

All Abilities Week

Engagement Guide

All Abilities
Tennis Week
20-26 OCTOBER 2025



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Tennis is committed to embracing diversity by making our sport and events welcoming, safe, and inclusive for all. Everyone should have the opportunity to be included and engaged through tennis in a way that is positive and meaningful for them. Whether it's through playing with friends, participating in one of our five disability performance pathways, competing in over 80 tournaments, or attending an All Abilities Week event, we believe tennis is uniquely positioned to engage the 5.5 million Australians living with disability.

Objectives

Overall Objective of the All Abilities Week Model:

A dedicated moment in the tennis calendar to raise the profile, awareness, and opportunities for people with disability — both on and off the court.

Objectives of the 2025 All Abilities Week:

- Increase education and awareness
- Launch venue accessibility profiles
- Provide immersive play experiences
- Celebrate the inclusivity of tennis across Australia



Tennis Australia's Commitments to All Abilities Week

Tennis Australia will deliver the following initiatives as part of All Abilities Week:

- Host an All Abilities Awareness session for Tennis workforce
- Promote accessible employer content through networks
- Promote All Abilities Tennis pathways internally and externally (including through partner networks)
- Encourage stakeholders to participate in All Abilities Week activities
- Develop and launch All Abilities Week resources
- Collaborate with partners to assist in running activations during the week
- Provide online education sessions in the months leading up to All Abilities Week
- Launch an All Abilities Week campaign through Sporting Schools
- Open expressions of interest (EOIs) for upcoming All Abilities School Cup events across the country
- Provide funding for community activations
- Launch the Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Objectives

Australian Tennis Member Associations – Roles and Responsibilities

- Promote All Abilities Week opportunities to stakeholders, highlighting ways to get involved
- Ensure staff attend an All Abilities Awareness session delivered by Tennis Australia (e.g. Lunch and Learn)
- Promote All Abilities Tennis pathways internally and through networks/ social media
- (Optional) Conduct an accessibility profile of the MA workplace and publish it on landing pages
- (Optional) Host an All Abilities awareness session for staff with a disability partner or local player



2025 Key Dates

- **All Abilities Week:**
20-26 October 2025
- **Registration Period:**
16 July–1 September 2025

Exclusive All Abilities Week Online Education Series

(All Activation Leads or Volunteers must attend at least one session)

- **Monday 8 September**
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Considerations for making your All Abilities Week events as successful as possible
- **Monday 15 September**
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Online session led by Australian tennis coaches, focused on coaching kids with disability
- **Wednesday 17 September**
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Online panel with local coaches leading the way in the disability space
- **Tuesday 23 September**
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Hear from our partner organisations
- **Wednesday 8 October**
Time TBC
Hear from our All Abilities tennis players

All Abilities Week Starter Packs To Be Sent

(Giveaways and electronic resources sent to MAs for distribution to Activation Leads):

Tuesday 16 September

All Abilities Week Activity Data Summary Shared

3 December 2025

(International Day for People with Disability)



Activations

Engaging people with disability in your club community and running an All Abilities Tennis Week activity offers a powerful opportunity to make your club more inclusive, welcoming, and connected. It not only helps break down barriers to participation but also strengthens your club's culture by celebrating diversity and creating meaningful opportunities for everyone to belong. Hosting an All Abilities Week activity allows people with disability to experience the joy and social aspects of tennis. It also brings new energy, potential members, volunteers, and supporters into the fold, while showing the broader community that your club values access, equity, and being reflective of the local community.

Please use the list below to help select the All Abilities Week event you will run. Feel free to get creative when planning your activation, but keep the 2025 objectives at the heart of your initiative. We understand that the All Abilities Tennis landscape, and the capacity within each Australian Tennis Member Association may differ.

Priority initiatives will be selected by MAs from the recommended list of activities below:

Clubs

- Conduct a venue accessibility profile and promote it through club landing pages.
- Sign up to one or more of the following: the Sunflower initiative training, Sport4All Inclusive Club Course and Self-Assessment, or as a Special Olympics provider.
- Host an All Abilities Week celebration that provides racquet-in-hand opportunities for people with disability.

Coaches

- Conduct a venue accessibility profile and share the information on coach landing pages.
- Collaborate with venues to run an All Abilities Day celebration offering racquet-in-hand opportunities for people with disability.
- Promote All Abilities Tennis pathways within their networks.
- Complete the Sunflower Initiative training and register as a Sunflower Initiative provider.
- Completion of the All Abilities Inclusive Coaching Modules.

Activations

Schools

- Apply for Sporting Schools funding for tennis programs during the week.
- Distribute promotional assets to help schools share information to students about All Abilities Tennis pathways.
- Organise for an All Abilities tennis player to speak at the school.
- Increase promotion of upcoming All Abilities School Cup events.
- Participate in an All Abilities School Cup event (where applicable).

Officials

- Partner with clubs and coaches to complete a venue accessibility profile and include the details on tournament landing pages.
- Promote All Abilities Tennis pathways within officials' networks.
- Upskill by completing the All Abilities Inclusive Modules.
- Complete the Sunflower Initiative training.



Event Resources

By signing up to run an All-Abilities Week event, you will gain access to the following electronic and physical resources:

- **All Abilities Week Activation Starter Pack with giveaways** – includes blind tennis balls, vision simulation glasses, a social story for community tennis, activity cards, promotional All Abilities Pathways posters, banners, and additional Canva assets (valued at \$400 per pack)
- **All Abilities Week Engagement Guide** (this guide)
- **Tennis NDIS Guide**
- **Access to the Australian Tennis Accessibility Profile**
- **Top 5 Coaching Tips for Players with Disability** (via the Bounce portal)
- **All Abilities School Guide & resources and promotional assets**
- **Inclusive Tournament Guides for Officials**
- **Access to the Sunflower Initiative training, Sport4All Inclusive Club Course and Self assessment tool**

- **Education sessions in the lead-up to the week** to ensure event organisers are prepared
- **Para Sport Equipment Enhancement Program Club Guide**
- **Editable Social Story for Community Tennis (Tool to help support Players with Intellectual disability & Autism)**



Funding Model

As part of the 2025 All Abilities Week we have two funding levels available with varying commitments.

All Abilities Week – Gold

If selected, your activation will receive a **\$500 funding grant + the Activation Starter Pack** (valued at \$400) and All Abilities Week assets.

Conditions: You must complete at least **three** of the listed deliverables (with evidence), host **one** All Abilities Week event, and complete the post-event survey.

All Abilities Week – Silver

If selected, your activation will receive a **\$250 funding grant + the Activation Starter Pack** (valued at \$400) and All Abilities Week assets.

Conditions: You must complete at least **one** of the listed deliverables (with evidence), host **one** All Abilities Week event, and complete the post-event survey.

Deliverables required to receive funding

- Complete Accessibility Profile and promote through landing pages
- Evidence of promotion of All Abilities Pathways to network
- At least one member of their club/ community completes Sunflower Initiative training
- Event volunteers complete inclusion modules through Bounce
- Complete Sport4All inclusive club course and self-assessment.
- Offer a multi-week ongoing opportunity for All Abilities players post All Abilities Week

PLEASE NOTE:

Grant recipients will initially receive 50 per cent of their allocated funding. The final 50 per cent will be granted after all requirements are met and post All Abilities Week survey has been returned.

Event Planning

When planning your event for All Abilities Week, please keep the following tips and considerations in mind:

Planning & Mindset

- **Engage with the community:** Involve people with lived experience of disability and family/supporters in planning and decision-making.
- **Avoid assumptions:** Ask participants what they need rather than assuming what works best.

Tip: If you don't already have access to people with disability, feel free to reach out to your inclusion representative at your member association or Tennis Australia. Also consider our supporting partners mentioned below.

Venue Accessibility

- **Physical access:** Ensure ramps, accessible toilets, parking, and pathways are clearly marked and easy to navigate.
- **Wayfinding:** Provide maps, signage, and distance indicators to help attendees plan their movement.
- **Quiet spaces:** If possible, offer a calm, low-stimulation area for those who may need a break.

- Completing the accessibility profile and promoting what you do have available is a great thing, regardless of how accessible you are as you will provide people with an opportunity to make an informed choice.

Note: If your courts are not accessible there are such things as portable ramps. Please see accessibility guide for more information.

Communication

- **Use accessible formats:** Provide materials in plain English, large print, Easy Read, Auslan, and screen-reader-friendly formats where possible.
ChatGPT is a great resource if you are unsure about how to make something plain language and more accessible.
- **Communicate early:** Promote the event well in advance to give people time to plan, especially those who may require additional support.
- **Visual supports:** Use visuals such as social stories, symbols, or pictograms to explain the event structure.
- **Channels:** Consider where people with disability gather in your local community and promote to those locations.

Event Planning

Staff & Volunteer Preparation

- **Education Series:** Have club volunteers attend the All Abilities Week Education Series in the lead-up to the week.
- **Visible allies:** Encourage staff and volunteers to wear identifiers (e.g., Sunflower Lanyards) after completing the relevant online training.
- **Respect individual needs:** Some people may require support workers, assistance animals, or additional time and space.

Activity Design

- **Flexible options:** Provide adaptable equipment or rules to allow everyone to participate at their own level.
- **Choice and control:** Let participants decide how they engage and when to take breaks.
- **Celebrate participation:** Focus on inclusion and enjoyment, not just performance.

Tip: Watch the top five coaching tips on <https://bounce.tennis.com.au> to get an insight in how to design activities for specialised disability programs.



Support Partnerships

- **Work with disability organisations:** Reach out for advice, promotion, and potential co-hosting opportunities.
- **Have a backup plan:** Prepare for technology issues, weather disruptions, or unexpected accessibility needs.

We understand that connecting with disability organisations can sometimes be challenging. Below are some of the key organisations we work with throughout the Summer of Tennis, along with the support they offer:

Amaze / Autism Connect

<https://www.amaze.org.au/>

Amaze builds autism understanding in the community, influences policy change for Autistic people and their families/supporters, and provides independent, credible information and resources to individuals, families, professionals, government and the wider community.

Sport4All

<https://sport4all.com.au/>

Sport4All gives people with disability the opportunity to participate in sport, at both club and school level - when, where, and how they choose by working with councils to connect people with disability with local sports clubs, as well as arming local sporting clubs with resources and training opportunities.

Disability Sports Australia

<https://sports.org.au/>

Disability Sports Australia (DSA) is a national non-profit organisation and registered charity dedicated to empowering people with disability through the transformative power of sport. DSA's mission is to break down barriers, ensuring that all Australians with disability can enjoy meaningful participation in sport, tailored to their own abilities and interests. They also have an Accessibility Champion free and simple online course that helps sport organisations and leisure providers include and welcome people with disability.

Get Skilled Access

<https://getskilledaccess.com.au/>

Get Skilled Access is a team of inclusion consultants with lived experience of disability, bringing valuable knowledge and understanding to the table. Whether it's working directly with an inclusion consultant to support you and your members, or receiving guidance as you strive to make your venue more diverse and inclusive, they're here to help.

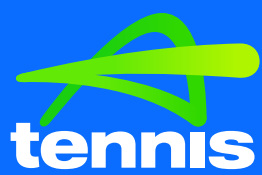
From offering advice on accessibility, to developing inclusive leadership practices, to creating a welcoming workplace through a Disability Action Plan or opening up more opportunities for people with disability — the team at Get Skilled Access is ready to support your journey toward meaningful inclusion.

Support Partnerships

For connection with All Abilities Partners
or additional questions contact:

Chris Okely –
Tennis Australia All Abilities Lead
christopher.okely@tennis.com.au

Alternatively, we can connect you with
your **state-based Diversity & Inclusion**
Lead, who can provide additional
contacts and support to help you deliver
the best All Abilities Week possible.



Inclusion & Diversity Team
inclusion@tennis.com.au