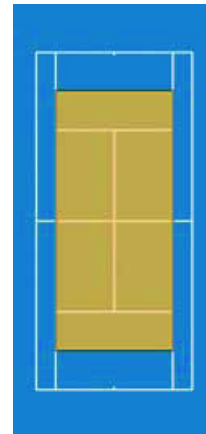


### What is it?

The Hot Shots Orange Ball Competition is a format that allows children to be involved in competition tennis at a younger age. Using a three quarter court, low compression balls and adjusting the net so it is lower gives the opportunity for children to play matches that otherwise they would not be able to on a full court. This competition is aimed at children aged 7 or 8 years at the beginning of the season. If a child is aged 9 at the time of the first match and better suited to orange ball rather than green ball competition then they are also encouraged to participate.



### When:

The season will be 15 weeks over the 2014/15 summer junior season. The season will commence on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October and finish Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Matches will take place on a Saturday mornings at either 8.30am or 10.30am

### Where:

This competition will be played at any venue in the association and will be in the same home and away format as the other junior divisions.

### Format:

Teams will be made up of 4 or 5 players either boys, girls or mixed. Teams that have 5 will have one player only competing in singles and one player only competing in doubles.

Each match will consist of two doubles and four singles that will be first to 4 games. Traditional scoring will be used except sudden death deuce will apply and if two children are tied at 3 games all, the next game will determine the winner.

All players must serve their first serve on the full but are allowed to let their second serve bounce before they hit it in order to get the ball in play. Traditional tennis rules will be used except for the serving. Although players are allowed to serve underarm, the ball must be served into the correct square as per normal tennis. Players will change ends after the first, third and fifth games.

Who can play?

**Association Competitions - Selection Chart and Criteria**

AGE	STARTER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
7 and younger	RED (Develop within Club)	RED/ORANGE (develop within Club)	ORANGE ¾ court, orange ball competition
8 years	RED/ORANGE (develop within Club)	ORANGE ¾ court, orange ball competition	ORANGE ¾ court, orange ball competition
9 years	ORANGE ¾ court, orange ball competition	Either orange or green ball. Up to the discretion of the club/coach	GREEN Full court; green ball competition
10 years	Either orange or green ball. Up to the discretion of the club/coach	GREEN Full court; green ball competition	GREEN Full court; green ball competition
11 + years	Either green or yellow ball. Up to the discretion of the club/coach	YELLOW Full court; yellow ball competition	YELLOW Full court; yellow ball competition

Selection rules should apply so that:

- No player 6 or under can enter the competition unless an 'exceptional talent' request is lodged, and a subsequent assessment of the child conducted by the Association.
- No player 8 or under can play competition on the full court unless an 'exceptional talent' request is lodged, and a subsequent assessment of the child conducted by the Association.
- No player aged 10 can play with a yellow ball unless an 'exceptional talent' request is lodged, and a subsequent assessment of the child conducted by the Association.

- The Court** The orange court will be 18 meters in length by 8.23m in width (a normal singles court width) for both singles and doubles. The height of the net should be between 81 – 90cms. The net is to be lowered for ALL orange ball matches.
- Supervision:** Each team is required to nominate a coach and/or parent as a volunteer supervisor for the respective team. Each match is assigned two mini-tennis courts for their respective matches, and one court supervisor to adjudicate each court. The adjudicator will encourage both children, score and provide assistance to players. The adjudicator will also fill out the score at the end of each individual match on the score sheet.
- Ethos:** Tennis SA encourages tennis as a sport for life and value the ideals of sportsmanship more than those of purely winning. We also value the concept and benefits of players participating in a team atmosphere and not only encouraging the benefits of physical activity but also team work and social interaction.
- Pathway:** The Orange Ball Competition helps provide children with an ideal pathway into traditional tennis by enabling them to compete at a young age and also to play in a modified environment which will assist them with their development.