforms in the Bruce Cup.

Section E – Injury Management

E - 1. In the event of a player being injured, that player's continuation in the competition shall be determined by his / her Manager / Coach in consultation with the Championship Referee and the Championship Sports Trainer.

Section F – Officials

F - 1. Championship Organiser

F - 2. Championship Referee

F - 3. Tournament Director

F - 4. Court Supervisors

Section G – Protests

G - 1. For the Bruce Cup event, players shall umpire their own matches. In the event of a dispute, if a Court Supervisor is present then that person will go on court to resolve the dispute. If a Court Supervisor is not available, Team Managers / Coach from each team shall resolve the dispute. If the dispute still cannot be settled, then the Championship Referee will resolve the issue.

Section H – Tribunal / Judiciary

H - 1. A Judiciary is appointed at the Pre – Championship meeting to resolve any disputes that may arise. One person from each State/Territory will make up the Judiciary together with the National Tennis Advisor, Championship Referee and Tournament Director. The Championship Referee and Tournament Director have no voting rights on the Judiciary.
Amended October 2022

Amended November 2018
Previous rule 5 removed November 2018

Previous Section B 2 Removed October 2022