



# **Junior Pennant Tennis Parent Handbook**



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## **1. Summer Pennant Dates and Times**

Summer Pennants consists of 10 rounds of fixtures and 2 weeks of finals (Semi's & Finals). Round 1 will commence on Sunday 18 October. For full fixture dates please [CLICK HERE](#).

Junior Summer Pennant matches commence on Sunday morning at 8:30am. We encourage all players to arrive 30 minutes before the match commences to find out which courts they are playing on and warm up with their team.

To view the format for your league please [CLICK HERE](#).

## **2. How to Register for Junior Pennants**

Parents can enrol their child via: <https://primetennis.com.au/juniorpennants/>

Please note: **Registrations close on Friday 5 September**

## **3. Process of Team Formation**

Once you have registered your child online through the Prime Tennis website, you will receive an automated email confirming the registration.

The Prime Tennis team will collect all registration and will only commence forming teams after the registration close date.

A lot of time and energy goes into the team formation process and the Prime Tennis team tries its very hardest to accommodate players/parents preferences. Like every sport there has to be flexibility from both parents and players as no club can guarantee we can fully accommodate your child's request when it comes to team formation. Please remember there will always be a stronger player in the team and a weaker player, that's club tennis and it will never change.

Once teams are formed Prime Tennis submits the teams to Tennis West.

Please note that for 4-player leagues we will form a minimum team of 6 players to account for injuries, illness and unavailability. This ensures the club doesn't have to rush to find fill-in players each week for multiple teams. Please note that for 3-player leagues we will form a minimum team of 5 players.

## **4. Selecting Divisions for Teams**

Prime Tennis provides a recommended division to Tennis West that we think is suitable for each team, but ultimately Tennis West decides the division allocation.

Tennis West release a division list for feedback prior to the season commencing which we circulate to all team managers, which gives teams an ability to appeal the division and submit feedback to tennis west.

## **5. Team Manager Role**

Every Summer we rely heavily on one/two parents per team to handle the Team Manager duties. These duties include

### **a) Creating a Roster**

The major role of the team manager is to make contact with all parents of players in the team and ask for each player's availability for the first half of the season. Once the team manager has this information, they can create a roster for the first half of the season until the summer break. When creating the roster try to be as fair as possible to allow all players to play the same number of matches, we understand this may not be possible at times if some players availability is limited. We provide a draft roster sheet template to use.

### **b) Morning Tea**

For scheduled home games it is expected the home team provide morning tea for both the home and away team. The club facilities are at your disposal including the fridge, freezer, oven, microwave and kitchen utensils. It is up to the team manager to decide how this role gets shared among all parents; some team managers choose one parent each home game to supply all morning tea, others ask all parents to bring something to each home game. Please remember to wash up all dishes, sweep and wipe down the table in the clubhouse once the kids have finished eating.

### **c) Selection Process for Finals**

This is an important decision to make before the season starts to avoid any conflict at the end of the season should the team make finals. A decision will have to be made as to whether the team plays their strongest players or if all players will play, meaning some players will play singles only and some will play doubles only but everyone gets to play a match. There is no right and wrong when making this decision, you can ask all parents what their preference is, the Prime Tennis staff can assist with this decision also. Please don't leave this decision for the end of the season.

#### **d) Team Order**

When arriving at the venue there will be a junior coordinator/ match supervisor that will provide you with the scoresheet and the balls. As team manager you will need to fill out your side of the scoresheet and list players in their correct order. The players' names will appear at the bottom of the sheet with a singles and doubles rating next to their name. The player with the highest UTR rating must play at the number 1 singles position, if a player doesn't have a rating they can play in any order they like. It is important to make sure players play in the correct order based on their rating regardless of whether parents think the order isn't correct. If players play out of order the away team can lodge a dispute and the matches where players play out of order will be forfeited. Please ask the Prime Tennis staff if you have any queries regarding ratings.

### **6. Court Etiquette**

\*\*\*Important\*\*\*

One of the biggest complaints most clubs receive is from parents and players walking across the back of a player's court while a point is in play. It is very important that both players and parents wait until the point is finished before crossing a player's court at the back fence.

Parents, unless your child is playing in the Orange Ball League (11 and under) please stay off the courts to avoid any issues unless told otherwise.

#### **a) Players**

- Introduce yourself to your opponent before the match
- When giving a ball back to your opponent players should hit the ball under the net, not over.
- If a ball goes onto another court players should make sure their point is finished before asking for the ball or retrieving it themselves
- Verbal, racquet and ball abuse is not tolerated and is taken very seriously. Players are to treat themselves, their opponents, the club and equipment with respect at all times.
- LINE CALLS: If a ball bounces near the line and you are not sure it is out then you must assume the ball is in and continue play. We pride ourselves on playing hard but also playing fair, meaning there is no cheating of any kind and players should endeavor to avoid unintentional mistakes by being fair with line calls and calling out the score after EVERY point to avoid any issues.

## **b) Parents**

- Parents as hard as it can be please refrain from getting involved in any dispute on court, players will make mistakes and call the score out incorrectly at times which will make you want to jump in but players should be left to figure it out on their own. If a dispute arises then a match supervisor should be called to the court to avoid any parent conflict.
- No coaching should be given to your child while they are playing their match.

## **7. Wet Weather Policy**

If rain is forecasted for the Sunday morning both the home and away team managers can contact each other and mutually agree to cancel the tie. For team managers trying to contact the opposition, contact information is available on the scorecard for the fixture. This can be viewed and printed off via Match Centre. (see point 9 for Info on how to access Match Centre) Please note that if the fixture gets called off both teams split the points for the fixture.

If contact hasn't been made between teams, players and parents must assume the tie is still going ahead and show up at the venue. If a team doesn't show up and no communication has been made that team will forfeit that fixture and lose all points for the fixture.

For home games the Match Supervisor will make a call at 8:00am on whether they think the fixtures should try to go ahead and play. If the match supervisor decides it's too wet the team managers will get contacted immediately to inform their teams the fixture has been canceled.

If you don't hear from your match supervisor at 8:00am players and parents must assume the fixture is still going ahead.

## **8. Match Centre (Results, Fixtures, Ratings & more)**

Match Centre is the player portal for Tennis Australia leagues and competitions. Through this portal players can view their ratings, past results, fixtures and more. Before you can search your son/daughter's name you must first create an account.

Link to Match Centre: <https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au>

## **9. Forfeits**

If your team has to forfeit for any reason then there is a \$60 fine.