



SINGLES TENNIS

COMPETITION RULEBOOK

This rulebook sets out the competition format and operating rules for the Tennis Singles Competition at the Maccabi Junior Games 2026. All players, parents/guardians, coaches and spectators are expected to familiarise themselves with these rules before the event.

1. MATCH FORMAT & SCORING

- Standard ITF Rules of Tennis apply, subject to these tournament-specific rules.
- Each match is played as one short set.
- The first player to win 6 games wins the set.
- At 5–5, one deciding game is played. The winner of that game wins the set 6–5. No tiebreak is played and the set does not need to be won by two games.
- Golden deuce / no-ad scoring applies. At 40–40, the next point wins the game.
- Standard tennis scoring of 0, 15, 30 and 40 applies before deuce.
- At deuce, the receiver chooses the side from which the deciding point is served.
- Players change ends in accordance with normal tennis rules.
- A short warm-up of up to 3 minutes is permitted before the match.

2. AGE CATEGORIES

DIVISION	CATEGORY	AGES IN 2026
BOYS	U12	10,11 & 12
BOYS	U14	13 & 14
BOYS	U16	15 & 16
BOYS	U18	17 & 18
GIRLS	U14	11, 12, 13 & 14
GIRLS	U18	15, 16, 17 & 18

- *Girls' tennis singles will be contested in U14 and U18 only, in accordance with the event age-group structure.*
- *Players may play up an age category with approval but may not play down.*
- *The Tournament Director has the final decision on eligibility disputes.*

3. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

- A minimum of 4 registered players is required for an age category to run.
- If fewer than 4 players are entered, the organising committee may combine divisions where age and safety considerations allow, offer an alternative arrangement or cancel the division.
- One group: the top 4 players advance to semi-finals, followed by a final and a 3rd/4th place playoff.
- Two groups: the top 2 players from each group advance, with A1 vs B2 and B1 vs A2 in the semi-finals.
- Three or more groups may include quarter-finals or another suitable knockout structure at the Tournament Director's discretion.
- Group-stage points: win = 3 points; loss = 0 points.
- Group tiebreakers, in order: head-to-head result; games difference; games won; coin toss.
- The draw, group sizes and progression format may be adjusted according to the final number of entries.

4. SCHEDULING, LATE ARRIVAL & FORFEITS

- Players must report to the designated tennis official at least 10 minutes before their scheduled match and are responsible for knowing their match times.
- The tournament will run to a strict schedule and matches must start promptly.
- A player who is not ready to play when the match is called may forfeit the match, ordinarily recorded as a 6–0 loss.
- The Tournament Director may make an exception where there are genuine extenuating circumstances.
- A player who withdraws after the group stage has begun must immediately notify the tennis official. The Tournament Director will determine how completed and unplayed results are treated to preserve fairness.
- Players must use the tournament balls supplied or approved by the organisers.

5. OFFICIALS, RESULTS & DISPUTES

- Where an umpire or match official is appointed, that official's decisions on facts arising during play are final.
- Where matches are self-officiated, players must make calls fairly and clearly. A player should call a ball out only when certain it is out; if unsure, the ball is considered in.
- Players are responsible for keeping the score clearly and should announce it before each point.
- Any score disagreement should be resolved using the last score on which both players agree. If it cannot be resolved, an official must be called before play continues.

- The result must be reported immediately after the match in the manner directed by tournament officials.
- Protests concerning rule application, eligibility or a match result must be raised promptly with the Tournament Director or organising committee.
- The Tournament Director's decision on any dispute or appeal is final.

6. INJURY, COACHING & CONDUCT

- A player who is bleeding or has an open wound must stop play and receive treatment before continuing.
- An official may allow reasonable medical assessment or treatment for an acute injury or illness.
- A player who cannot safely continue may retire from the match. The score at the time of retirement should be recorded together with the retirement.
- No on-court coaching is permitted during a match.
- Coaches, parents and spectators must remain off court and behind any designated boundary or spectator area.
- Players must show good sportsmanship and respect opponents, officials and equipment.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct, audible or visible obscenity, racquet abuse, ball abuse, deliberate delay or abuse of officials or opponents may result in a warning, point penalty, game penalty, default or disqualification.
- Serious misconduct may result in immediate disqualification.
- Adults or spectators who interfere with play may be warned or asked to leave the playing area or venue.

7. COURT CONDITIONS, EQUIPMENT & INTERRUPTIONS

- Players must use suitable tennis shoes, appropriate sports clothing and appropriate tennis equipment.
- Players are responsible for bringing water and any personal medication required.
- A coin toss or racquet spin will determine the initial choice of serve, receive or end.
- Only match players and authorised officials may be on court.
- Play may be delayed, moved, shortened, rescheduled or abandoned if weather, light, court conditions or other circumstances make play unsafe or impractical.
- For an interrupted match, play will normally resume from the point at which it stopped, unless the Tournament Director determines otherwise.
- The Tournament Director decides how incomplete or abandoned matches will be handled, including whether a match resumes, is replayed, is shortened or has a result declared.
- The Tournament Director may make reasonable operational adjustments to scheduling or competition format where required for the smooth running of the event, without unfairly disadvantaging participants.

8. MEDALS

- Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded according to the final placings in each category that meets the minimum entry requirement.
- Players must complete all required matches to remain eligible for final placings, unless a medical withdrawal or other exception is accepted by the Tournament Director.

