



ANU Tennis Club

Rulebook

Effective date: April 2026

1. Introduction

The ANU Tennis Club (the Club) is an ANU Sport affiliated club operating on the ANU tennis court facilities and managed by the combined efforts of the ANU Tennis Club Committee (“the Committee”). Established in 2008, this club has been blessed with countless members and continues to grow as a tennis-loving community.

This Rulebook sets out the procedures and rules in which Club sessions are expected to operate. It applies to the following Club sessions and events:

- Friday Social Doubles
- Sunday Competitive Doubles
- Wednesday ANU Pennant
- Canberra Tennis League matches
- ANU Open

2. Tennis Rules

This Rulebook operates alongside the rules and guidelines of [the Tennis rules and regulations](#), and may specify amendments below to allow for additional flexibility around playing tennis across the ANU Tennis Club’s regular activities. Where otherwise ambiguous, players may refer to the [ITF rules of tennis \(2026\)](#) for additional clarity.

2.1. Full Set

Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, the Wednesday ANU Pennant, Canberra Tennis League, and ANU Open will run according to what the Club considers as a full set. A full set is considered to follow all rules stated in the [ITF rules of tennis \(2026\)](#); specifically, the Club considers rules 5 to 29 as the rules of play regarding a full set. The following clarifications apply to Club sessions.

Rule 3: THE BALL

By default, the number of balls for play is 3. There is no ball change policy - all players are required to retrieve these balls if they land outside the courts, as soon as the point is over or at the next change of ends. The minimum acceptable number of balls to continue play is 2.

Rule 6: SCORE IN A SET

Each Set will be played using the “Tie-break Set” method.

Rule 7: SCORE IN A MATCH

By default, one Full Set will decide the match. Further amendments to this rule are made in Section 6.

Rule 28: ROLE OF COURT OFFICIALS

By default, there are no officials appointed to any match, so all disputes are expected to be resolved informally with the players involved. Further amendments to this rule are made in Section 6.

In summary, a full set is first to 6 games (must win by 2 games), with a change of ends every odd number of games, and a tie-breaker / tie-break game at 6-6. This tie-breaker will be first to 7 points (must win by 2 points), with a change of ends every 6 points.

2.2. Fast4

Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, both the Friday Social Doubles and Sunday Competitive Doubles sessions will be run as one accelerated Tennis set per play, known as “Fast4” tennis. This form of tennis incorporates all the amendments stated in [ITF rules of tennis \(2026\) - Appendix VI](#). A summary of the rules affected are clarified below.

Rule 5: SCORE IN A GAME

Each game will be played using the “No-ad” scoring method.

Rule 6: SCORE IN A SET

Each Set will be played as a “Short Set” with the alternative option of playing a tie-break game at three games all.

Each tie-break game will be played as a “Short Set Tie-break” with the following additional amendments:

- The original order of serves will continue, and each server shall serve two times. The last server will serve a third time if the score reaches four all.
- Players/Teams do not change ends.

Rule 7: SCORE IN A MATCH

One Fast4 set will decide the match.

Rule 10: CHANGE OF ENDS

Contrary to Appendix VI, there will be no change of ends throughout the game.

Rule 22: THE LET DURING A SERVICE

Each game will be played using the “No Let” rule with the option that either player on the receiving team is permitted to return a serve that touches the net, strap or band and lands within the correct service box.

In summary, a Fast4 set is first to 4 games (must win by 2 games), with no change of ends, and a tie-breaker / short tie-break will be played if the set reaches 3-3. This tie-breaker will be first to 5 points (win by 1 point), with no change of ends.

3. ANU Pennant

ANU Pennant is a social competition run by the Club and is only available to ANU Tennis Club members. It serves both as an introduction into competitive matchplay for members

looking at other avenues to enjoy tennis, and valuable match practice for members looking to maintain their competitive edge.

Prior to each round, members will need to register their interest and the Pennant Officer will first assign up to 12 members. The Pennant Officer will organise all assigned players in the round based on previous Club match records, which includes previous ANU Pennant rounds.

Each round has a maximum capacity of 12 players, so members that register their interest each week are not guaranteed to participate in the round. However, the Pennant Officer will aim to rotate members that sign up regularly in order to provide everyone a chance to participate. Members may also be contacted as a reserve in the event that any assigned member is suddenly unavailable, and as such will be requested to remain available until the round.

Members registering their interest are committing to participate in the event they are chosen in the round, which will be announced typically two days before the round. Any members found to be late or absent in a scheduled round may be restricted from participating in future rounds. The first 10 minutes of the round will be allowed for an on-court warm up. If any player is not present after the warm-up then that player forfeits the round and any affected participants may be eligible for a refund.

3.1. Round format

Each round will be organised by Division, Team and Line. The Division defines where assigned players will play. Division 1 will play on South Oval Tennis Courts 1 and 2, and Division 2 will play on Courts 3 and 4. The Team defines which of the assigned players are competing with. The Line defines the order in which the assigned player will typically play their Singles matches.

For each Division with 4 players, the round will be a 2v2 Team match format. The first match will be Line 1 from both Teams competing in a Singles match, and Line 2 from both Teams will also compete in a Singles match. The second match will be a Singles match against the opposite Line, so Line 1 in one Team will compete against Line 2 in the other Team. The third and final match will be both Teams versus each other in a Doubles match.

For each Division with 6 players, the round will be a 3v3 Team match format. The first match will be Line 1 from both Teams competing in a Singles match, while Lines 2 and 3 will compete in a Doubles match against the other Team. The second match will be Line 2 from both Teams competing in a Singles match, while Lines 1 and 3 will compete in a Doubles match against the other Team. The third and final match will be Line 3 from both Teams competing in a Singles match, while Lines 1 and 2 will compete in a Doubles match against the other Team.

Each Division must contain either 4 or 6 players, and require a total of 6 match scores to be communicated to the Pennant Officer upon completion.

Each court is entitled to three new tennis balls, which will be used for all matches played on that court. All players are required to retrieve these balls if they land outside the courts, as soon as the point is over or at the next change of ends.

3.2. Match format

ANU Pennant will follow the tennis rules in reference to Section 3 and the [ITF rules of tennis \(2026\)](#).

In summary, each match is decided by one Full Set, which will be first to 6 games (must lead by 2 games), with a change of ends every odd number of games, and a tie-breaker / tie-break game at 6-6. This tie-breaker will be first to 7 points (must win by 2 points), with a change of ends every 6 points.

- Ensure supervising member for the session is informed of all the scores
- Competition Leaderboard points are awarded for match wins

3.3. Competition Leaderboard points

The Competition Leaderboard is the club's official ranking system, first introduced in 2023. It is updated monthly and published on the club's social media platforms at the beginning of each month. Players are ranked in descending order based on their total points, which are accumulated through participation in the club's competitive events, namely ANU Pennant and the ANU Open.

By registering for any competitive session, players acknowledge that their name and results will be included on the Leaderboard. Any errors, including misspellings or inaccuracies in published posts, will be corrected as soon as practicable and reflected in subsequent updates.

The Leaderboard serves two primary purposes:

1. To recognise and showcase the performances and achievements of players participating in club competitions; and
2. To provide an additional incentive for competitive match play.

Notwithstanding the above, the Competition Leaderboard does not influence or determine seedings for ANU Open draws or selection/positioning in Pennant teams.

The Leaderboard is administered by the Competitions Officer, who retains full discretion to amend the points system where necessary. While point allocations may therefore be subject to change, the current structure operates as follows:

| ANU Open System (Points recycled each tournament) | | |
|---|--|--|
| Each Main Draw Event | Champion - 500 | |
| | Runner Up - 350 | |
| | Semi Finalist - 250 | |
| | Quarter Finalist - 175 | |
| | Round of 16 - 100 | |
| | Didn't make it out of RR group - 50 per win | |
| Each Consolation Event | Champion - 100 | |
| | Runner Up - 75 | |
| | Semi Finalist - 50 | |
| | Didn't reach SF but won a match - 25 | |
| Participation Points | Per Event - 10 | |
| Pennant System (Best 5 Session Results per season) | | |
| Division 1 | Singles Win - 40 | |
| | Doubles Win - 30 | |
| | No Wins - 10 | |
| Division 2 | Singles Win - 30 | |
| | Doubles Win - 20 | |
| | No Wins - 10 | |

ANU Open:

Only a player's best result in Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles events will count towards their Leaderboard total. Where a player competes in multiple events of the same category (e.g. Open Singles and Women's Singles), only the highest result will be counted. Participation points are awarded only if the player does not earn any other points in that event.

ANU Pennant:

Participation points (10 points) are awarded only if a player does not earn points from match wins in that session. Only a player's top five (5) session results per season (semester) will contribute to their seasonal total.

4. Canberra Tennis League

The ANU Tennis Club participates in the Canberra Tennis League ('CTL'). All members participating in this competition are strictly bound by the official Canberra Tennis League Rules of Competition and all applicable Tennis ACT policies. The following provisions are specific to Club members and govern internal Club logistics and expectations.

5.1. Team Entry and Membership

All base, regular, and frequent players representing a CTL team must hold a valid ANU Tennis Club membership. Furthermore, the ANU Tennis Club Committee reserves the right to merge teams or deny team entries. This is to ensure a fair distribution of skill levels, provide equal opportunities across divisions, and uphold the reputation of the Club.

5.2. Representation and Behaviour

As the CTL constitutes the primary external competition, players act as ambassadors for the Club and must uphold high standards of conduct. When attending away fixtures, members must respect the specific facility rules and customary practices of the host venue.

During home fixtures on dates involving multiple ANU teams, players are expected to amicably and equitably distribute the available courts. Court allocation—such as sharing the higher-quality courts—must be managed reasonably to ensure fairness, rather than operating on a "first-come, first-served" basis that may disadvantage other Club teams. In the event of a failed ANU court booking or a misunderstanding regarding court availability with public patrons, players must not engage in arguments or intimidating behaviour. Booking errors are administrative matters and must be de-escalated immediately and reported to the Committee for resolution.

5.3. Match Logistics and Issue Escalation

Team captains are responsible for collecting official match balls from the Club during designated sessions prior to the commencement of the season. The Committee will issue specific collection directives to team captains on a seasonal basis.

Administrative and logistical concerns, including ANU court bookings and facility access, fall within the remit of the ANU Tennis Club and must be directed to the Committee. Conversely, grievances pertaining to on-court behaviour, match play, or disputes with opponents are under the purview of Tennis ACT and must be managed using the official CTL dispute resolution procedures.

5.4. Internal Rescheduling Logistics

Where official CTL rules permit rescheduling of a disrupted match, such as in the event of a washout or suspended play, team captains must promptly contact the Committee to request and secure alternative ANU court bookings. All determinations regarding match scoring, draws, washouts, and uncompleted rubbers due to lighting failures are governed entirely by the CTL Rules of Competition and should be recorded accordingly by the team captains.

5. ANU Open

The ANU Open is a tournament run by the ANU Tennis Club and is only available to ANU Sport affiliated players. It is considered the highest level of competitive tennis that is run by the ANU Tennis Club committee, where smooth operation is only achieved by the full effort of the Committee and strict cooperation of all players involved. Failure to comply with any of the rules listed here will result in forfeiting the match.

This tournament is typically run over multiple weekends and offers the following events:

- Open Singles - which is open to all
- Women's Singles
- Mixed Doubles
- Open Doubles - which is open to any pair of the same gender
- Women's Doubles

The standard allocation for a match will be on the South Oval Tennis Courts, accompanied by at least one member of the Committee designated as the adjudicator for that match. Members of the Committee may be assigned to a maximum of two matches running concurrently, and maintain the responsibility to evaluate the match without bias and ensure the match will reasonably finish on time. All players must agree to cooperate with the adjudicator decisions regarding the match and to the terms in this document prior to starting a match.

All players must adhere to [Tennis Australia's rules and regulations](#), especially the guidelines around proper etiquette. In the case there is any conflicting information in this document, then this document will take precedence.

5.1. Pricing

Prices for ANU Open events will be determined by the Committee and may differ every iteration. These events, their prices and payment methods will be communicated via social media in order to provide all necessary steps to purchasing an entry into ANU Open. All Doubles events require a partner to be confirmed by both players - the Committee has limited capacity to allocate partners and consequently any incomplete entries may not be accepted.

Players may purchase a bundle to play in three ANU Open events with a discount in comparison to paying for three events separately. For Doubles events, both players must pay the entry fees to be accepted into the event.

All entries to the ANU Open must be paid and completed prior to the commencement of the ANU Open. Any entries after the release of the ANU Open will not be accepted. All payments are final with the exception of *Refunds* and *Unplayed withdrawals* as detailed below, so it is recommended to consider the schedule and the individual's availability prior to completing an entry.

Any ANU Open event may be cancelled or reduced to run the event effectively and up to acceptable standards. This will only be done so by the ANU Tennis Club committee prior to the release of the ANU Open schedule, and will consider maintaining the schedule and quality of each event as the utmost priorities.

Refunds

If an event is cancelled or an entry with payment is denied, the Committee will contact all affected players via email in request for their Australian bank details to refund the relevant amount paid. For players that have purchased an event through a bundle, the relevant amount will be reduced to account for any discounts applied. Players without any Australian bank details are unfortunately not eligible for refunds.

Unplayed withdrawals

The Committee acknowledges that there may be unforeseen injuries or sicknesses that affect a player's ability to compete in the ANU Open. If the player has not played any matches for a particular event, they are eligible to request for a refund provided they communicate their reasoning for withdrawal to the Committee, along with relevant details as per the *Refunds* process above. Any other reasons including a change of mind are not eligible for refund.

5.2. Scheduling

The ANU Open is scheduled such that all matches are expected to finish within the designated time slots. Any adjustments to this schedule, regardless of size, has the ability to impact ANU Open running smoothly and on time. As such, players must acknowledge that they will aim to complete the match within the designated time slot to the best of their ability.

Prior to each weekend, typically on a Wednesday, a notice will be released via social media that announces all planned matches and competing players for the following weekend. The starting times of each match will be communicated on these notices and may differ throughout the ANU Open, so it is recommended to check each match carefully. Players may play up to three matches per day, and the Committee will aim to provide players breaks between matches wherever possible.

Rescheduling

In the event of a reschedule or any match not originally advertised, players will be directly contacted via social media or mobile number as soon as possible to provide them the choice to either play as originally planned or with the revised starting time. If all players do not unanimously agree to the reschedule then the match will continue as originally planned.

Availabilities

The efficient and timely progression of the ANU Open takes precedence over any player's individual availability. Players may submit requests to the Committee regarding availability; however, any accommodation of such requests is solely at the absolute discretion of the Committee.

Where the Committee determines that accommodating a player's availability would cause, or is likely to cause, any delay to the tournament schedule, no accommodation will be made. In such circumstances, the unavailable player will forfeit the match.

5.3. Timeliness

Unless otherwise stated, a match's time slot is 90 minutes to account for the standard match format. Players are recommended to arrive at least 20 minutes before the match for stretching and additional warm-up. The first 10 minutes of the match will be allowed for an on-court warm-up. If any player is not present after the warm-up then that player forfeits the match.

The designated adjudicator will announce the start of the match no more than 10 minutes after the starting time. A reminder of the remaining time in the match may be provided if the adjudicator has concerns that a match may not finish in time, and they may request that players aim to minimise the time taken between points.

The pace of the match and reasonable time between points are up to the discretion of the designated adjudicator; players may raise their concerns to the designated adjudicator but are reminded to follow the adjudicator's decision throughout the match.

Overtime

A match may not continue if it exceeds the designated time slot - the designated adjudicator will make a decision whether to continue or postpone the match after time has run out. If a match is postponed, all players involved must organise the remainder of the match by themselves and must be organised prior to any scheduled match dependent on this match.

While these players may continue to borrow the match balls for the purpose of finishing the match, any further costs associated are distributed between the players involved. There is no guarantee a member of the Committee will be present to adjudicate the remainder of the match. Players must notify the committee of the match results and return the match balls as soon as possible. If a match is not finalised before the following match is scheduled then the player(s) in lead at the last known score will continue.

5.4. Draw format

Each event will vary in draw format depending on the number of entries, which will be announced by the ANU Tennis Club committee via social media prior to the commencement of the ANU Open.

For each event with less than 8 entries, the draw will be a Round Robin Group Stage format. The ANU Tennis Club committee will evenly distribute the entries into Groups of up to 4; where each team in a Group will compete against each other once, allowing for a maximum of 3 matches in the Group Stage. Once the Group Stage is complete, the top 2 teams from each Group will compete in a Round of 4 Single Elimination format.

Otherwise, for each event with less than or equal to 32 entries, the draw will be a Round of 8/16/32 Single Elimination format, where 8/16/32 is the first number equal to or more than the number of entries. The Committee will determine the top half seeded players based on previous Club match records; if the player's skill level is unknown to the committee or is in the bottom half of the draw, then they will be placed randomly amongst each other.

Otherwise, for each event with more than 32 entries, the draw will be limited to a Round of 32 Single Elimination format. The Committee will determine the top 16 seeded players based on previous Club match records. The bottom seeded players (up to 8) will be determined by a qualifying bracket. This qualifying bracket will be a Single Elimination format, such that all qualifying players will play at least one qualifying match before the main draw and there are enough remaining entries to ensure a full Round of 32. All remaining seeded players will be randomised amongst each other.

For any Single Elimination draw format, if a player loses their first match or does not succeed from the qualifying bracket into the main draw, they are eligible to compete in the consolation bracket. This bracket will operate as a separate 4/8/16/32 Single Elimination format, where 4/8/16/32 is the first number equal to or more than the players in the consolation bracket. The Committee will aim to avoid repeated matches in the first round of the consolation bracket.

Each main draw match is entitled to three new tennis balls. Each consolation match is entitled to three used tennis balls, which will be picked from tennis balls previously used in the ANU Open. Each qualifying match is entitled to three used tennis balls, which will be picked from tennis balls previously used in recent Club sessions. All players are required to retrieve these balls if they land outside the courts, as soon as the adjudicator deems reasonable to do so.

5.5. Match format

ANU Open will follow the tennis rules in reference to Section 3 and the [ITF rules of tennis \(2026\)](#). The following clarifications apply to the ANU Open, which are additional to Section 3.1 and in reference to Appendices VI and VII.

Rule 7: SCORE IN A MATCH

A Best of 3 sets will decide the match, with the deciding final set replaced by a *MATCH TIE-BREAK (10 POINTS)* as defined in [ITF rules of tennis \(2026\) - Appendix VI](#). The first two sets are full sets as defined in Section 3.1.

Rule 9: CHOICE OF ENDS AND SERVICE

The choice of ends and service will be decided by a coin toss before the warm-up starts.

Rule 28: ROLE OF COURT OFFICIALS

As referenced in Section 6, each scheduled match will be accompanied by at least one member of the Committee designated as the adjudicator. This adjudicator is the only court official assigned to a match, and therefore acts as both the chair umpire and the referee as noted in *Appendix VII - Role of Court Officials*.

In summary, each match will be a Best of 3 sets format; the first two sets will be first to 6 games (must lead by 2 games), with a change of ends every odd number of games, and a tie-breaker / tie-break game at 6-6. A standard tie-breaker is first to 7 points (must lead by 2 points) with a change of ends every 6 points. The third set will be a super tie-breaker / match tie-break, which is first to 10 points (must lead by 2 points), with a change of ends every 6 points.

5.6. Competition Leaderboard points

As per Section 4.3 - Competition Leaderboard points, ANU Open point systems is as follows:

| ANU Open System (Points recycled each tournament) | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Each Main Draw Event | Champion - 500 | | |
| | Runner Up - 350 | | |
| | Semi Finalist - 250 | | |
| | Quarter Finalist - 175 | | |
| | Round of 16 - 100 | | |
| | Didn't make it out of RR group - 50 per win | | |
| Each Consolation Event | Champion - 100 | | |
| | Runner Up - 75 | | |
| | Semi Finalist - 50 | | |
| | Didn't reach SF but won a match - 25 | | |
| Participation Points | Per Event - 10 | | |

Only a player's best result in Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles events will count towards their Leaderboard total. Where a player competes in multiple events of the same category (e.g. Open Singles and Women's Singles), only the highest result will be counted. Participation points are awarded only if the player does not earn any other points in that event.