



MASTERS COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE

MASTERS

Competitive Structure

Updated November 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. 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.
- Players are expected to withdraw before the withdrawal deadline. Players who fail to do so will not be issued a refund. Players who fail to withdraw before the withdrawal deadline may also be allocated one suspension point.

2.0 Masters Competitive Structure

2.1. Masters Overview and Regulations

The Masters 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.

Masters Tournaments

- Provincials - Tier 2
- Masters - Tier 3

2.2 Masters Provincial Championships

2.2.1 PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The Masters Provincial Championships will be used to determine the provincial champion of Alberta for each age category).

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.
- Age eligibility is based on the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31). Players must be the minimum age of the category by December 31st of the playing year. For example, in order to play in the 35s category, the player must be age 35 or older as of December 31st of the playing year.

PLAYING CATEGORY	YEAR OF BIRTH
35+	1989
40+	1984
45+	1979
50+	1974
55+	1969
60+	1964
70+	1954
75+	1949
80+	1944
85+	1939

- Players may only play down, and the player may play down as many age categories as desired. For example, a 40 year old player may play 35+, but not 45+.

2.2.3 TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- The format for each tournament may be different but the scoring will remain consistent across the age groups.
- For the senior provincials event, 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 be played for all singles event in provincials. The scoring format for consolation is up to the discretion of the tournament director. Singles consolation will be available upon sign up, and seeding's for consolation will be decided by committee.
- 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 Masters Events

2.3.1 PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Masters events is to provide an opportunity to further their ranking and engage in competitive match play.

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.
- Age eligibility is based on the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31). Players must be the minimum age of the category by December 31st of the playing year. For example, in order to play in the 35s category, the player must be age 35 or older by January 1st of the playing year.

PLAYING CATEGORY	YEAR OF BIRTH
35+	1989
40+	1984
45+	1979
50+	1974
55+	1969
60+	1964
70+	1954
75+	1949
80+	1944
85+	1939

- Players may only play down, and the player may play down as many age categories as desired. For example, a 40 year old player may play 35+, but not 45+.

2.3.3 TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The format for each tournament may be different but the scoring will remain consistent across the age groups.

- For Masters events event, 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 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 be played for all singles event in Masters events. The scoring format for consolation is up to the discretion of the tournament director. Singles consolation will be available upon sign up, and seeding's for consolation will be decided by committee.

- If possible, consolation draws will be offered for singles in Masters events. The scoring format for consolation is up to the discretion of the tournament director. Singles consolation will be available upon sign up, and seedings for consolation will be decided by committee.
- 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. Eg. Matches stopped at noon because of rain, may resume at 5pm.
 - 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 pm on Friday, and 8 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.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

Tennis Alberta shall not utilize officials at Masters sanctioned events throughout the duration of the 2024 season.

Additional Tournament Rules & Information for all Masters Events

- Tennis Alberta, at its sole discretion, may cancel any tournament with insufficient entries. In the case where a draw has less than three (3) players, Tennis Alberta may (depending on staffing resources available) contact registered participants entered and offer them the option to play down age categories.
- 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 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.
- 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 due to inclement weather or any other force majeure circumstances.
- 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.

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.

2023-2024 MASTERS COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE



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