

About Tennis Tournaments and why you should play them.

Firstly, playing in tournaments should be a fun & great experience.

A developing player needs to play a massive amount of real and competitive matches as they climb the ladder. These matches will provide knowledge and experience for a player to learn strategic and tactical situations and their appropriate shot selection and overall match strategy.

Coaches all over Gippsland have continued to work together to offer the best series of tournaments over January. If you receive a text or email over the coming weeks, please do your best to reply letting us know either way if you are interested in playing or not. We understand for first time players it can be nerve racking, but you will be grouped with other players in the same position. Beginners will not be playing against elite level players, if you don't enjoy the tournament experience it's our fault – not yours!

We tailor these tournaments to the players by giving as much match play as possible each day. It is a great avenue to fast track your development.

What is a graded unisex tournament and are they good?

- Graded means the event will be based on ability, not by age & gender.
- They are fantastic as it allows tournament directors to almost guarantee good close competitive matches against similar level players.
- What section do I enter?

By providing information on your entry like coach, comps, tournament results will give us a great idea. If need be, we will touch base with your coach and or parent.

Rundown of the sections:

- Section 6: Orange ball, young first-time tournament players (ages 6+)
- Section 5: Green ball, equivalent to C grade (MN&DJTA) or section 4 (K&DJTA)
- Section 4: Yellow ball, for those that can handle playing with a yellow ball but are still at a beginner level. Low level B grade (MN&JTA) or section 3 (K&DJTA)
- Section 3: Yellow ball, low level Intermediate level player with 2-3 years of comp experience. Higher level B grade/low level A grade (MN&DJTA) or Section 2 (K&DJTA)
- Section 2: Yellow ball, high level intermediate player with 3-5 years of comp experience. High level A grade (MN&DJTA) or Section 1 (K&DJTA)
- Section 1: Yellow ball, advanced level player who competes in the highest grade, participates in 4+ tournaments per year and is ready for a challenge.

Parents role:

- Ensure your child is organised and ready (racquet, drink bottle, hat, sunscreen etc). Try give them the responsibility to make sure they are ready.
- We encourage you to watch some matches but not all.
- Support your child and teach them it's not all about winning, we learn more from our losses!
- Don't force your child to talk to you straight after the match.
- No umpiring from the sidelines, players are responsible for keeping score, calling balls in or out and so on. In the unfortunate situations where a player thinks cheating is occurring, they need to stop play and tell tournament organiser.
- Yes, they will occasionally get the score wrong, this is why it's important for the server to call out the score prior to each point.

Good luck to everyone participating in the Gippsland Summer of Tennis. If you have any questions please contact Matthew Pocklington 0402 736 693 or info@southgippslandtenniscoaching.com.au



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