

VISUALLY IMPAIRED TENNIS RULES – UPDATED AUGUST 2021

All regional tournaments will adopt the International Tennis Federation rules of tennis with amendments as below.

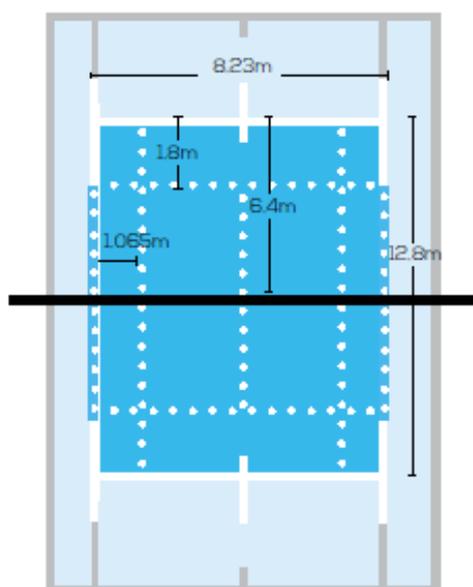
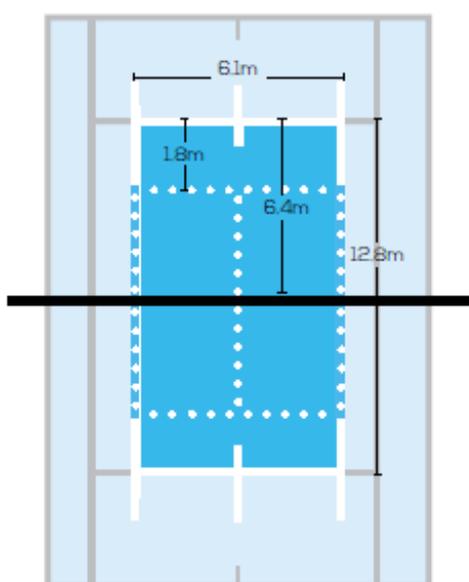
THE COURT

B1 Court

Dimensions: 12.8m x 6.1m.

Service line: 1.8m from the baseline and 4.6m from the net.

Net height: 83cm.



What you'll need to create the court

- Tape Measure, Bungee Cord, Scissors, Extra Wide Masking Tape

Key Tips

- The net height should be 83cm for Singles

How to create tactile lines and set up the court

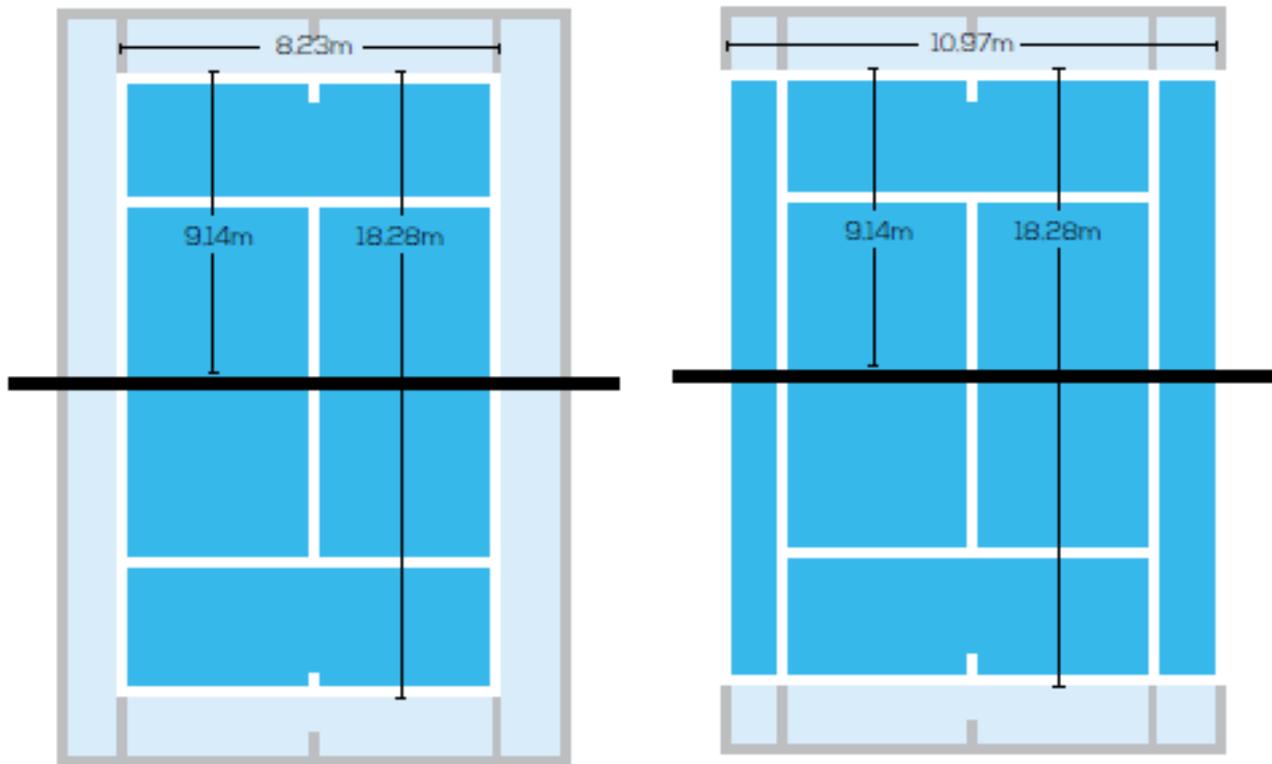
- Measure out lengths of the bungee cord for both sides of the court.
- Using your tape measure create the basic dimensions of your court.
- Mark out all the lines shown in the diagram (tactile lines are shown in block white and taped lines are shown by dots unless the court lines are already visible).
- For tactile lines start with the baseline by taping the end of the bungee cord down on one side.
- One person should extend the bungee cord to the other side of the baseline whilst another person applies the extra wide tape from one side to another.
- Continue this process for all the solid white lines.
- We suggest you extend the side lines past the baseline and the center marker past the baseline by half a meter (50cm)

B2, B3 & B4 Court

Dimensions: 18.28m x 8.23m.

Service line = 2.74m from the baseline and 6.4m from the net.

Net height = 91.4cm.



What you'll need to create the court

- Tape Measure, Extra Wide Masking Tape, Scissors

How to set up the court

- Use your tape measure to mark out the baseline at each end of the court.
- No tactile lines are required!

TACTILE MARKING

6mm bungee cord should be used to mark out the B1 court. You can get this from your local hardware store or online from Amazon.

Double width (72mm x 50mm) masking tape should be used to secure the bungee cord. A strong tape should be used and can be purchased on-line ([Tape](#)) but you may be able to source another kind elsewhere.

DIVISIONS AND BOUNCES

B1 – NO sight, wear eye masks, 3 bounces

B2 - Partial Sight, 3 bounces

B3 - Partial sight, 2 bounces

B4/5 – Good level of partial sight, 1 bounce

The first bounce must be in court, after this they can be outside the court

If two sight categories have to merge due to low entries, players must play to the rules of their own sight category.

For doubles B2-5 combine, and play a men's and women's draw. All players will receive the same number of bounces as they receive in the singles match.

SCORING

General guide: All games sudden death at deuce.

All tie breaks sudden death at 12-12.

B1 Singles: One short set to 4 (tie break at 4 games all)

B1 Doubles: One short set to 4 (tie break at 3 games all) **or** one 10 point tie-break

B2/5 Singles: One set to 6 (tie break at 6 games all)

B2/5 Doubles: One set to 6 (tie break at 6 games all) **or** One short set to 4 (tie break at 4 games all)

Ladies doubles Best of two short sets to 4 (tie break at 4 games all) and 10 point MTB

Note: Other scoring versions can be used, this is a guide only.

CLASSIFICATIONS

All players must be classified through British Blind Sport before being able to compete in an LTA competition. The LTA will check classifications pre-events. Information of classifications can be found here:

<https://britishblindsport.org.uk/>

BALL

Japanese yellow ball. Pictured Below.



RACKET SIZE

For B1 players, rackets have to be maximum 23 inches. For B2-5 no current limitations are in place.

Internationally for the B2 and B3 game a maximum of 25 inch racket is used and for the B4/5 game a maximum of 27 inch racket is used. Although not enforced, players may want to mimic these rules to avoid having to adapt if ever playing internationally.

VOLLEYING

Volleying is permitted for all players.

CLOTHING

All clothing should adhere to LTA regulations. Players should wear indoor (non-marking) trainers for all matches. B2 – B5 players must wear white tops. B1 players are exempt from this. B1 players must wear eye patches and a Paralympic approved blindfold. If your venue may benefit from something different please discuss with the LTA.

B1 EYE SHADE

Players must wear eye patches underneath a Paralympic recognised eye shade. Patching and masks are required for all players; exemptions can be granted for those with prosthetic eyes. Exemptions will be granted by the LTA and a letter provided to the player. Eye shades will be checked prior to each B1 match starting. Players must not remove their mask whilst competing. They should signal to the umpire if they need to alter it in any way.

SERVE

All players must use the “ready” “yes” “play” procedure. The server must call “ready?” and wait for the receiver to reply “yes”. The server then has 5

seconds to serve (during which time/he may not alter their position). The server must shout “play” immediately before hitting the serve. If they don’t do this, it’s a “let”.

PLAYER HIT BY BALL BEFORE IT BOUNCES

B1: If the ball hits the player inside the playing area before the first bounce, it is a point for the opponent. If the ball hits the player outside the playing area before the first bounce, it is a point for the player.

The player is considered inside the court if any part of their body is touching the playing surface inside or on the court lines. This would mean the player loses the point if the ball strikes them. This is based on [ITF'S Rules of Tennis](#) specifically points 18 (Foot Fault) and 24i (Player Loses Point).

B2-5: If the ball hits the player inside or outside the playing area before the first bounce, it is a point for the opponent.