

UNISPORT AUSTRALIA

UNIVERSITY TENNIS LEAGUE

2026 PROSPECTUS



UNIVERSITY TENNIS LEAGUE

Following on from the success of the University Basketball League, UniSport in collaboration with Tennis Australia, piloted a University Tennis League (UTL) in 2024 - a competitive event bringing together universities from across Australia to compete in mixed team tennis tournaments.

The UTL is open to all UniSport members and will consist of a mixed team competition (minimum 3 men and 3 women) with regional qualifying tournaments and a finals series.

UniSport invites universities to nominate to join the UTL for the 2026 season.



STRUCTURE & TIMING

The University Tennis League is open to all UniSport members and will consist of a mixed team competition with each fixture to include the following matches:

- 3x Men's singles
- 3x Women's singles
- 1x Men's doubles
- 1x Women's doubles
- 1x Mixed doubles

The 2026 League will run from August - September 2026.

Participating universities will compete in regional qualifying tournaments throughout Semester 2 (August–September). The qualifying teams will progress to playoffs and finals in early September 2026.

Note: The UTL schedule and finals qualification will be finalised following confirmation of number and location of participating universities.

The league will be a Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) event allowing players the opportunity to improve their rating.

All games shall be played mid-week (preferably Tuesday and Wednesday) with matches commencing at 10am* (*requests to alter day/ time can be made if due to venue availability, teams cannot host mid-week commencing at 10am).



UNIVERSITY TENNIS LEAGUE

PARTICIPATION

Participation in the league is open to all UniSport members with the following requirements:

- Must enter a mixed team of minimum 6 players – 3 men and 3 women (maximum squad size allowed is 6 men and 6 women)
- Pay the license fee (proposed fee of \$2500 based on number of participating universities)

Universities are welcome to nominate multiple teams for entry in the UTL. UniSport will consider accepting additional teams if in consultation with Tennis Australia it is agreed that additional teams can be integrated into the league format.

However, to ensure fair competition and maintain a balanced structure, priority will be given to the first team nominated by each university.

This approach allows more participants to participate in the league while still providing each university with the opportunity to showcase their top team. If additional teams from the same university are accepted, they will be incorporated based on the overall structure and capacity of the league.

STAKEHOLDERS

UNISPORT AUSTRALIA

UniSport owns the University Tennis League on behalf of its member universities.

UniSport owns all commercial rights to the UTL including the right to sell major and minor sponsorship deals with associated branding opportunities.

UniSport is responsible for the formulation of the UTL Operations Manual in consultation with Tennis Australia which defines the policy framework under which the UTL is run and rights and responsibilities of competing teams.

UNIVERSITIES

Participating universities will be required to adhere to the League competition guidelines. They will be responsible for establishing an approved team management structure to oversee the team including game day operations. Commercially, Universities own the rights to team sponsorship and team apparel.

Universities will be responsible for all costs of running their teams and all costs associated with hosting scheduled regional fixtures as outlined in the obligations section below.

TENNIS AUSTRALIA

Tennis Australia (TA) sanction the UTL and provide support in the ongoing development of the UTL and to ensure the League is run and managed accordingly.

LICENSE FEE, BENEFITS & OBLIGATIONS

LICENSE FOR 2026:

\$2,500 PLUS GST PER UNIVERSITY

(TBC pending number of universities)

LICENSE FEE INCLUSIONS:

- Competition management
- Coverage of flights for finals series (interstate teams)
- Accommodation arrangements for finals series (interstate teams)
- Livestreaming finals series on a centralized platform
- Access to education and intellectual property including:
 - UTL operations manual
 - Student engagement kit
 - Templates including: run sheets, role descriptions
 - Budget example
 - Training and certification courses

UNIVERSITY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Payment of license fee
- Comply with UTL Operations Manual and UniSport national integrity framework
- Recruitment and remuneration of coaches
- Training and potential tournament hosting
- Team medical support
- Match day promotion
- Team management costs
- Uniforms
- Transport, accommodation and meals if required for regional tournaments

Commercial rights are owned by universities for team sponsorship and off-court apparel. Uniforms must align with UTL guidelines, while UniSport retains rights for logo placement of the UTL brand and its major sponsor.

HOSTING OBLIGATIONS

- Appoint a dedicated match day coordinator to oversee all aspects of home games, including coordination of matches, venue management and associated costs
- Develop match day promotion and student engagement strategies
- Liaise with visiting teams
- Coordinate game day photography
- Provide match balls

UNIVERSITY TENNIS LEAGUE

APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMEFRAMES

EOI DEADLINE:

FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2026

CONFIRMATION OF TEAMS:

FRIDAY 1 MAY 2026

SCHEDULE FINALISED:

FRIDAY 29 MAY 2026

EOI DETAILS

To express interest in being part of the 2026 UTL, please complete this form by Friday 27 March 2026.

