Tennis Gold Coast

Team Tennis (Fixtures)

Rules & Regulations Book

(Updated July 2026)

MESSAGE FROM TENNIS GOLD COAST (TGC)

Thank you for choosing Team Tennis (Fixtures), and welcome to the Gold Coast Tennis Community.

You are on the road to enjoying both the social and competitive sides of tennis.

This Team Tennis Rules & Regulations Book is to help guide you as a player on all aspects of the game of tennis. It is to your best interest to ensure you know the rules and regulations, including player, parent & spectator behaviour, especially as they relate to our Team Tennis competitions.

Our Mission Statement:

- **Commit to service excellence**
- **Treat each other with respect and honesty**
- **Demonstrate responsibility and accountability**
- **Be enthusiastic about continual improvement**
- **No one is bigger than the game**
- **Focus on what matters**
- **For the love of the sport**

Regulations for Team Tennis (Fixture) Competitions

NOTE: All team registrations, queries, requests, complaints, results, disputes, etc related to TGC Team Tennis (Fixtures) should, in the first instance, be directed to the TGC TTCO (Team Tennis Co-Ordinator).

The TTCO shall be appointed by TGC prior to, & for each new Calendar Year (or as may be required during the year). The TTCO is responsible for, & entitled to decide on all matters relating to the Rules & Regulations as outlined below. The name & contact number for the TTCO shall be published on each competition's Captain Contact Details list (as published each season on the Tennis Gold Coast website's Fixtures Page (tennisgoldcoast.com/Fixtures).

1.0 **Player / Team Registrations**

a) A player and/or a team will be accepted for Team Registration upon receipt of the Team Nomination form by the required closing date.
b) Each individual player must become a financial member of Tennis Gold Coast, **by their third match** in the current Calendar year, (see 4.0 below).
c) Final registration of the team, into any Division, will not be valid until the TTCO has given approval & graded all teams (see 2.0 below). The TTCO will then allocate their grading into the required Division in TA's League Manager program, & publish the draws & schedule online (see 3.0 below).
d) Two teams may be registered for any one court. Court location must be stated on the registration form. Should more than two (2) teams nominate for any one court, the TTCO may relocate such teams.

2.0 **Team Grading**

Fixtures will be played in Divisions, with the teams graded into a Division according to general team strength.

a) It is recommended that players in a team be of similar standard, preferably being no more than 2.0 UTR ratings points apart (except in the very top Division, Pennant 1, where there is no upper limit).
b) In cases of similar team strength, previously existing teams will be given preference over new teams entered into the competition.
c) Tennis Gold Coast employs Tennis Australia's https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au site &/or it's League Manager program, as a basis for team gradings, & UTR Ratings for individual players within a team.
d) When a team registers a player who is of much higher standard than the other players in that team, then that team will be graded as if that stronger player was not in the team. It will also be recommended that the overly strong player be moved up into a higher level team.
e) Tennis Gold Coast Team Tennis competitions for Thursday Nights & Saturday Afternoons are separate competitions in respect to grading of players.
f) Teams are not guaranteed to play in a higher Division in a following season, even if they are Minor Premiers, Finalists, or Season Champions. Each season's strength, & even the number of teams & Divisions, can vary. If two teams are being considered for promotion to a higher (or demotion to a lower) Division, then end-of-season Ladder Positions carry more weight than making, or winning, a Final.
g) "Pennant" Divisions - Open Age (except Pennant 1 players must be 13 y/o or older).
h) "Section" Divisions - 17 years & under.

i) "Green Ball" Divisions - 12 years & under (player should train on Green Ball to play Green Ball).

3.0 **Team Draws**

Season draws will be available at least three (3) working days before the Round 1 date of the competition. Access the draw via, https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au or search online for "tennisgoldcoast/Fixtures" webpage, & view the iPanel at the bottom. Select your Competition, then your Division, then the Round. Clubs/centres with League Manager (LM) credentials can also access schedules & print scorecards (& enter results) within LM.

It is the responsibility of the team captain (&/or club/venue organiser) to ensure their respective players know where to access the draw, or provide them with a printed version.

The team name appearing first on the draw is the HOME team and the match will normally be played on their home court (as indicated on the draw). Please, however, check the Venue column for each match, as occasionally a home team may need to use a different venue.

If a Home club/venue deems it's home court to be unavailable for play, match/es may be moved to a different venue **ONLY if all parties are given MAXIMUM possible notice (at least 24 hours)!**

This requires the Home Team Venue Manager/Organiser to (ASAP):

i) Attempt to book an alternate venue for that match (asking the Visiting team's venue first), & then
ii) Inform BOTH Team Captains, BOTH Home & Visiting Team Organisers/Centre Managers, AND
iii) Inform TGC's TTCO of the venue change!

See the Team Captains Contact list on the tennisgoldcoast.com/fixtures webpage ("Fixtures").

See the Venues' Contact list on the tennisgoldcost.com/centers webpage ("Gold Coast Clubs").

4.0 **Player Registration**

a) A player must pay their TGC Annual Player Registration Fee before the commencement of their third match in a calendar year. If they have not paid before this time, they will not be entitled to play a 4th time. If they do play a 4th time, the team they are playing for will lose all points/games for any rubbers they played in. It is in the best interest of the team that TGC Player Registration Fees are paid at the time of Team Registration, as no player is covered for Insurance until such fees have been received. ???***
b) Any member of a team desiring a permanent transfer to another team in the same Division during the season, must forward to the Secretary of Tennis Gold Coast (info@tennisgoldcoast.com) a clearance from his/her team, and be approved by the TTCO before such player will be allowed to play for that new team.
c) No player may play in a lower Division than the one in which he/she first graded for the season. A player in a lower Division (e.g. Sec 4) may play no more than two (2) matches in say Section 2 and two (2) matches in say Section 3, and still return to their original section. A player is ineligible to return to a lower section, unless a player has been graded incorrectly in the first instance, or believes their UTR has dropped sufficiently – approval is required by the TTCO.

5.0 **Reserve Team Player (or Fill-in Player)**

A Team Captain/Organiser should contact the TTCO (ASAP), if they aren't completely satisfied that a potential Fill-In is fully eligible.

Any player not included on the team registration form and who subsequently plays in a fixture team is deemed to be a RESERVE PLAYER. A reserve player may play in any team within a Division to the following rules. Any team that plays an ineligible player risks losing all points otherwise gained from that match.

a) A player is not considered eligible for a team if,
   i) in the opinion of the TTCO, the player would make the team too strong, or has a UTR higher than the upper limit of that Division's recommended UTR Range (viewable on the TGC/Fixtures webpage).
   ii) that player is currently suspended or banned from competition (TGC, TQ, or TA affiliated).

b) **All Fill-In players' Full Name/s AND Phone Number/s must be entered on the paper scorecard**, AND entered as 'Unspecified Player' in Tennis Australia's https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au site (Full Name & Phone Number should be typed in the "Comments" section of the online result card.

c) A Reserve player (Fill-In) must pay their Tennis Gold Coast Annual Player Registration Fee before the commencement of their third match that year. If they do play a 4th time, the Rubbers played by that individual will be forfeited, meaning that the team they are playing for will lose all points/games for any rubbers they played in.

d) A Reserve player may play Semi's and/or Finals for which team he/she has received approval from the TTCO, or if they have played at least three (3) matches for this team in the season.

e) No player may play in a lower Division than the one in which he/she first played except after receiving approval from the TTCO. A player may reserve in a higher Division, providing that the player plays NO MORE THAN TWO (2) MATCHES in that Division. If a third match is played in the higher Division then the Reserve player is ineligible to return to their original lower Division for the remainder of the current season.

6.0 **Court Registration**

All courts shall be subject to the approval of the appointed Executive Committee and must be kept in good order and properly equipped. Important considerations are:

a) The fence dimensions must be greater than 34 metres by 18.5 metres.

b) Adjustable net straps are compulsory, while surfaces, nets posts & fences must be in good, & safe condition.

c) Night competition – lights must be of a minimum competition standard.

7.0 **Regulations for Fixture Play** (including Protests)

TGC's Team Tennis Co-Ordinator (TTCO), shall be:

a) appointed by the TGC Executive Committee prior to, & for, each new Calendar Year (or as may be required during the year);

b) responsible for, & entitled to decide on, all matters relating to these Rules & Regulations; &

c) (if received in writing), obliged to refer any/all protest/s against their decision/s to the TGC Executive Committee for review, in a timely manner.

The Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final, shall decide any questions arising from any competition match as to the interpretation of these regulations. Protests must be lodged in writing with the Secretary of Tennis Gold Coast within seven (7) days of a match, except before Semi-Finals and Finals, when it shall be within two (2) days of the match.

8.0 **Fixture Guidelines**

a) Home teams only to provide a supervisor – except at courts without a caretaker in attendance – then both teams to provide a supervisor.

b) Players should follow the format of the official League Manager scorecard, Singles Rubber 1 played first, followed by Singles Rubber 2 played second, etc, with doubles rubber/s to finish. The venue Manager/staff can alter this order of play, if court availability determines that playing Doubles first assists with court allocations & bookings. NOTE: Even if the order of play is altered, please fill in the scorecard in the order each Rubber is printed (not in the order you may have actually been on court).

Saturday Afternoon Fixtures (SAF) – **PENNANT FORMAT**

For each team: 2 players play 2 x Singles Rubbers each (1 set, 1st to 6 – a 7pt tie break to be played if 6 games all, with a 2pt margin): (a) 1 v 2; (b) 2 v 1; (c) 1 v 1; (d) 2 v 2. Toss to see who serves first in each Singles Rubber;

Then (e) any 2 players from each team play a Doubles (1 set, 1st to 6 – a 7pt tie break to be played if 6 games all, with a 2pt margin). Toss to see who serves first in the main doubles set.

Then (f) the same 2 players play a Bonus Doubles "set", (which is just one 10pt tie break with a 2pt margin). The team that receives first in the main set, serves first in this 1st Bonus Doubles.

Then, if (e) & (f) are split 1-each, the same 2 players play a 2nd Bonus Doubles "set", (which is just one 10pt tie break with a 2pt margin). The team who served first in the main doubles set, serves 1st in the final Bonus Doubles.

POINTS:

4 x 1 point for each Singles Rubber won (maximum 4 points)

2 or 3 x 1 point for each Doubles Rubber won (maximum 2 points). If 3rd Doubles Rubber is not played (due to a team winning both of the 2 Doubles rubbers already played), then both teams get 0.5 points for that unplayed Doubles Rubber

1 bonus point for the team with the Most Games won (if even on Games won, then each team gets 0.5 points)

If less than 4 Sets are completed, then the Match is designated as a Washout (2 Match points each, plus 1 point for each completed Rubber won, with unplayed/incomplete Rubbers split 0.5 points each).

4.5 Points for each team are allocated for a Bye, and also 4.5 Points each for a complete Washout.

In the case of any Rubbers being unplayed/incomplete (once 4 sets are completed), due to Rain/Heatout/Out-Of-Time, then each team gets 0.5 points for each unplayed/incomplete Rubber. Points for any completed Rubbers will be allocated (1-0). Also, once 4 Rubbers are completed, the Winning Match Points are allocated (3 points) to the team leading on Rubbers first, then Games. The losing team Match point is allocated (1 Point) to the team behind on sets first, then games. If tied on Sets AND Games, then 2 Match points are allocated to each team.

Saturday Afternoon Fixtures – **SECTION / GREEN BALL FORMAT**

2 Singles Rubbers (1 v 1, & 2v2): Each Rubber is 1 x set, first to 6 games, 7pt tie break at 5 games all, with a 2 point margin.
1 Doubles Rubber: 1 x set, first to 6 games, 7pt tie break at 5 games all, with a 2 point margin.
POINTS:
2 Points for each set won
Winning Match Points are allocated (3 points) to the team leading on Rubbers first, then Games. The losing team Match point is allocated (1 Point) to the team behind on sets first, then games. If tied on Sets AND Games, then 2 Match points are allocated to each team.

Thursday Night Fixtures **(TNF) – FORMAT**

2 Singles Rubbers (1 v 1; & 2 v 2): Each Rubber is 1 x set, first to 9 games. 7pt tie break to be played at 8 games all, with a 2 point margin.
1 x Doubles Rubber: 1 x set, first to 9 games. 7pt tie break to be played at 8 games all, with a 2 point margin.
POINTS:
2 Points for each set won

Winning Match Points are allocated (3 points) to the team leading on Rubbers first, then Games. The losing team Match point is allocated (1 Point) to the team behind on sets first, then games. If tied on Sets AND Games, then 2 Match points are allocated to each team.

c) **UMPIRING:** If teams agree to have players **umpiring (not compulsory)**, & assuming 2 rubbers are not being played at the same time: For all **Pennant & Section Divisions**: Home Team player to Umpire the 1st Singles Rubber; Away Team player to Umpire the 2nd Singles Rubber. No Umpire for Doubles. For **Green Ball Divisions**: Parent/Supervisors to share umpiring of all sets (both Supervisors at the net).

d) Playing Order – **All Singles & Doubles Players' FULL names, in their Singles UTR Rating order (ranked highest to lowest) must be written on the scorecard before play starts.** Order remains as per the scorecard, & cannot be altered mid-match.

e) Up to 4 members of a team can play in a match. E.g. Player 1 plays 1 Singles Rubber (or 2 for SAF Pennant); Player 2 plays 1 Singles Rubber (or 2 for SAF Pennant); Doubles Rubber/s can be any combination of 2 Players (Player 1/2/3/4). In SAF Pennant, only 2 players can play in the Singles Rubbers, & only 2 players can play in the Doubles Rubbers (no 3rd or 4th player for Reverse Singles Rubber/s, & no changing partners for Bonus Doubles Rubber/s).

f) **Wet Weather:** (also refer to 12.0)

Team organiser/Captain should phone the courts where the team is scheduled to play and check with the Venue Manager/staff as to the availability of the court for play, approximately half an hour before scheduled commencement time for a decision regarding play. Venue phone numbers are listed on the Tennis Gold Coast / Gold Coast Clubs webpage (***tennisgoldcoast.com/centres***). If play is not cancelled at this time, all players are to turn up at their respective venue, and shall remain at the centre for a period of not less than half an hour from the scheduled starting time, when the court caretaker shall make a decision whether play will commence. In all cases, **players & parents should assist with drying courts**, if Venue Manager/staff determines that play is possible with 30 minutes of scheduled start time. See Rule 12.0 for further Wet Weather considerations/rules.

g) **Heat Rule:**

The Heat Rule is applied by the Venue Manager/staff, & is applied when the temperature reaches 34 degrees Celsius - being the Ambient Temperature, measured in the shade off court. If the Heat Rule is triggered prior to the scheduled start time, then play should then be cancelled approximately half an hour prior to the scheduled start of play. If play has commenced and the Heat Rule is applied during a match, play must be suspended (on completion of the current game). If conditions continue for 30 minutes play may be cancelled.

Wet Weather/Heat Out Match Results – Home Team organiser/Captain is to lodge the match result in https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au, or League Manager … Edit Match, cancel reason "Washout" / "Heatout", AND send a photo of the scorecard/s to info@tennisgoldcoast.com .

h) **Behaviour:**

Court caretakers to be solely in control of player's behaviour. Please discipline players immediately, not after the match is completed. Both team Supervisors to discipline if no Court Caretaker available. Refer to Rule 10.0 Behaviour, below..

i) **People on Court:**

No Supervisor, or players not required for that rubber, are to be on court with the players. An exception is made for the "Saturday Afternoon Green Ball Players" – each team Supervisor stand on either side of the net posts and help adjudicate together.

Parent Supervision for Green Ball

For all Green Ball Matches – parents from both teams are asked to help supervise on court for each match. We do encourage players to still score their match and call all balls, with the aid of a parent supervisor on court to help correct and educate. All decisions rest with the Parent Supervisors. If they are unable to agree, then the point can be replayed. Any further clarification of the Rules of Tennis should be referred to the Venue Manager/staff, and/or Rule 15.0 below.

j) **Match Fees:**

Each team Captain is responsible to ensure their team's Match Fee is paid (PRIOR TO ANY PLAY) at the venue's Reception Desk on arrival. **For 2026: Each Pennant team (SAF or TNF) shall pay $40 for their team** (no matter how many players take the court for their team). **Each Section or Green Ball team (SAF) shall pay $30 for their team** (no matter how many players take the court for their team).

k) **Scorecard / Match Results in Match Centre/League Manager:**

Supervisors are to check that the scorecard is legible, filled in fully & correctly, signed and **any information in relation to a 'reserve player' is written down on the space provided on the scorecard (FULL NAME & PHONE NUMBER)**. It is the Home Team Captain's responsibility to ensure the match scores are lodged in https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au (directly by that Captain, or by ensuring the Venue Manager/staff lodge the scorecard via League Manager) by the 3rd calendar day after the match. Penalty – Home Team lose all points for that round. The Visiting Team are then to go into https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au once the Home Team have entered the match scores and verify the scores are correct – which makes the match results "Confirmed". The Home Team/Venue Manager/staff are also to email the scorecard into TGC (**info@tennisgoldcoast.com**). If a Team Captain delegates result-posting to their Club/Venue/Organiser, then that Captain should still double-check that the scores have been correctly posted, AND that a photo of the scorecard has been duly emailed to TGC.

l) **Forfeits (also refer to Rule 14.0):**

Steps to Avoid Forfeiting -

1. Establish good communication with your team members. You need to work as a team on and off the court.
2. Formulate a roster of who is playing each week.
3. If you cannot play, please contact the other member of your team who is rostered off. If this person cannot play, contact your Team Captain as soon as possible in order for your Captain to arrange a reserve player.
4. Team Captain, please first try contacting your Tennis Club for a Reserve/Fill-In player (either from another team – equal or lower Division – player, or a player with a similar UTR Rating to that Division) to fill-in.
5. You can also contact the other teams in your Division (or lower) and ask around for a player, particularly if a team has a bye.

If you have to forfeit (please exhaust all steps above first)

1. Please inform the opposition Team Captain as soon as possible
2. Please also inform the Home Venue, where your match was to be played, as soon as possible
3. Record your match result as a "forfeit" on Match Centre/League Manager
4. Don't forget to also send a photo of the Forfeit scorecard to info@tennisgoldcoast.com

As a Team Captain, you are responsible for making sure you can field a team each week

Forfeit Fees Apply

Forfeit Rule for wet weather matches – see 12.0 (f)

9.0 **Tennis Attire**

Every competitive player shall dress and present himself/herself for play in clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire. The general appearance of a player is the most important factor at this level, not specific clothing detail. Clothing items deemed to be "non-tennis articles" such as dress shirts, singlets, football shorts and jumpers, work shorts, gym shorts and jeans should not be worn by any player while competing a match. Sleeveless tennis shirts are permitted which as defined as "tennis shirts without sleeves" (i.e. not singlets).

Warm up clothing shall not be worn during the course of a match, except where extreme weather or religious circumstances dictate, at the discretion of the Centre Manager/staff.

Suitable footwear for tennis matches shall be worn (depending on the type of surface) at the direction of the Centre Manager/staff.

Players are encouraged to wear headwear, especially at junior fixtures. No writing or logo restrictions apply except where these are obscene or derogatory.

10.0 **Behaviour**

a) The Tennis Australia 'Code Of Behaviour' Tournaments and Weekly Competitions will be enforced.

A Player will be first issued a warning from the Centre Manager/staff if in breach of any Code Of Behaviour.
A second recurrence (even including a different Code Of Behaviour) will result in a default.
If a default occurs, the Centre Manager/staff must inform Tennis Gold Coast, whereby this player will face the TGC Disciplinary Committee.

b) If a complaint is made in writing within one week of the fixture match alleging any misconduct or unsportsmanlike behaviour by any team member, then the Executive Committee (or any Disciplinary Committee formed for this purpose), may at its discretion either cancel, wholly or partly, the team's points and may either suspend or censure any team or team member for such time and upon such teams as it shall be deem fit. TGC Disputes Committee will speak to the player and report back to all parties concerned. If misconduct has been displayed, 1st incident is a warning and education; 2nd incident all points are deducted for that round; 3rd incident Team is removed from the competition and need to show cause if they wish to play in the following season by fronting the TGC Disputes Committee.

11.0 **Balls**

a) All matches will be played with balls approved by Tennis Australia.
b) The "Home Team / Home Venue" shall provide two (2) new balls for the match. If a second court is used, two (2) near new balls are to be provided. If players from either team wish to supply two NEW balls for the second court, that is allowed (so long as both team Captains agree).
c) The balls supplied by the venue remain the property of the home team / home Venue on completion of the match, at the Caretaker's discretion.

12.0 **Wet Weather / Heat Out**

a) In the event of wet weather / heat out, "Home Team Captain" please contact the Centre to confirm the status of play. If cancelled, contact your opposition to confirm the match is cancelled due to rain / heat out. "Home Team" to enter the match score in https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au as, Edit Match, cancel reason "Washout" / "Heatout".
b) If play is washed out or heat out after play has commenced, all teams are to wait until a call is made by the Centre Caretaker to either wait out the weather or call the match as a washout / heatout (general waiting time is 30mins).
c) If two teams decide not to play without consulting the Centre Caretaker and the court was playable then both teams will lose their points.
d) Match Fees will be on a Pro-Rata for court hire plus the cost of balls.

e) When weather affects matches: if a rubber or more is completed, such points will be recognised during the season rounds (not for Semi Finals or Finals - must be a result i.e. 2 rubbers won – or 4 rubbers played in the case of SAF Pennant). For rubbers uncompleted, a balance of points will be awarded accordingly. There is normally no blanket "Washout" / "Heatout" ruling applicable to all venues in the GC region on a particular day, unless weather circumstances are 100% obvious across the GC (e.g. cyclone nearby, etc). TTCO will make that (GC-wide) decision, if it ever becomes necessary.

f) Receiving a forfeit when the match would have been declared a "Washout" / "Heatout": If you cannot fill a team within 2 hrs prior to a match commencement time, you need to call a Forfeit. Waiting out the weather to be notified of a Washout / Heatout is not acceptable to the opposition or the host venue. For a team who officially forfeits, points will not be reinstated if the match was later declared a Washout / Heatout.

13.0 **Scorecard**

a) If a tennis centre has access to League Manager, they can print each week's scorecard/s, as needed. Tennis centres without League Manager access will be supplied with a full round/term of "Home" scorecards in advance, via email, to be printed as needed by the club/centre.

b) It is expected that the stronger player plays as 'Player 1'. This is based on the players' current Single UTR Rating.

14.0 **Playing Times and Forfeits (Forfeit Fees Apply)**

a) Players are to arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled fixture match time

b) Without exception a RUBBER shall be deemed forfeited in the following circumstances:
i) If a team cannot start any rubber within fifteen (15) minutes of the official start time.
ii) In respect of any rubber other than the first rubber, if any player/players is/are not immediately available to play another scheduled rubber after the previous rubber has been completed.

c) Without exception a MATCH shall be forfeited if no play is possible (according to order of play as listed on the scorecard) by thirty (30) minutes after the official starting time, due to non arrival.

d) Forfeit prior to a match (also refer to 8.0 (m)) – If a team is not notified of a forfeit and arrive at the venue, their attendance will count towards their finals eligibility.

NOTE: A match is not forfeited if a player injures himself / herself during their match and is forced to forfeit their remaining rubbers. This is entered into https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au; find under "Mark as not played/incomplete … Retired".

e) Any team forfeiting three (3) matches will be asked to show cause why the team should remain in the competition. Generally by the 4th forfeit, Teams are withdrawn from the competition.

Forfeit Fee Payment

f) Any team forfeiting, regardless of the notice period will be subject to paying the Full Competition Fees for the day (i.e. Pennant $80, Section/Green Ball $60). If one (1) player has arrived and a Rubber can be completed, this Rubber will be counted and the remaining Rubbers will be classed a forfeit if the 2nd player is not immediately available to play. Players completing a Rubber will still pay their normal competition fee and the team forfeiting the remaining Rubbers will pay the balance competition fee.

g) If such fees are not paid within fourteen (14) days of the scheduled match to the host Tennis Club, then the team shall receive no further points until payment of the Forfeit Fee. The host Tennis Club receiving the forfeit will generate an Invoice to your Home Tennis Club for the Forfeit Fee. Team Organisers, Team Captains & Team Members: you are all responsible for making sure you can field a Team each week.