



Australian Open and Summer Series 2021 Update

Thursday 19 November 2020

Hi everyone,

We want to provide some important updates relating to the Australian Open and Summer Series 2021.

The challenging nature and uncertainty of COVID-19 has meant we have had to make some difficult decisions and some of these changes will impact officials. As always we want to provide you with as much information as soon as we possibly can. Below are some important updates.

Live Electronic Line Calling

A major part of our biosecurity protocols to keep everyone safe is to limit the amount of people on-court. As a result, **Live Electronic Line Calling (Live ELC)** will be used on all courts at Australian Open 2021 and any Summer Series events played at Melbourne Park.

This system was used this year on outside courts at the US Open and has also been successfully implemented at ATP and WTA events during 2020.

Unfortunately, this means traditional Line Umpire roles won't be required for these events. However, we will still require a limited amount of officials to work as **Match Assistants**. These officials will work in small teams to assist managing player heat breaks, bathroom breaks and other duties to assist the Chair Umpire across all match courts.

To begin with Match Assistant roles will be filled by officials who are based in Victoria, with interstate officials considered for any unfilled positions. This will allow us to minimise domestic travel in a time where state border restrictions are continuously changing.

We understand this is not the news you may have been hoping for and we can reassure you a great deal of consideration has gone into this decision. The priority continues to be ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the community and those in our sport while enabling us to deliver a world class season of tennis during a challenging time globally.

International quarantine dates delayed

Following discussions with the Victorian Government we can also now confirm international players, officials and other essential personnel will not be able to enter Australia until after Christmas and will therefore be undergoing 14 days of mandatory quarantine during the first two weeks of January. Details of quarantine arrangements are still being finalised with the Victorian Government.

We are working with all the Tours and all other relevant stakeholders to confirm the summer calendar as soon as possible.

We understand that many of you may need to change your availability and will give you the opportunity to change your availability once the calendar of events is confirmed. We do ask that if at this stage you are no longer available to work that you please let us know as soon as possible via email to: officiating@tennis.com.au.

Our team will provide you with further updates as soon as possible and if you have any questions at this time please feel free to get in touch with us.

We again thank you for your patience as we work through plans for the Australian Summer, and for your continued support for our sport.

Warm Regards

Cheryl Jenkins, AO Chief Umpire, and the Tennis Australia Officiating Team