

# Great Southern Tennis Association

## Junior Guidelines 2020/2021

PRINT: one full copy for all team managers

PRINT PAGE 2 – Code of Conduct to be secured in all match folders

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### *Introduction, intent and applications of these guidelines:*

These guidelines have been compiled and prepared by the GSTA Junior Coordinator 2020/21 (Erica Modra) with the intention to provide even more guidance and support from the GSTA, with respect to administration and conduct of Junior competitions in our association. The guidelines are intended to supplement and support standing GSTA practices, traditions, Constitution and Bylaws. These guidelines do not override, seek to change or replace them.

Initially, this document sets out to answer common questions and concerns put to the GSTA Junior Coordinator since that appointment 3/8/2020. The guidelines aim to consolidate pertinent information for Juniors in the one place, for convenience, to achieve consistency between clubs, whilst upholding important scope for each club to bring their own flair, style and tradition to the way the conduct their Junior participation. Each section indicates whether it is a new thing for the GSTA to specifically outline such guidelines.

As result of tight time frame to organise the season since Winter sports, and reduced ability for the GSTA to start preparing earlier, due to Covid 19, these guidelines will be adopted until the Junior Sub Committee can convene for the very first time, and put its final recommendations to GSTA delegates for ratification.

It is a working document for new GSTA Junior Sub Committee to manage & implement when it convenes.

Requests to edit, amend, contribute to this document, plus any concerns or queries regarding this document:

Please direct to your club's committee, so your Junior Delegate may present your club's consensus to the Junior Sub Committee for consideration.

VERSION 16/10/2020

Please print this page and put in all your Team Folders.

## PLAYER/CARGIVER CODE OF CONDUCT

applicable to players, parents/caregivers, teams and clubs participating in any  
GSTA Junior Competitions 2020/2021

*The inclusion of a GSTA code of conduct for the 2020/2021 Junior Season was approved by consensus  
of delegates at the GSTA Special General Meeting of 21 September 2020.*

### **\*\* Players who do not adhere to this code of conduct are ineligible for best and fairest votes for that match \*\***

All participants and parents/caregivers should READ this code of conduct. By taking the court the player and their caregivers/parents/clubs are agreeing to this code of conduct. Team managers must ensure all players and associated caregivers read this prior to taking the court for the first time each season. It is recommended for team members to keep a record of players and parents who have read this and when. The GSTA reserves the right to adjudicate and apply a penalty on members or clubs who are found to breach this code of conduct.

- **Know the rules and play by them** – GSTA Bylaws 2.3
- **Treat all players as you would like to be treated** – do not bully, take unfair advantage of, or interfere with another competitor
- **Control your temper and never argue** – verbal abuse of an official or another player is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- **Treat all equipment and property with respect** – whether it is your own, another player's or a club's.
- **Be a good sport** – provide encouragement and acknowledge good play whether by your team or the opposition.
- **Cooperate** – with your captain/team manager, your teammates, and your opponents at all times. Without them there would be no competition.
- **Deal with disagreements and grievances through appropriate channels** – approach your captain, team manager, club committee member or GSTA Office bearer for discussion.
- **Work equally hard for yourself and your team** – your performance will benefit and so will your team.
- **Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants and have reasonable expectations of others.** Remember all great players start somewhere.
- **Support team managers, umpires, and committee members** – they are volunteers and you would not be able to participate without them.
- **Encourage appropriate spectator behaviour** – positive encouragement and support for all players is acceptable. Technical and tactical coaching of players on the court is not appropriate. Negative or abusive spectator behaviour is not appropriate. Inappropriate spectator behaviour should be identified by team managers, players, committee members and GSTA office bearers. This code of conduct may be shown to spectators to confirm GSTA requirements.

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#### REFERENCES - NOT COMPULSARY TO READ:

**GSTA BYLAWS: 2.3** Appropriate Behaviour and Etiquette *"All GSTA fixtures and constituent matches shall adhere to Tennis Australia's guidelines for Etiquette and Matches Played without a Chair Umpire"*

**2.3 (c)** : *"It is the duty of clubs to report any conduct unbecoming to the sport of tennis, especially standard code of behaviour violations such as physical or verbal abuse, unsportsmanlike conduct, audible obscenities or offensive or obscene gestures. This applies not only to players but to parents, coaches and spectators. Reports should initially be made verbally to the GSTA President within 24 hours and then in writing to the GSTA Secretary by 9:00pm on the Monday following the fixture." "*

#### Tennis Australia:

<https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Procedures-for-Matches-played-without-a-Chair-Umpire-V19.3.pdf>

<https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/TA-Correcting-errors-web-2014.pdf>

<https://www.tennis.com.au/learn/rules-and-scoring/etiquette>

<https://www.tennis.com.au/learn/rules-and-scoring>

**With thanks to Victor Harbor Tennis Club** for allowing the GSTA to draw on their player code of conduct for this year.

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*Great Southern Tennis Association Junior Guidelines 2020/2021. Prepared by GSTA Junior Coordinator 2020/21 (Erica Modra) to supplement & support standing traditions, GSTA Constitution & BYLAWS. It is intended to guide & support clubs & answer common questions/ concerns put to the GSTA Junior Coordinator. It is a working document for new GSTA Junior Sub Committee to manage & implement when it convenes.*

## Planning your Junior Teams ...

All divisions - No change from previous seasons

### Junior Age Limits (Bylaw 5.1)

The age limits for the junior competition shall be as follows:

(a). Players in Divisions 1 to 5 inclusive shall be 17 years or under on December 31st of the year in which the season commences.

(b). Players in Division 6 shall be 11 years or under on December 31st of the year in which the season commences.

*\*\*Note – a consideration yet to be incorporated formerly into the By Laws, but being applied by the GSTA - in the interests of inclusivity and diversity, is that the GSTA will consider applications for children who are over 11 yrs to participate in Division 6 (Div 1 Orange Ball), if it is deemed the most appropriate level of competition for that child and if it does not disadvantage other participants. Reasons may be based on physical, cognitive, emotional, health or other circumstances. Please email the Junior Coordinator to apply for consideration. Please allow time for the GSTA to rule on applications in accordance (which includes determining consensus from all club delegates).*

### Team Structure: ByLaw 3.2 (a)

Teams should have a minimum of four players arranged **in order of merit** irrespective of gender.

This means teams can be mixed or single gender, and player #1 should be the strongest/highest ranked player in the team, and so on. Teams can have up to 6 players, arranged in order of merit.

### Fixture Format: ByLaw 3.2 (b)

Fixture = A scheduled contest between two teams played at a venue on a particular day.

Teams play 6 rubbers in total: 2 doubles rubbers and 4 singles rubbers.

### Ensure order of merit when listing team By Law 5.5

In Junior fixtures, if the player of the top (highest ranked) singles rubber is also playing a doubles rubber, then they shall play in the top doubles rubber (By Law 5.7(a))

### Here are some *suggested* combinations to plan your team & comply with established By-Laws.

Teams with 5 or 6 players must work out which children are going to play singles and/or doubles, and who will miss out on what.

**\*PLEASE NOTE – THESE ARE SUGGESTIONS. FOR TEAMS PLAYING MORE THAN 4 PLAYERS ON THE DAY – THERE ARE \*MANY COMBINATIONS TO PLAN EQUAL COURT TIME AND STILL COMPLY WITH BY LAWS.**

Players in order of merit, player 1 being the strongest.	Doubles arrangements suggestions	Singles suggestions
<b>Teams of 4*</b> Player 1 Player 2 Player 3 Player 4	Top Doubles Player 1 + Player 2  Second Doubles Player 3 + Player 4	Singles rubbers played by Player 1 Player 2 Player 3 Player 4
<b>Team of 6*</b> Player 1 Player 2 Player 3 Player 4 Player 5 Player 6	Top Doubles Player 1 + Player 2  Second Doubles Player 3 + Player 4  5 & 6 don't play doubles	Singles rubbers played by: Player 1 Player 3 Player 5 Player 6  2 & 4 don't play singles
<b>Team of 6*</b> Player 1 Player 2 Player 3 Player 4 Player 5 Player 6	Top Doubles Player 1 + Player 5  Second Doubles Player 3 + Player 6  2 & 4 don't play doubles	Singles rubbers played by: Player 1 Player 2 Player 3 Player 4  5 & 6 don't play singles

## MATCH DAY

These applies to all divisions  
As per previous seasons

RUBBERS	PINK TEAM	V	LIME TEAM
Top Doubles	Two Pink Players	V	Two Lime Players
Second Doubles	Two Pink Players	V	Two Lime Players
Number 1 Singles	Pink #1 ranked player	V	Lime #2 ranked player
Number 2 Singles	Pink #2 ranked player	V	Lime #2 ranked player
Number 3 Singles	Pink #3 ranked player	V	Lime #3 ranked player
Number 4 Singles	Pink #4 ranked player	V	Lime #4 ranked player

In Junior fixtures, if the player of the top (highest ranked) singles rubber is also playing a doubles rubber, then they shall play in the top doubles rubber ByLaw 5.7(a)

Doubles are played first, then singles, unless negotiated by teams with mutual agreement in advance.

## RUBBER FORMATS

As per previous seasons

ByLaw 3.2 (b)	Divisions 5 GREEN BALL Division 6 ORANGE BALL	Divisions 1, 2, 3 & 4
Sets	One set First to 6 games wins	One set First to 6 games wins
Final Match Score	Can be 6-5 or 5-6	If game gets to 6-5 or 5-6, another game must be played. A win is achieved with 7-5 game score If 6-6 is reached, then a Tie Break is played to get a final match score of 7-6 or 6-7.
Tie Break		Tie breaks are a 7-point win, with a two-point lead. Score in the Tie-break should be recorded.
Deuce	At Deuce, no advantage played – which means at Deuce, play one point only and the winner of that point wins the game (otherwise known as sudden death!)	Advantage played at Deuce.

**MODIFIED SERVING GUIDELINES****GREEN - ORANGE - RED BALL**

New guidelines to be introduced in 2020/2021

Please allow first 3 weeks of matches for players/teams/clubs to absorb any new concepts

These serving guidelines are to encourage attempts at overhead serves  
plus increase likelihood of returns & rallies.

They are also to minimise games decided on the basis of multiple double faults in Orange Ball – which has been identified as a concern based feedback from clubs/parents/players in the GSTA in 2020

	<b>Div 1,2,3,4 Yellowball &amp; Div 5 Green Ball</b>	<b>Div 6 Orange Ball</b>
Overhead serves	Encouraged but not compulsory	Encouraged but not compulsory
Foot Faults	Div 2,3,4,5: Each player gets 1 warning Div 1: No warning. Foot fault must be penalised. This applies to drop hit & overhead serves	Each player gets 3 warnings for foot faults – please explain this to players before match. This applies to drop hit & overhead serves
Drop hit Serves	A drop hit tennis serve must not allow the ball to bounce & feet must stay behind the baseline until after contact with the ball.	Orange ball players are allowed to let the ball bounce when attempting drop hit serve.
Swing and miss	Is a FAULT	Is a FAULT (no warnings sorry)
Service Box	Standard Adult Court Service Box	Standard Adult Court Service Box (for singles the rest of the point must then played within the modified single side-line zones – see Orange Guidelines.
Attempts	2 attempts at serve are allowed	2 attempts at serve OR <b>3 attempts at serve IF: IF the Orange ball player attempts the FIRST serve overhead, they are allowed 2 more attempts to serve if required. A third serve MUST be a drop hit serve.</b>

*Please note – in an ideal scenario, Orange Ball players should be aiming to attempt and achieve overhead serves with reasonable consistency and accuracy.*

*Orange ball players should be participating in rallies with some degree of purpose and “control”. However, as our Orange Ball comp is evolving, it will take time to have lots of teams with players who can achieve these aims*

*As our GSTA Orange players develop, the GSTA will aim to revert Orange Ball serving rules to Green Ball serving rules.*

*It is also the aim to have Red Ball matches, in which case the above guidelines for serving will apply to Red Ball matches. Notice will be given for any such changes.*

## JUNIOR MATCH ETIQUETTE

It is new in 2020/2021 for the GSTA to provide guidelines for match etiquette ..  
Please allow first 3 weeks of matches for players/teams/clubs to absorb any new concepts

COURT SET UP	Home Team responsible for setting up courts to specifications.
BALLS	Maximum 2 balls per Rubber for Yellow and Green Ball divisions. Maximum 4 balls per Rubber for Orange Ball divisions. Balls to be supplied by the HOME team.
ADULT UMPIRE REQUIRED ON COURT WHEN	See By-laws 7.6 Orange Ball Div 6 Orange Ball required for ALL rubbers. Div 1,2,3, 4 required for all major round fixtures unless both teams agree otherwise Div 5 Major round requires adult umpire on court At least one umpire to accompany every team
PRE-GAME HIT UP / WARM UP	Players may hit and practice some serves, for no more than 5 minutes to get in the groove. If this is not enough time to physiologically “warm up”, players should warm up off court in anticipation of match.
START THE GAME	The players toss a coin or rock paper scissors or spin the racquet. The winner decides to serve or return first, OR chooses an end to start. The other player/s have the first choice of the untaken option.
BALLS BEFORE EACH POINT	The Server should not commence a point until they have TWO balls, in their pocket/ball clip etc. <u>Please Discourage:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spare ball on the ground, due to safety.</li> <li>• spare ball at the back of the court, as it uses up too much TIME going to get it.</li> <li>• holding both balls in the ball toss hand, as it IMPEDES ball toss and double handed back hands and general player development.</li> <li>• The spare balls must be positioned by the net post or held by the scorer if on court.</li> </ul>
SCORE BEFORE THE POINT	Score MUST be called out and agreed upon by BOTH players before commencing the next point. It is the SERVERS responsibility to call the score. However, other player/s should say “hang on” or say the score loudly if they think the server is about to serve without having called the score. When saying score, ensure the other player/s actually heard it and agree. When another player calls the score, please indicate that you have heard and agree. Any child that is not confident with keeping score – no matter the division, may request an umpire to help. Any child that is concerned that their opposition is not scoring correctly may request an umpire.
A ROGUE BALL ON COURT	If a ball comes on a court while a point is in progress, the point should be stopped immediately and replayed when the court is clear. Players are strongly encouraged to clear the playing area of spare balls for safety reasons.
RETURNING BALLS TO ANOTHER COURT	When returning balls to a neighbouring court they should whenever possible be ROLLED, not hit into the air. It must be done so in a manner that does not interfere, cross or distract any other points in progress. Returning the ball to the backstops of the court it is required on is considered most courteous.
RETURNING BALLS TO OPPOSITION	It is most courteous to ROLL the ball under the net to get it to the other player, by hitting with racquet to roll on ground or rolling from hands. You should wait until they are aware it is about to come to them before you roll it. Or call out “coming” to let them know its on the way.
COACHING	Strictly no coaching of technique or strategy from the sidelines. Encouragement only.

### JUNIOR MATCH ETTIQUETTE – continued

It is new in 2020/2021 for the GSTA to provide guidelines for match etiquette ..  
Please allow first 3 weeks of matches for players/teams/clubs to absorb any new concepts

<p>CALLING IN/OUT BALLS LINE CALLING ETTIQUETTE</p>	<p>The player at the end which the ball bounces is responsible for calling if the ball is in or out. The player should do this QUICKLY, LOUDLY and CLEARLY. Finger points on their own DO NOT COUNT as a line call. Dispute: If a player doesn't agree with a line call, they should approach the net and ask "are you sure that ball was out?" If the player who made the call is sure – then they should say "yes I am sure". If the player who made the call is not actually sure – then they should say so, and the point should be replayed, from the correct service side for that previous point. If a player makes a line call and then realises, they were wrong – they should say so immediately and calculate the score according to their corrected line call. Divs 1,2,3,4: If a line call is queried 3 times in a match – then the team managers should appoint an adult umpire to supervise the rest of the match. This must be noted somewhere on the score card.</p>
<p>RESOLVING DISPUTES ABOUT SCORE</p>	<p>If Score Calling etiquette is applied, disputes over scores should be eliminated. However, if there is a dispute about the score, players must attempt to resolve it before seeking help from adults/caregivers. Resolving disputes should be done by all players approaching the net and discussing at the net – not yelling out across the court. For divisions GREEN AND ORANGE the on court ADULT supervisor should encourage the children to participate in determining the correct score and try to help the kids understand why the score is what it is. If the score cannot be agreed upon, players must go back to the last score which they both agree on, and play from there, remembering the correct side for serving for that score.</p>



## **SUPPORT FROM PARENTS/CAREGIVERS**

It is new in 2020/2021 for the GSTA to provide guidelines for parent/caregiver support  
Please allow first 3 weeks of matches for players/teams/clubs to absorb any new concepts

### **Support from parents**

- Parents are asked to attend each match and support with court set up, on court scoring and assist their Team's manager with score entry through League Manager
- While matches are in progress, maximum two helpers on court per ORANGE BALL match, with one from each team (or neutral) helping with scoring or ball pick up. Maximum one person helping per court per GREEN BALL match or other division.
- All other persons including parents should be off the court.
- Helpers on court must be on the sidelines, by the net post
- No parents/helpers should be behind the baseline
- Spectators are required to behave appropriately – see player code of conduct agreement

**ADULT UMPIRES for ORANGE & GREEN BALL MATCHES**  
**GUIDELINES TIPS AND TRICKS!!**

- The umpire should stand at the net post at all times, unless absolutely necessary to go on court for the purpose of show a player where they should stand to serve or receive.
- Beyond this, there is strictly no technical or tactical coaching by the umpire.
- The umpires job is also to
  - ensure the children score and play in accordance with the rules
  - help the children to learn how to conduct a tennis match, including scoring, by themselves.
  - keep the match moving quickly
  - keep a mental or written track of the score
  - make sure the child about to serve says the score before they serve
  - make sure the child about to serve has the balls they need – it is the children’s job to get their balls organised before each point. The adult should do it only in the interests of saving time if required.
  - encourage children to say loudly if they think a ball was in or out
  - help the kids stand on the correct side of the court and swap ends when required etc.
- Instead of scoring for them and directing them, please try ASKING them questions like:
  - what happens next? what is the score? Have you said the score? Have you got your balls ready? Where do you stand now? Do you think that was in or out?
  - If they don’t quite have correct answers, a good tip is to say “ Oh that’s so close – but not quite – the score is [...], and try to explain why.
- ensure the children end the game politely, thank each other and thank the umpire.

## ORANGE BALL COURT SET UP

For clubs that do not have blended lines, please read instructions here 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.

It is the home or hosts' club team who is responsible for setting up courts and allocating courts to division.

### **Doubles Court**

Drop down lines are needed for the base line only - measure 270cm from the outer edge of the standard court baseline to the outer edge of the drop down line. Position lines accordingly.

The standard singles sideline becomes the doubles sideline. The full standard service box/square is used for serving.

### **Singles Court (refer picture below)**

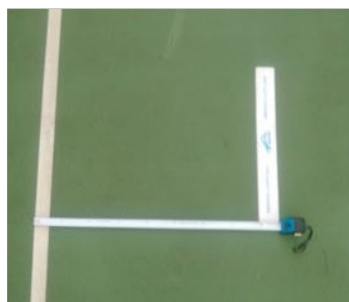
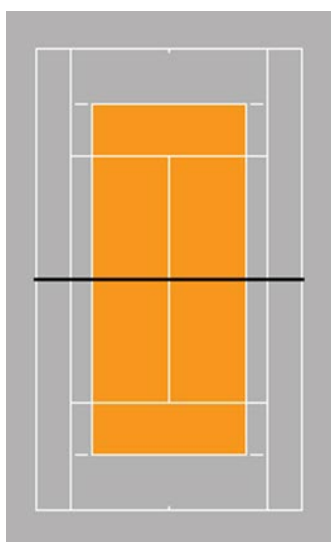
For the baseline, measure 270cm from the outer edge of the main baseline as per the doubles court set up.

Using a tape measure, measure 86cm from sidelines starting at the outside of the inner tramline (singles court). Place drop down lines on both sides of the singles court (refer to orange court picture below).

**The full standard service box/square is used for serving. The point from then on is played inside the modified singles lines 86cm from the adult singles sideline.**

### **Net Height**

The net should be lowered to 80cm.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all clubs who have supported the creation of a Junior Sub Committee for the GSTA for the first time for as long as most people can remember!

Thank you to the Junior Delegates who have volunteered to represent their club on the Junior Sub Committee.

Thank you to the Junior Delegates have had a chance to meet or talk with Erica before the start of the season. Many Apologies to those who have not had a chance to connect with Erica or with other Junior Delegates to date.

Thank you to Tennis SA – Hayley Allen and other representatives for their support, information resources, advice and guidance.

Thank you to the GSTA Office Bearers and other delegates who have helped Erica since her appointment at the AGM 3/8/2020, as Junior Coordinator and minutes Secretary.

Thank you to clubs who have contributed – and a special thank you to Victor Harbor Tennis Club for supplying the basis for the player code of conduct. I am aware a number of clubs have one – so if any other club wishes to contribute to future versions of the GSTA document this will be welcomed for the future.

Thank you in particular to Jon Whellams, who has in former years, and for many years, managed, drafted and implemented changes to the Constitution and ByLaws which govern the intent of these guidelines.

Best wishes to all clubs, players and volunteers for the 2020/2021 season.

**Erica Modra** 

GSTA Junior Coordinator

GSTA Minutes Secretary

2020/2021

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