



# **NORTHLAND BLIND & LOW VISION TENNIS OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

WHANGĀREI | 14TH - 16TH NOVEMBER 2025

## **Tournament Information**

Prepared by Ellisia Cleave on behalf of Tennis Northland.

## **Welcome**

*On behalf of the blind and low vision tennis community in New Zealand and Tennis Northland, I would like to thank you for showing interest in the 'Inaugural Blind and Low Vision Tennis, Northland Open', we look forward to welcoming you to Whangarei, New Zealand in November 2025, read below for more details.*

## Tournament Dates

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025 are the scheduled dates for matches, it is strongly recommended to allow for travel to and from Whangarei before and after these dates as it will take time to get to Whangarei from Auckland International Airport.

## Classification

Entries will be accepted from B1, B2, B3 and B4.

**CLASSIFIED PLAYERS** – If you have a current classification you can play under that classification, we will accept (in this order) IBTA, IBSA, TA and other sport/country classification

**UNCLASSIFIED PLAYERS** - We will accept properly filled (provided) MDF forms and assign provisional classifications for unclassified players, if you do not have a current classification email the organiser and we will help you through the process.

## Events & Awards

B1, B2, B3, and B4 players are all welcome to sign up to participate.

Categories will be divided into men's and woman's sections. We acknowledge that this tournament will have a very diverse range of levels of experience we will look to have an award division for novice players which will be calculated from the round robin scores.

There will be singles in each category played as round robin format (up to 10 players)

Doubles will take place on Sunday morning, depending on entries it is likely this will be a 'men's B2-4 and a woman's B2-4, round robin. If there are enough players, we will offer a B1 mixed doubles.

We have been generously donated cash prizes for the winners of the singles events, as well as awards for winners and runner ups.

Top novice participants and doubles partnerships will be rewarded with awards and prizes where possible.

## B1 Competitors

All B1 competitors will be expected to nominate a tournament support person to assist you on court and around the venues, the nominated person can not be another competitor at the tournament, you will be responsible for expenses etc.

## Travel

International participants are encouraged to land at Auckland International Airport.

Auckland to Whangarei can be commuted by 'intercity' bus (approx' 3 hours) or 'Air New Zealand' domestic flight (approx' 1 hour), both cost around the same approximately \$65-80NZD. Choose the best option for you and your itinerary. You could also choose to go further north to the Bay of Islands for an adventure prior or a retreat after the tournament, or head south to the Waikato and Hobbiton, or Rotorua's cultural hot spot.

## Accommodation

The Kingswood Manor Motel is approximately 3km from the tennis venue, and a short walk to a group of shops with a superette, takeaways and pizza/bar, it is on a public transport (bus) route to the tennis venue and into the CBD for Friday and Saturday, unfortunately there is no public transport on Sundays in Whangarei.

There are 19 units at the motel ranging from twin studios to a family unit that can accommodate up to 5 people, each unit has a private bathroom and kitchenette with Wi-Fi and TV. Rates are from \$145NZD for a twin studio to \$220NZD per night for the family unit.

The motel is the closest, there are other options near by and cheaper options if you don't mind shared bathrooms. Kingswood Manor has mixed reviews on Google, I have spoken to the new manager who has been there for around a year, it seems 90 percent of the negative reviews were from prior to the new management stepping in.

Here is a link to the motel so you can make your own decision.

<https://www.kingswoodmanormotel.co.nz>

**Kingswood Manor Motel**, 260 Kamo Road, Whangarei, New Zealand

## Food

Food during the tournament will be the responsibility of the individual, there will be a tournament dinner/celebration, more details will be put out closer to the tournament.

## Tournament Services

We will have a massage therapist available, a physiotherapist will also be on site (TBC) bookings will be taken closer to the tournament, there will be a charge for these services.

## Local Transport

Once you arrive in Whangarei public transport is limited, there are some bus routes which run 6 days a week (Monday to Saturday) you will need a 'bee card' to access these.

<https://citylinkwhangarei.co.nz/>

alternately there are 2 taxi companies, I have contacted 'Fluffy Dice taxis' and would recommend this as a no fuss service, if taxis are shared it will bring the cost down, a one-way trip to the tennis venue with 'fluffy dice' will be approximately \$15NZD.

Tournament transport option, Jill Cleave will be available for pre-booked transportation Jill has a passenger license and a 7-seater vehicle which can be booked to get to the tournament or organised trips to attractions or shops.

## Tennis Venue

We are lucky to be based at the home of Northland tennis, Thomas Neale Family Tennis Centre, there are 6 blue acrylic courts which are being resurfaced in August and 6 green artificial grass courts, the venue has a large function room upstairs with a large viewing deck. Downstairs is a players lounge and small kitchen for preparing lunches and filling water bottles etc. We will be setting viewing areas on the courts, between courts that are being used, so that the blind/low vision players can be close enough to get emersed in the action on court and cheer for each other.

## Tournament Ball Sponsorship

To hold a tournament we have been advised we will need to have access to at least 50 balls, we will be using the yellow shoeii balls, to help lower the cost of the balls for the tournament we have come up with a 'sponsorship' deal, when you enter the tournament, you can opt to buy as many balls as you would like, that have been used at the tournament for \$10 per ball, balls need to be collected at the end of the tournament.

## Rules

We will be observing the standard ITF rules with the adapted BLV event guide/rules used and published by tennis Australia.

<https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Tennis-Australia-Blind-Low-Vision-Event-Guide.pdf>

## Timeline

Below is the timeline for entries and announcements for the tournament, this timeline may be amended without notice, all attempts to inform of timeline changes to the best of the abilities of the organisers.

August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Entries Open	
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Entries Close	
October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Last day for MDF to be received	
October 28 <sup>th</sup>	More event details released	
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Training day TBC	