



# **ADULT COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE**

# ADULT

# Competitive Structure

Updated October 2023

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# 1.0 Tournament Sanction Agreement within the Province of Alberta

All tournaments will follow the guidelines set out in the 2023-2024 Tournament Sanction Agreement. The Sanction Agreement will dictate the following:

- Need for Officials
- Entry and Withdrawal Deadlines
- Tournament Costs
- Tournament Scoring Formats
- Sanction Fee.

Adjustments will not be permitted to these standards without prior approval and consultation with Tennis Alberta. Example of adjustments that can be made are:

- Decreasing the cost of a tournament to attract more entries.
- Increasing the cost of the tournament to fund a prize pack.
- Extending the tournament deadline for a non-competitive event.
- Altering the scoring format to adjust for entry numbers.

## 1.1 Season

### INDOOR SEASON

The Indoor Season will take place from the beginning of October 2023 and continue until the middle of April 2024. It will last for approximately 29 weeks.

### OUTDOOR SEASON

The Outdoor Season will take place from the middle of April 2024 and continue until the end of September 2024. It will last for approximately 23 weeks.

## 1.2 Registration Policies

- The registration for each tournament will open approximately four weeks prior to the registration deadline.
- The registration deadline for each tournament will be stated on the tournament page.
- The withdrawal deadline for each tournament will be stated on the tournament page.
- Players are expected to withdraw before the withdrawal deadline. Players who fail to do so will not be issued a refund. Junior and Open players who fail to withdraw before the withdrawal deadline will also be allocated one suspension point.

## 2.0 Adult Competitive Structure

### 2.1. Adult Overview and Regulations

The Adult Competitive Structure will consist of two types of adult tournaments, fitting into two categories with their own unique purpose and description. The following is the breakdown of tournaments sanctioned by Tennis Alberta.

#### Adult Tournaments

- Open Events (100, 200, 350, 1000)
- NTRP Events (3.0, 4.0, 5.0)

### 2.2 Open Events (100, 200, 350, 1000)

#### 2.2.1 PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

Open level events are an opportunity for the top-level players in the province to compete against one another. Prize money may be awarded for all open level events (men's and women's).

#### 2.2.2 ELIGIBILITY

- Players must be in good standing with Tennis Alberta and have an active Tennis Alberta membership or membership with any other Provincial Association.
- Open events do not have any level restrictions. Juniors wishing to play Open level events must be at least 13 years of age in order to play.

#### 2.2.3 TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- The format for each tournament may be different but the scoring will remain consistent for all matches.
- For open events, singles will be played as a best of three sets match, with a full third set. Doubles will be played as a best of three sets match, with a ten-point tiebreaker replacing the third set.
- Tournament organizers will do their best to ensure that the tournament is completed on the appropriate surface. If a tournament is registered as an Outdoor Hardcourt tournament, all matches are expected to play outdoors on hardcourt.
- Consolations will not be played for any open level events.

- During the outdoor season, if there is inclement weather, the tournament organizers will do their best to ensure that the tournament continues outdoors.
  - If there is light rain, the correct procedure is to stop matches, wait for the courts to dry, and then resume matches outdoors
  - In the case of heavy rain, the correct procedure would be to stop matches for a set amount of time, and have the matches resume later in the day. (e.g., Matches stopped at noon because of rain, may resume at 5:00 pm.)
- In the case of heavy rain forecasted for a long period of time, matches may be moved indoors. Please discuss this with the tournament referee, as the prerogative of the tournament is to have all of the matches played outdoors.
- For tournaments with no indoor back-ups that have lost significant portions of the weekend due to inclement weather, the tournament organizer may consult with Tennis Alberta as to whether or not they may abbreviate the scoring method.
- The seeds for each event will be decided by committee, and Tennis Canada rankings will be taken into consideration. The tournament organizers, along with Tennis Alberta, will set the seeds the best way they see fit.
- In-town players are expected to be available starting at 5:00 pm on Thursday and as early as 5:00 pm on Friday. Play will not begin until 5:00 pm on Friday, and 8:00 am on Saturday and Sunday. Out-of-town players will not be expected to play Thursday evening, but may be scheduled any time (no earlier than 5:00 pm on Friday) for the remainder of the tournament. The Tournament Director will post any special notices related to tournament draw times in the tournament notes.
- In the case that players are unavailable to play at certain times over the course of the tournament, they may “request” the Tournament Director to accommodate this. However, please be advised that these requests may be accommodated or denied at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Players making time requests will do so during the online registration process. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

## **2.3 NTRP Events (3.0, 4.0, 5.0)**

### 2.3.1 PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

These are events that are level-based play and provide a competitive opportunity for adult players in Alberta.

### 2.3.2 ELIGIBILITY

- Players must be in good standing with Tennis Alberta and have an active Tennis Alberta membership or membership with any other Provincial Association.
- Junior players (age 17 and under) are not eligible to play in 3.0 and 4.0 NTRP events. Juniors wishing to play 5.0 level events must be at least 13 years of age to be eligible to play.
- If a player wins three (3) or more NTRP singles events at one level (e.g., 3.0) during the playing year (September to August), that player must move up a level for the remainder of that year. The tournament win count resets at the end of September every year.

### 2.3.3 TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- The format for each tournament may be different but the scoring will remain consistent across all three event categories.
- For NTRP events, singles will be played as a best of three sets match, with a ten-point tiebreaker replacing the third set. Doubles will be played as a best of three sets match, with a ten-point tiebreaker also replacing the third set. Tournament organizers will do their best to ensure that the tournament is completed on the appropriate surface. If a tournament is registered as an Outdoor Hardcourt tournament, all matches are expected to play outdoors on hardcourt.
- Consolations may be offered for all singles event in NTRP events. The scoring format for consolation is up to the discretion of the tournament director. If offered, singles consolation will be available upon sign up, and seeding's for consolation will be decided by committee. There will be no consolations for doubles in NTRP events.
- Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- If two players of differing levels play doubles together, the average of the two levels will decide the event they will play in (rounding up). For example, if a 3.0 player plays with a 5.0 player, they will play in the 4.0 doubles event. This will be up to the discretion of the tournament coordinator.

- If a singles or doubles event receives four or less entries, the event will be a round robin. If the event receives less than three or less entries, the event will be cancelled. A round robin can be run with up to six players, and this is up to the discretion of the tournament director.
- During the outdoor season, if there is inclement weather, the tournament organizers will do their best to ensure that the tournament continues outdoors. If there is light rain, the correct procedure is to stop matches, wait for the courts to dry, and then resume matches outdoors.
- In the case of precipitation or other severe weather, the correct procedure would be to stop matches for a set amount of time, and have the matches resume later in the day. (e.g., Matches stopped at noon because of rain, may resume at 5:00 pm.)
- In the case of precipitation or other more severe weather forecasted for a longer period of time, matches may be moved indoors. Please discuss this with the Tournament Referee, as the prerogative of the tournament is to have all matches played outdoors.
- For tournaments with no indoor back-ups that have lost significant portions of the weekend due to inclement weather, the tournament organizer may consult with Tennis Alberta as to whether or not they may abbreviate the scoring method.
- The seeds for each event will be decided by committee. The tournament organizers, along with Tennis AB, will set the seeds the best way they see fit.
- In-town players are expected to be available starting at 5:00 pm on Thursday and as early as 5:00 pm on Friday. Play will not begin until 5:00 pm on Friday, and 8:00 am on Saturday and Sunday. Out-of-town players will not be expected to play Thursday evening, but may be scheduled any time for the remainder of the tournament. The Tournament Director will post any special notices related to tournament draw times in the tournament notes.
- In the case that players are unavailable to play at certain times over the course of the tournament, they may “request” the Tournament Director to accommodate this. However, please be advised that these requests may be accommodated or denied at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Players making time requests will do so during the registration process online. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.
- If a player decides to play two singles event (e.g., 3.0 and 4.0) that player is not eligible to receive a break in between matches. If a player plays one singles event and one doubles, that player is eligible for a break between matches. The length of the break is dependent on the length of the previous match.

## **2.4 Additional Tournament Rules & Information for all Open and NTRP Events**

- Tennis Alberta, at its sole discretion may cancel any tournament with insufficient entries. Players will be notified by email when a tournament is cancelled. Players will be issued a full refund. Please permit up to 30 business days after the tournament is complete for refunds to be issued.
- Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- Players who register but do not gain acceptance into the tournament will be issued a full refund. Please permit up to 30 business days after the tournament is complete for refunds to be issued.
- To be eligible to participate in the doubles events, all players must enter with a partner by the specified entry deadline set on the tournament registration page. Players not entered with a partner will not be eligible to participate in the doubles draws. Upon registering for doubles all players must email Tennis Alberta's Manager of Competitive Structure [kj.read@tennisalberta.com](mailto:kj.read@tennisalberta.com) indicating the following information:
  1. Event entered (Name of Tournament, age category and level if applicable.)
  2. Doubles Partner (BOTH PLAYERS) must enter independently and confirm with the Manager of Competitive Structure that they are partnering together.

**Failure to complete the above steps will lead to players not being eligible to enter doubles events. Tennis Alberta's Manager of Competitive Structure will not be responsible for finding and matching doubles partners for anyone who enters the event without a partner. No refunds will be issued.**

- Players must be registered before the registration deadline to compete in all events.
- Modified scoring may be used to shorten the event. A decision to modify the scoring shall be at the full discretion of the tournament organizer who must consult in advance with Tennis Alberta Staff.
- Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- Players competing in multiple events (i.e., doubles and singles) must be aware they may under exceptional circumstances be required to play up to four matches per day. The final determination pertaining to all match scheduling requirements shall rest with the Tournament Organizer.



- For tournaments with no indoor back-ups that have lost significant portions of the weekend due to inclement weather, the tournament organizer shall consult with Tennis Alberta as to whether they may abbreviate the scoring method. In the event a tournament is unable to be completed, due to inclement weather and no indoor availability, the following options are available and will be considered/determined by Tennis Alberta solely:
  1. Complete the main draw of the event on another weekend which works with 100% of the players.
  2. Have the event finish as “not completed”.

## 3.0 General Disclaimer

Tennis Alberta reserves the right to change all tournament formats. This may include deciding to cancel specific draws or tournaments if a low volume of entries is received. Any modifications made will be at the sole discretion of Tennis Alberta technical staff, with final approval issued by the Executive Director. Every attempt will be made to share modifications in advance with Tennis Alberta stakeholders.

**Tennis Alberta will make reasonable efforts to keep all information provided in this policy correct but does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of such information. All content, information and advice is provided on an “as is” basis and Tennis Alberta hereby expressly disclaims all liability for any action you may take because of relying on such content, information or advice or for any loss or damage suffered by you as a result of you taking this action. Tennis Alberta shall not be liable for any damages either direct, indirect, special, consequential, punitive or other damages (including but not limited to financial losses) arising out of the use or content of this Policy.)**

### 3.1 Refund Policy

No Refunds: Once the tournament entry fee is paid, it is non-refundable under any circumstances. This includes, but is not limited to, any participant’s inability to attend the tournament, disqualification due to rule violations, or any other reason beyond Tennis Alberta’s control.



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