



MASTERS COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE

Updated September 2024

1.0 Tournament Sanction Agreement within the Province of Alberta.....	2
1.1 Season.....	2
INDOOR SEASON.....	2
OUTDOOR SEASON.....	2
1.2 Registration Policies.....	2
2.0 Masters Competitive Structure.....	3
2.1. Masters Overview and Regulations.....	3
Masters Tournaments.....	3
2.2 Masters Provincial Championships.....	3
2.2.1 PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION.....	3
2.2.2 ELIGIBILITY.....	3
2.2.3 TOURNAMENT FORMAT.....	4
2.3 Masters Events.....	5
2.3.1 PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION.....	5
2.3.2 ELIGIBILITY.....	5
2.3.3 TOURNAMENT FORMAT.....	6
3.0 General Disclaimer.....	8
3.1 Refund Policy.....	8



1.0 Tournament Sanction Agreement within the Province of Alberta

All tournaments will follow the guidelines set out in the 2024-2025 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. Examples 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 occur from the beginning of October 2024 and continue until the middle of April 2025.

OUTDOOR SEASON

The Outdoor Season will take place from May 2025 and continue until the end of September 2025.

1.2 Registration Policies

- Registration for each tournament will open approximately three weeks prior to the tournament start date.
- 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. If players are unavailable to play at certain times throughout 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 Tournament Director's sole discretion. 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 unique purposes and descriptions. The following is the breakdown of tournaments sanctioned by Tennis Alberta.

Masters Tournaments

- Provincials - Tier 1
- Masters - Tier 2 or 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, to play in the 35+ category, the player must be age 35 or older as of December 31st of the playing year.
- The chart below shows the playing categories and corresponding birth years for the 2025 season.

PLAYING CATEGORY	YEAR OF BIRTH	PLAYING CATEGORY	YEAR OF BIRTH
30+	1995	60+	1965
35+	1990	65+	1960
40+	1985	70+	1955
45+	1980	75+	1950
50+	1975	80+	1945
55+	1970	85+	1940

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 tournament format may differ, 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 organisers 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 events in provincials. The scoring format for consolation is up to the tournament director's discretion. Singles consolation will be available upon sign-up, and seeding for consolation will be decided by committee.
- During the outdoor season, if inclement weather occurs, the tournament organisers will do their best to ensure 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 tournament's prerogative 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 organiser may consult with Tennis Alberta about whether they may abbreviate the scoring method.
- The seeds for each event will be decided by committee, and Tennis Canada rankings will be considered. The tournament organisers and 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.
- If players cannot play at certain times throughout 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 Tournament Director's sole discretion. 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, to play in the 35+ category, the player must be age 35 or older by January 1st of the playing year.
- The chart below shows the playing categories and corresponding birth years for the 2025 season.

PLAYING CATEGORY	YEAR OF BIRTH	PLAYING CATEGORY	YEAR OF BIRTH
30+	1995	60+	1965
35+	1990	65+	1960
40+	1985	70+	1955
45+	1980	75+	1950
50+	1975	80+	1945
55+	1970	85+	1940

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

Each tournament's format may differ, but the scoring will remain consistent across the age groups.

- For Masters 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 replacing the third set.
- Tournament organisers 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 events in Masters tournaments. The scoring format for consolation is up to the tournament director's discretion. Singles consolation will be available upon sign-up, and seeding 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 tournament director's discretion. 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 organisers will do their best to ensure the tournament continues outdoors.
- If there is light rain, the correct procedure is to stop matches, wait for the courts to dry, and 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 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 tournament's prerogative 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 organiser may consult with Tennis Alberta about whether they may abbreviate the scoring method.
- The seeds for each event will be decided by committee, and Tennis Canada rankings will be considered. The tournament organisers and 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.



- If players are unavailable to play at certain times throughout 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 Tournament Director's sole discretion.
- Players making time requests will do so online during the registration process.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

Tennis Alberta shall not utilise officials at Masters-sanctioned events throughout the duration of the 2025 season.

Additional Tournament Rules & Information for all Masters Events

- At its sole discretion, Tennis Alberta may cancel any tournament with insufficient entries. If a draw has three or fewer players, Tennis Alberta may (depending on staffing resources available) contact registered participants 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 for a 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 at kj.read@tennisalberta.com indicating the following information:
 1. Event entered (Tournament name, 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.
- 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 alter the scoring shall be at the full discretion of the tournament organiser, who must consult with Tennis Alberta staff in advance.
- Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches. They will not be eligible for a 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 be required to play up to four matches per day under exceptional circumstances. 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 cancelling 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 are 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 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 and the withdrawal deadline has passed, 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.