GREEN TENNIS

Tennis Europe

TENNIS FOR A
GREENER FUTURE

GreenTennis - Erasmus + Project

For Tournament Directors and Club Managers

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GREEN TOURNAMENT PLANNING CHECKLIST

Embedding sustainability from the very start of your event planning process.

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START GREEN, STAY GREEN

Sustainability is not an afterthought — it is your foundation. Use this checklist.



- **LED Lighting:** If possible, ensure all courts and facilities use energy-efficient LED lighting. Ask your venue for energy specs.
- **Water Refill Stations**: Try to plan at least one refill station per 50 participants, and look to reduce single-use plastic bottles at your event.
- **Recycling Points:** Where you can, set up clearly labelled waste sorting stations - glass, plastic, paper, organic - near all high-traffic areas.
- **Digital Communication:** Try to use as little paper as possible: online entries, digital draws, QR code info boards, ecertificates.
- **Green Suppliers:** Where possible, favour sponsors and vendors with recognised sustainability credentials or ecofriendly products.
- **Travel Plan:** Consider providing participants with public transport information at registration.
- **Ball Collection:** Look to arrange post-tournament tennis ball collection points and partner with a recycling organisation.
- **Sustainability Report:** Consider how you might measure and communicate your event environmental impact after the tournament.

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SUSTAINABLE VENUE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Energy and water efficiency at every corner of your tennis facility.

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LED COURT LIGHTING

Attempt to replace conventional bulbs with LED systems to save on lighting energy with equivalent brightness.

SMART IRRIGATION

Look to use sensor-based or timer-controlled irrigation for clay courts and green areas to avoid water waste.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT CLUBHOUSES

Where possible, look to have insulation, smart thermostats and energy monitoring in place across facility buildings.

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UPGRADE YOUR VENUE'S SUSTAINABILITY

- Consider a simple energy audit of your courts and clubhouse — identify where consumption is highest
- Look to switch court and facility lighting to LED systems where not already in place
- Ask whether your venue can switch to a certified green energy tariff or provider
- Install or advocate for water-saving fixtures in changing rooms and bathrooms
- Try to add clearly labelled recycling and waste sorting points throughout the facility
- Work with your groundskeeping team to optimise irrigation schedules and reduce water waste.

RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION

Where possible, advocate for solar panels on clubhouse rooftops or select venues already powered by renewable energy. Even small steps like switching to a green energy tariff make a measurable difference.

- Ask whether the venue can switch to a certified green energy provider
- Advocate for solar panels on existing clubhouse or facility rooftops
- Where possible, minimise generator use for temporary power — grid connections are preferable
- Look to reduce standby energy: switch off unused AV equipment and displays

ENERGY EFFICIENCY | LED LIGHTING | SMART IRRIGATION | GREEN VENUES | RENEWABLE ENERGY

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DIGITAL-FIRST TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

Limit paper usage — reduce waste while making your event more efficient.

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ONE TREE AT A TIME, ONE PDF AT A TIME

The average tennis tournament prints thousands of sheets. Going digital does not just save paper — it reduces ink, transport and storage too.

01- Digital Draws & Schedules

Publish draws and order of play on the Tennis Europe platform and via QR codes posted around the venue. Update in real-time without reprinting.

02- QR Code Info Boards

Replace printed information flyers with waterproof QR code signs. Link to schedules, rules, maps and sustainability tips.

03- E-Certificates & Awards

Send digital certificates and achievement notifications by email. Reduce printed materials that are often discarded immediately.

04- Digital Scoring

Consider electronic scoring systems to feed live results directly to a screen or website - no paper scorecards required. You could use the Tennis Europe scoring platform, ION Sport.

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SUSTAINABLE SPONSOR & PARTNER CHOICES

Align your event with brands and suppliers that share your green values.

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WHY YOUR SPONSORS MATTER

Every sponsorship agreement sends a signal about your values. Choosing eco-conscious partners multiplies your sustainability impact and sets a new standard for tennis events across Europe.

- Sponsors provide materials, products and services that directly shape the event experience
- Sustainable brands often bring recycled or low-waste products that reduce your event footprint
- Aligning with green partners strengthens your event reputation and community trust
- It creates accountability — sponsors who commit to sustainability help keep you on track

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SPONSORS

- Published sustainability or CSR commitments
- Products made from recycled or natural materials
- Carbon offset programmes
- B Corp or ISO 14001 certification
- Minimal packaging on supplied goods

REUSABLE & ECO MERCHANDISE

- Branded reusable water bottles instead of plastic
- Organic cotton or recycled fabric apparel
- Seed paper or biodegradable promotional items
- Digital vouchers over printed coupons
- Avoid single-use plastic giveaways

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SPONSORS

Before signing: ask suppliers to provide eco-credentials, specify that all event materials must be reusable or recyclable, include a sustainability clause in your contract, and request that products arrive in minimal packaging.

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WATER REFILL & REUSABLE BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Eliminating single-use plastic bottles, one refill at a time.

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THE PLASTIC BOTTLE PROBLEM

A single-day tennis tournament can generate hundreds of plastic bottles. Most end up in landfill.

The solution is simple: provide clean refill stations and promote reusable bottles.

01- Install Refill Stations

Place water refill points at courtside, in changing rooms and near the canteen. Try to keep them clearly signed and regularly maintained.

02- Advise Against Single-Use Bottles

Encourage a plastic bottle-free event. Let participants know in advance so they can bring their own reusable bottle.

03- Provide Reusable Bottles

Where budget allows, offer branded reusable bottles as part of entry packs or as a small purchase at the event.

04- Inspire with World-Class Examples

Events like the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters have introduced reusable cup systems - proving it works at every level.

05- Hydration Signage

Consider signs and announcements to remind players, coaches and spectators to refill, not replace.

06- Track Your Impact

Count the bottles NOT used and share the number on social media or in your sustainability report.

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REFILL STATION PLACEMENT TIPS

One station per 50 participants minimum
Near courts: for players between sets and during warm-up
Near canteen: for coaches, parents and spectators
In changing rooms: for between-match and post-match hydration
At the venue entrance: first impression sets the tone for green behaviour
Try to keep each station clearly signed and checked regularly throughout the day

REUSABLE BOTTLE ESSENTIALS

Communicate your bottle policy clearly before the event
Remind participants again at registration and in the welcome announcement
Have spare reusable bottles available to lend or sell on the day
Make it easy and celebrated — not punitive or inconvenient
Feature the refill station on your event map and in all signage
Track and share how many bottles were avoided — celebrate the collective impacty

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WASTE SORTING & RECYCLING POINTS

Making it easy for everyone to sort waste correctly at your event.

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CLEARLY MARKED BINS

Use colour-coded bins with picture labels. Place them in pairs so sorting is the default, not the exception.

VOLUNTEER GUIDANCE

Brief event volunteers on waste sorting. Position them near bins at peak times to guide participants gently.

LOCAL RECYCLING RULES

Waste sorting rules vary across Europe. Check with your local municipality for the correct categories for your region.

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THE RIGHT BIN IN THE RIGHT PLACE

The most common reason waste ends up unsorted is that bins are hard to find or confusing to use. Fix the infrastructure and behaviour will follow.

01- Set Up Before Opening

Have all bins labelled, sited and briefed before participants arrive. First impressions set behaviour norms.

02- Cover All Zones

Place sorting stations courtside, near the canteen, at the entrance/exit and in changing areas.

03- Brief All Staff

Every staff member and volunteer should know your waste policy and be able to guide attendees.

04- Remove Overflowing Bins Quickly

Overfull bins lead to spillage and mixed waste. Schedule regular bin checks throughout the event.

05- Reduce Before You Sort

The best waste is waste not created. Prioritise compostable catering materials and bulk food service.

POST-EVENT AUDIT

After the tournament, conduct a simple waste audit. How many bags of each category were collected? This data helps you improve for next year and gives you numbers for your sustainability report.

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TENNIS BALL COLLECTION SYSTEM

Giving used tennis balls a second life through circular economy thinking.

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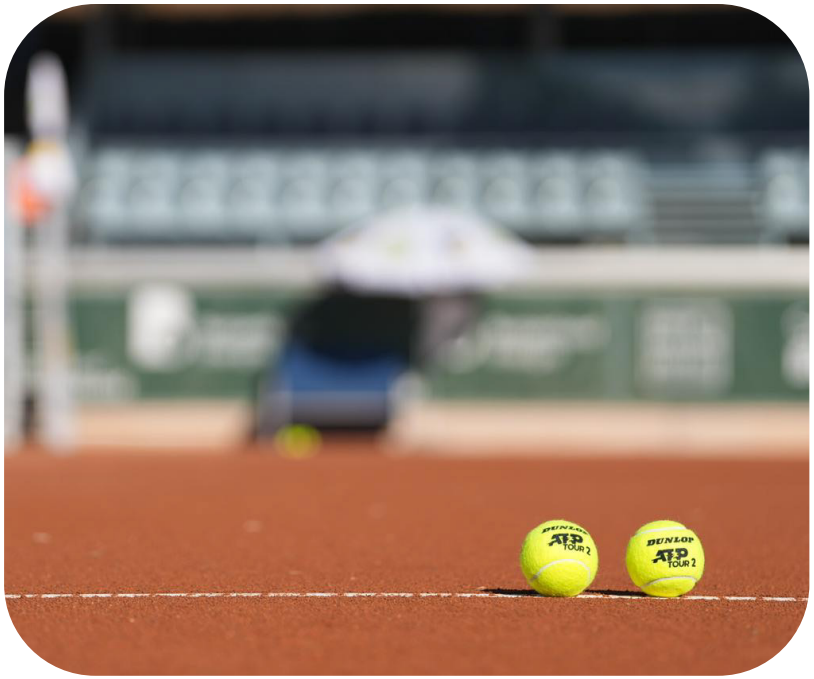
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THE PROBLEM WITH TENNIS BALLS

Over 300 million tennis balls are produced globally every year. Most end up in landfill. At a tournament, balls are often discarded after just a few matches — but they still have value.



COLLECTION BOXES AT THE VENUE

- Place clearly labelled ball collection boxes at each court exit and near the clubhouse
- Encourage players to deposit used match balls immediately after their match
- Try to keep boxes visible, well-signed and emptied regularly throughout the event
- Thank participants who contribute - a sticker, mention or small reward reinforces the habit
- Brief umpires and court supervisors to remind players about ball collection count collected balls daily and post the total on the event noticeboard.
- Tennis Europe recommends original pressure after use, and run recycling programs that avoid waste and convert used balls into sports surfaces.

RECYCLING & REUSE PARTNERS

- Partner with certified ball recycling organisations in your country
- Send pressurised balls for de-pressurisation and repurposing into new products
- Donate used match-quality balls to local schools, beginners or community programmes
- Contact your national federation for approved and recommended recycling schemes
- Ask your tournament ball sponsor if they operate a take-back or circular programme
- Use collected balls as training balls in postevent junior or beginner sessions

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01- Communicate the Plan

Tell players, coaches and spectators before and during the event that ball recycling is happening - and why.

02- Post-Match Balls to Training

Arrange for used match balls to be collected and redistributed to junior training sessions or beginners programmes.

03- Track and Report

Count the balls collected and calculate CO_2 saved from landfill. Share the figure in your sustainability report.

04- Work with Your Ball Sponsor

Ask your official ball supplier whether they offer a take-back or recycling scheme as part of their tournament partnership.



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ENERGY-SMART TOURNAMENT BEHAVIOUR

Simple day-to-day actions that cut energy use during your event.

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ENERGY COSTS YOU MONEY AND THE PLANET

Running courts, lighting, PA systems and catering uses significant electricity. Smart operational choices can reduce energy use by 20–40% without affecting the player or spectator experience.



LIGHTS OFF ON EMPTY COURTS

Assign a staff member to check and switch off court lighting when courts are not in use between matches.

EFFICIENT SCHEDULING

Minimise court idle time by grouping matches efficiently. Fewer courts running simultaneously means less energy consumed.

NATURAL LIGHT PRIORITY

Schedule daytime matches on courts with the best natural light. Reserve floodlit courts for evening sessions only.

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01- Appoint an Energy Monitor

Designate one team member to track energy use during the tournament — checking unused equipment is off and reporting issues..

02- Switch Off Between Rounds

Turn off PA systems, scoreboard displays and court lighting during extended gaps between rounds or sessions.

03- Use Timers and Sensors

If your venue allows, install motion-sensor lighting in changing rooms, toilets and storage areas.

04- Catering Energy Efficiency

Brief catering staff to use energy-saving modes on equipment and avoid running empty ovens or hot plates.

DID YOU KNOW?

Switching all courts to LED lighting and implementing smart scheduling can reduce a tournament energy bill by up to 40% — savings that can be reinvested in further sustainability improvements.



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SUSTAINABLE EVENT REPORTING

Measuring and communicating your environmental impact after the tournament.

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IF YOU CANNOT MEASURE IT, YOU CANNOT IMPROVE IT

A sustainability report does not need to be lengthy or complex. Even a simple one-page summary shows your commitment, helps you identify what worked and sets a baseline for improvement.



PLASTIC SAVED

Record refill station usage and the number of single-use bottles avoided. Calculate weight of plastic not sent to landfill.

ENERGY REDUCED

Note any energy-saving measures used and, where data is available, compare consumption to a previous event.

BALLS RECYCLED

Count and report the number of tennis balls collected and diverted from landfill through recycling or reuse.

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WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR REPORT

- Total participants, matches and courts used
- Plastic bottles avoided (estimated)
- Paper eliminated through digital-first approach
- Tennis balls collected and their destination
- Energy-saving measures implemented
- Waste sorted by category
- Participant feedback on sustainability measures
- Top 3 things to improve next year

SHARE YOUR RESULTS

Publish your report on your club website and send it to Tennis Europe: juniors@tenniseurope.org.
It inspires other tournaments to follow suit and demonstrates leadership in the tennis community.

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REUSE OF TOURNAMENT MATERIALS

Avoiding single-use branding and choosing reusable infrastructure.

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SINGLE-USE IS DOUBLE WASTE

Materials produced for one event and then discarded represent wasted resources AND wasted money. A shift to reusable, modular infrastructure pays back within two to three events.



REUSABLE BANNERS & SIGNAGE

- Store banners between events in a dry, dark place
- Design modular banners with swappable sponsor panels
- Use permanent court-side branding more than event-specific prints

MODULAR & GENERAL SIGNAGE

- Invest in blank reusable frames with printed inserts
- Use digital screens for schedules and information where possible
- Create QR code signs that link to updated content online

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01- Audit After Every Event

Before disposing of any material, ask: can this be stored and reused? Create a storage inventory list.

02- Standardise Your Setup

Design a repeatable, modular event layout so the same banners and signs work at every edition.

03- Recycle What You Cannot Reuse

For materials at end of life, find a specialist printer who accepts old banners for recycling.

04- Involve Your Sponsors

Ask sponsors to supply pull-up banners they already own rather than producing new materials for each event.

THE MATHS OF REUSE

A quality reusable banner costs 2–3x more upfront but lasts 5–7 events. That is 60–70% less spending on print materials and significantly less waste sent to landfill.



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GREEN FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENT LOOP

Listening to players and staff to continuously improve your sustainability performance.

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SUSTAINABILITY IS A PROCESS, NOT A DESTINATION

The most successful green events treat sustainability as an ongoing journey. Each edition is an opportunity to learn, adjust and raise the bar.

01- Staff Debrief Session

Hold a short debrief with your team within one week of the event. What sustainability challenges arose? What solutions worked?

02- Volunteer Report

Brief volunteers to note observations during the event — overfull bins, confusion at refill stations, misuse of recycling points.

03- Set Targets for Next Year

Based on feedback and data, set two or three specific, measurable sustainability targets for your next edition.

04- Share Learnings with Peers

Connect with other tournament directors through your national federation or Tennis Europe to share what works and what does not.

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QUESTIONS TO ASK PLAYERS

- Did you find the refill stations easily?
- Was recycling sorting clear and convenient?
- Would you travel differently if encouraged to?
- What sustainability action impressed you most?

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR TEAM

- Where did we fall short on sustainability?
- What required the most effort to implement?
- What would be worth doing again next year?
- What do we wish we had planned better?

BUILD A GREEN TOURNAMENT STANDARD

Document your sustainability actions and results after each edition. Over time, you build a reusable green tournament template — a practical resource for sharing best practices across the European tennis network.

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THANK YOU!

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