



EDTA ORANGE BALL

RULES

2026/27 Season



Key Dates

- 1.1 First round: Saturday 17 October 2026
- 1.2 Mid-season Break: 14 December 2026 to 26 January 2027
- 1.3 Last minor round: Saturday 27 February 2027
- 1.4 Bye Rounds: Christmas Pageant 14 November 2026, Adelaide Cup 6 March 2027

What is Orange Ball Match Play?

Orange Ball Match Play provides children with the opportunity to play in a structured competition while still using the modified ball, court and equipment. Orange Ball Match Play focuses on creating a great first-time playing experience for kids who are early in their journey of competition play.

1. League Details

Team makes up and match formats

- 1.1 Teams will be made up of 2- 4, comprising of boys &/or girls
- 1.2 Match consists of 2 singles and 1 doubles matches each week.
- 1.3 Each rubber will be a first to 4 game set (no tiebreaker)
- 1.4 **No AD scoring** (at deuce "next point wins" receivers' choice on what side to receive)

2. Serve

- 2.1 Players must be able to serve. Bounce serving is permissible if necessary.

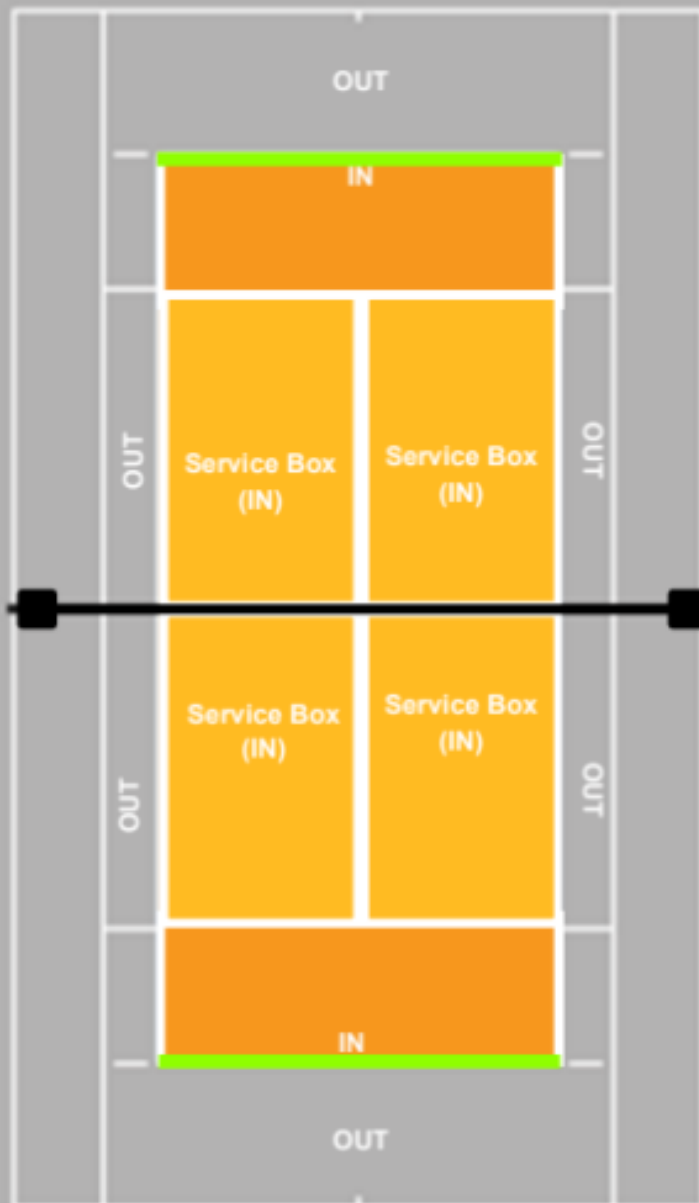
3. Requirement of clubs

- 3.1 Set up courts
- 3.2 Supervise the matches

4. Court Set Up

- 4.1 For clubs that do not have blended lines, please read instructions below on court set up for both doubles and singles matches. Please note a doubles court and singles court are different, so it is important that the correct court set up is followed for consistency every match.

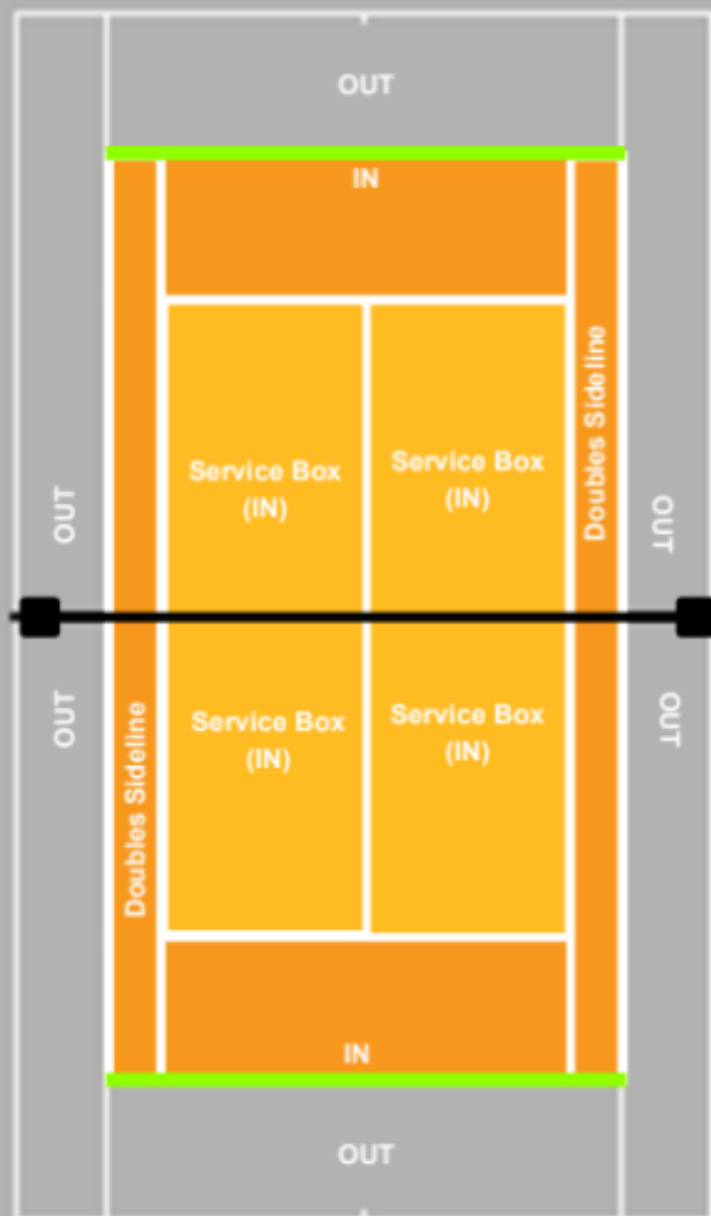
SINGLES



ORANGE BALL *COURT* LEGEND

- Orange Area:** Court "IN" zone — playable area.
- Gray Area:** "OUT" zone — ball is out of play.
- Service boxes:** same size for singles and doubles.
- Green Lines:** Baselines
- Solid White Lines:** Sidelines, and service lines marking boundaries, sidelines, and service lines marking boundaries.
- Text Labels:** "IN," "OUT," "SERVICE BOX," and "SERVICE LINE" for easy identification.
- Net height** 65cm
- Court Size** 18.29m long x 6.4m wide

DOUBLES



ORANGE BALL COURT LEGEND

- **Orange Area:** Court "IN" zone — playable area.
- **Gray Area:** "OUT" zone — ball is out of play.
- **Service boxes:** same size for singles and doubles.
- **Green Lines:** Baselines
- **Solid White Lines:** Sidelines, and service lines marking boundaries, sidelines, and service lines marking boundaries.
- **Text Labels:** "IN," "OUT," "SERVICE BOX," and "SERVICE LINE" for easy identification.
- **Net height** 65cm
- **Court Size** 18.29m long x 6.4m wide

5. Eligibility / Registrations / Clearances

- 5.1 All players must be registered with their club, have an active Competitive Player Profile (CPP) and have their details entered in League Manager by 9:00am Tuesday following the match. *Penalty: 1 premiership point deduction per player from the affected match.*
- 5.2 The orange ball junior competition is open to players aged 11 and under. For eligibility, age is taken to be as at the first match of the relevant season.
- 5.3 If a club has more than one team in a division, a player may play four matches before being bound to a team. Players may not represent more than one club in a season without written clearance from their original club and approval from Tennis SA. *Penalty: Forfeit of all sets played by the ineligible player.*
- 5.4 New players not listed in the original squad must be approved by Tennis SA. If not notified before match day, clubs have until 5:00pm Monday to submit the request. Players who significantly alter the team's standard may be rejected. *Penalty: Forfeit of all sets played by the ineligible player*
- 5.5 Any player listed as unspecified player in League Manager will have the following penalty imposed: *Penalty: 1-point deduction per unspecified player.*

6. Format and Procedure

- 6.1 Singles & Doubles – one straight 4 game set with no tiebreaker (i.e. the set is finished when the score reaches 4 games to 3). No Advantage – Receivers choice, if a game gets to deuce the winner of the next point will win the game. The receiver will get to choose which side of the court they will receive the serve from.
- 6.2 Matches should commence with the 2 doubles sets followed by the 4 singles sets. Where 2 courts are allocated per match, the venue supervisor can change the order of play with a single being played before a doubles in the event of the non-attendance of players, to allow 2 matches to commence. Forfeits cannot be claimed if a single can be played on an available allocated court.
- 6.3 If a team has more than four players and a player is injured in doubles he or she can be replaced (in singles) by a player who played doubles but was not originally listed in singles. Order of merit rule must be followed
- 6.4 Order of merit – A player may only move up or down one position each week. A player may not move two positions or more without the approval of Tennis SA.
- 6.5 Tennis SA, in conjunction with the Competitions Advisory Group, may review and amend a team's Order of Merit (OOM) at any time throughout the season. *Penalty: If a player continues to compete in the same order of merit for the same team after the club coordinator has been notified, all sets played by that player will be forfeited*
- 6.6 In the event of any sets having to be forfeited due to non-attendance of players, those forfeits shall commence from the bottom. If a set needs to be forfeited, the player to receive the forfeit must be present. If a player is not present another player may choose to play those sets however these will still be recorded as a forfeit.

7. Score Sheets and Recording Results

- 7.1 Score Sheets will be provided by the Venue Supervisor at the venue allocated. Each individual Team is required to print and bring their own scoresheet to the venue for their information and may take a photo of the Venue Supervisors or club representatives scoresheet at the conclusion of the match.
- 7.2 Team Managers or club representatives will be required to enter or confirm the results of their match on League Manager/ Match Centre by 9:00am on the Tuesday following the match.
- 7.3 Players may enter their own scores via match centre. If neither team enters the score by 9:00am Tuesday following the match, the result will be considered cancelled. No premiership points will be awarded, and the round will not count toward finals qualification. Late entries will not be accepted.

8. Premiership Table

- 8.1 One point shall be awarded for each set won with no premiership points awarded for the winning match.
- 8.2 Orange Ball will not play finals and the premiership will be awarded to the team with the highest points and if then equal, the highest number of games.

9. Support from Parents

- 9.1 Parents are asked to attend each match and support with court set up, on court scoring and score entry through League Manager.
- 9.2 While matches are in progress, parents who are helping with scoring or ball pick up are only allowed on court, all other parents and children must be off court.
- 9.3 For parents on court helping must be on the sidelines, no parents should be behind the baseline.
- 9.4 Each team is required to have one appointed Team Manager.

10. Weather Implications

- 10.1 In extreme weather (rain, heat), updates will be posted on the Tennis SA website:
 - Saturday 7:00am – 8:15am and 9:30am matches
- 10.2 Supervisors should monitor the temperature at their respective venue should the temperature near 36°C and may cancel matches after a TSA announcement only if courts are unsafe. If courts can be made safe, matches should proceed. Cancellations must be reported to Tennis SA via text or email.
- 10.3 Matches are cancelled if the forecast (Adelaide West Terrace via www.bom.gov.au) is 36°C or higher.
- 10.4 Tennis SA may also cancel if below 36°C. Notify cancellations via EDTA Weather WhatsApp group.
- 10.5 If matches are interrupted or incomplete due to weather:
 - a) Venue supervisor decides; players must remain until decision. No match may be abandoned before 60 minutes after match commencement (Saturday), except for heat cancellations.
 - b) If no team is in an unbeatable position: both receive 2 points + 1 per set won; unfinished sets split.
 - c) If one team is in an unbeatable position: winner gets 4 points + 1 per set won; unfinished sets split.
- 10.6 In affected matches, ladder rankings use average points per match.
- 10.7 Venues must have equipment to dry courts. Supervisors are to do their best effort to dry courts if they can be dried.
Matches proceed unless cancelled by the supervisor.

11. Match Disputes

- 11.1 All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to the Coordinator at Tennis SA (Jordan.odonohoe@tennis.com.au) by 9:00am on Tuesday following the match and the referral must contain a precise statement of the issue(s) in dispute and the relevant facts giving rise to the dispute. A signed score sheet must be provided.
- 11.2 Please be aware that all teams are responsible for following the rules and regulations stated. It is the team's and club's responsibility to dispute a ruling if they believe they have been unduly affected by the result of a rule breach. *Penalties will only take place after a dispute has been made and proven true. If teams are to break the rules the opposition has the right to dispute the result.*

12. Venue Supervisors, General Duties

- 12.1 Ensure courts are prepared for match play and be present during the allocated times.
- 12.2 Confirm that all players have arrived by the designated report time to allow matches to start promptly.
- 12.3 Club Shirt Compliance and Match Attire.
- 12.4 Rotate singles order of play weekly (where possible) for fairness.
- 12.5 Ensure players do not leave the court without supervisor approval.
- 12.6 Be visible and available to players; wear Tennis SA-approved Hi-Viz vest or cap.
- 12.7 Assess court safety in case of weather and cancel matches if necessary.
- 12.8 Administer and verify Match Centre score sheets; ensure all details are correct and legible.
- 12.9 Retain all score sheets at the venue.
- 12.10 Remind teams to enter scores into Match Centre by 9:00am Tuesday following the match.
- 12.11 Handle player concerns (e.g., score disputes, poor sportsmanship) via direct report or through team manager. Remind team managers of their responsibility for player conduct and sportsmanship.
- 12.12 May warn players for poor sportsmanship or bad line calls; monitor and overrule if necessary.
- 12.13 Tactical coaching during play is not permitted and must be addressed immediately.
- 12.14 May adjust order of play (e.g., singles before doubles) if players are absent.
- 12.15 Has authority to disqualify players for persistent poor sportsmanship (e.g., swearing, racquet abuse).
- 12.16 May intervene in cases of parental interference; enforce 1.5m distance from fence.
- 12.17 Report unresolved parental interference to Tennis SA under TA Member Protection Policy
- 12.18 Rule and match procedure queries must be raised by team managers promptly after incidents.
- 12.19 If a player makes an incorrect line call, the supervisor must issue a warning. If further incorrect calls occur, the supervisor may overrule subsequent calls. Players should be advised of this process immediately after the first incorrect call.
- 12.20 A supervisor should ensure that there is no interference from parents / spectators / resting players.
- 12.21 The only person who can adjudicate is in the first instance the players and if an umpire is required and the venue supervisor is unavailable, one neutral parent agreed upon by both teams is permitted to umpire.

