



Interclub
Competitive Tennis

2026/27 Senior Competition

Guidelines for interclub controllers, captains,
players and spectators

Introduction

Welcome to the 2026/27 Senior Interclub competition. Tennis Auckland has curated these guidelines to assist interclub controllers, team captains, players and spectators, to ensure an enjoyable experience throughout the contests.

These guidelines also reference the Senior Interclub Rules which [can be found online here](#).

Other useful resources can be found here, including:

- MatchPoint Frequently Asked Questions
- Self-Umpiring Tennis Rules
- Spectator Behaviour
- Raising a Concern
- World Tennis Number Frequently Asked Questions
- Tennis NZ Code of Behaviour
- List of clubs
- ITF Rules of Tennis

Guidelines for Interclub Controllers

Grade Start Dates

Saturday 5 September	Saturday 12 September
Caro Bowl Reserve Men & Women	
Second Grade Men	1st Grade Men & Women
Ferrier Cup	Presidents A
Open Men 2, 4, 6, 8	Open Men 1,3,5,7,9
Open Women 2,4	Open Women 1 & 3
Open Presidents 1	Open President 2
Super Men 2,4 & Super Women 2,4	Super Men 1,3 & Super Women 1 & 3
Mixed Four S2	Mixed Four S1

All grades are a straight round robin however Open Women 4 is a double round robin.

Court Availability & Grade Splits

346 teams are entered this season, an increase of 16 teams from 2025/26.

Task: check the number of contests scheduled at your Club each week and contact Tennis Auckland if there are any issues.

Travel and a lack of home games have been unavoidable in some grades. We hope that all players enjoy visiting some new parts of Auckland.

Club courts, along with TotalCoach Tennis Centre on Merton Rd, Nicholson Park & Manukau Tennis Centre have been scheduled for use.

[Nicholson Park - Venue Details](#)

[TotalCoach Tennis Centre - Venue Details](#)

Task: ensure team captains check draws carefully so they know when and where their teams are playing.

MatchPoint Ratings

We will now use Live Ratings rather than the Historic Grading Lists. All grading will be based on the Live World Tennis Number rating system. Each week, your playing order could change.

Task: ensure Team Captains check their teams' ratings in the morning of play and load playing order before play starts so you know who is to play at number 1 on that day. If you are in a promotion relegation grade and need to play in rating order, then please do this.

Note: when a player has no WTN, it is likely they have no date of birth or Nationality loaded or are a new player so they must be positioned in the team playing order according to their relative playing ability. Clubs are expected to make fair and reasonable assessments in these cases. Once a WTN 0 players grading comes through they must play to that grading.

Task: all clubs must update all player records on MatchPoint and ensure that dates of birth are entered for all players.

Amending a Team List

Clubs can add players to a Team List in two ways:

- An Interclub Controller can email Tennis Auckland asking to add a player to a Team List during the season subject only to meeting the eligibility criteria. For example, you can't add a player with a grading higher than the highest-graded team member on that Team List.
- A player who has not been listed on, or added to, a Team List in a particular Senior Interclub Competition before playing for a team in that Competition will be added to the Team List that he or she first plays for. Clubs and Captains need to manage reserves to make sure players don't end up on too high a team after playing once.

Promotion/Relegation teams after 1 February

A player must be on a Team List in the appropriate Competition to play in any contests in Promotion/Relegation Grades after 1 February.

For Singles Grades the appropriate Competition is the Singles Competition; for Doubles Grades the appropriate Competition is the Doubles Competition.

The Super Tennis and Mixed-Four Presidents Competitions are not appropriate Competitions for the purpose of playing Promotion/Relegation Grades after 1 February.

Task: ensure Team Lists are correct for Promotion/Relegation Grades.

Playing Up

A player who gets added to a Team List after the season begins can play up three times for a higher team in the same Competition.

Players on a Team List at the beginning of the season can play up three times for a higher team in the same Competition.

After three play-ups a player remains in the team for which he or she was originally listed.

Playing Order

Please remember that playing order Rules are different for Promotion/Relegation Grades, Open Grades, Super Tennis and Mixed Four Grades. Please make sure Team captains are aware of these Rules.

Grading Bands (World Tennis Numbers)

World Tennis Numbers (WTN), grading bands are now based on WTN ratings, which range from **1.0 (Pro players)** to **40.0 (Beginner players)**. Each band covers a one-point WTN range. For example:

- WTN **15.0 – 15.9**
- WTN **16.0 – 16.9**
- up to WTN **40.0**. This creates **40 grading bands**, compared to the **12 bands** previously used in MatchHub.

Promotion-Relegation Grades

We don't have a full complement of teams in all Promotion/Relegation Grades this season. The following will apply re: promotion/relegation at the end of the season

- **Caro Bowl Reserve Men** (12 teams) – winning team offered promotion to Caro Bowl and bottom two teams relegated
- **First Grade Men** (22 teams) – winning team from each section offered promotion to Caro Bowl Reserve, bottom team from each section to be relegated
- **Second Grade Men** (22 teams) – four teams offered promotion to First Grade Men (winner and runner up from each section), two teams to be relegated (bottom team from each section)
- **Caro Bowl Reserve Women** (9 teams) – winning team offered promotion to Caro Bowl, no teams to be relegated
- **First Grade Women** (11 teams) – top two teams offered promotion to Caro Bowl Reserve Women, bottom team to be relegated
- **Ferrier Cup** (11 teams) – bottom team to be relegated to Presidents A

- **Presidents A** (10 teams) – top two teams offered promotion to Ferrier Cup, no teams relegated

Open Grade Teams (promotion only)

- **Open Presidents 1** (9 teams) – top two teams offered promotion to Pres A
- **Open Men 1** – (11 teams) top four teams to be offered promotion to Second Grade Men
- **Open Women 1** – (10 teams) top two teams to be offered promotion to First Grade Women

Rescheduled Contests

Clubs should deal promptly with any matches that are affected by the weather. Wherever possible the two captains should agree on a new date to complete or play a deferred contest.

Task: contact Tennis Auckland by 5pm on Tuesday following a deferred contest to advise of the rescheduled date agreed to by the two team captains.

Note: Tennis Auckland can assist with rescheduling a contest where a rescheduled date cannot be agreed by the two team captains.

Official Ball

The official ball for Senior Interclub is the Wilson US Open ball.

Task: ensure Wilson US Open balls are available to each team captain, for each contest.

Note: number of balls to be available by each team for each contest:

- Singles Competitions – six (6) new balls
- Doubles Competitions – eight (8) new balls
- Super Tennis – two (2) new balls
- Mixed Four – four (4) new balls

Guidelines for Team Captains

Rules – Game Day

Part IV “Contests” in the Senior Interclub Rules includes key information for match days. These include:

- Playing order requirements for the team
- Limitations on team members playing up for a higher team
- Notice that regular team members play regularly for his or her team
- Requirements for non-listed players playing a contest
- Default provisions (Rule 25) where the default of a contest or of part of a contest can lead to the deduction of competition points

MatchPoint Scoring App

Results can only be inputted via the MatchPoint Scoring App. Both Team Captains are required to input their team lists prior to the start of the contest.

After each match, the team on the left (usually the home Team Captain) is responsible for inputting the scores. At the end of the contest, the home team should confirm the overall result then the away Team Captain is responsible for finalising the result.

If the Team Captain is not playing in the contest, the responsibility needs to be given to another player competing in the contest. This can be done by an Interclub Controller.

For other frequently asked questions and troubleshooting, [refer to the FAQ page here](#).

Regular Players

Regular team members are expected to play in at least half of the team’s contests they are listed for during the season. This is particularly relevant for the highest-graded player on a Team List. Tennis Auckland will monitor players over the season and will advise Clubs if issues arise.

Tennis Auckland reserves the right to deduct points from teams who breach rule 10(6) and gain an advantage by doing so. eg where the highest-graded regular team member does not play in at least half the contests but his or her grading is relied on to qualify playing a reserve in that team who would otherwise be ineligible to play due to their grading.

Ineligible Substitutes

Ensure all players who fill in for a team, is eligible to do so.

Examples of ineligible players include:

- players under 30 years of age as at 1 September 2026 playing in Presidents or Mixed Four Grades
- players graded higher than any team members on the Team List they are filling in for
- players filling in for Promotion/Relegation grades after 1 February 2027 who aren't on a Team List in the same Competition
- players listed in a team filling in for a higher team in the same Competition more than three times
- players listed in higher teams filling in for lower-grade teams in the same Competition

Teams will have points deducted for any matches won by the ineligible substitute or if an advantage is gained in other matches by that player filling in.

Task: confirm a fill-in player is eligible to play before beginning a contest

Rescheduled Contests

Wherever possible the two captains should agree on a new date to complete or play a deferred contest.

Task: contact both Club Interclub Controllers to advise of the rescheduled date agreed to by the two team captains.

Playing a Waiheke Island Team

When scheduled to play at Waiheke Island, the Waiheke Island team will arrange to pick the team up from the Waiheke Island wharf. Please contact the Waiheke Captain.

Where a Waiheke Island team is to play away, teams should liaise with one another to ensure that the Waiheke Island team is able to get to the scheduled venue.

Hosting

Tennis Auckland recommends Host teams provide refreshments for home games. If refreshments are unavailable for the day, notify the opposing team well before game day to allow them to make alternative arrangements.

Interclub Enquiries

All enquired are to be directed to the clubs' Interclub Controller. Where necessary, the Interclub Controller will escalate the enquire to the Tennis Auckland Competitive Tennis Team.

Note: all communications from Team Captains or players to the Tennis Auckland Competitive Tennis Team, will be referred back to the club Interclub Controller.