

# Tennis for the Blind and Visually Impaired

## HOW IT WORKS (Updated 11.6.2025)

Blind tennis, also known as soundball or visually impaired tennis, is a modified version of tennis adapted for individuals who are blind or have low vision.

### **Audible Ball:**

The primary adaptation is the use of a foam ball that emits sound, typically through internal rattles or bells, allowing players to track its movement by sound. The sound is only heard when the ball bounces or a player hits the ball.

### **Smaller Court:**

The court size is reduced, and in some cases, may be similar to a badminton court, to provide a more manageable playing area.

### **Modified Bounce Rules:**

Depending on the player's visual classification (e.g., B1, B2, B3, B4), the number of allowed bounces before returning the ball varies, with more bounces typically allowed for those with less vision.

### **Sound and Tactile Cues:**

Players rely on the sound of the ball, tactile lines, and verbal cues (e.g., "Ready? Play!") to locate the ball, position themselves, and make their shots.

### **Visual Impairment Classification:**

Players are categorized based on their visual abilities (e.g., B1 for totally blind, B2-B4 for varying degrees of low vision). The determination of visual class will be based upon the eye with better visual acuity, whilst wearing best optical correction using spectacles or contact lenses, and Visual Fields that include central and peripheral zones.

- B1-Visual acuity poorer than LogMAR 2.60
- B2-Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive)
- B3-Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.40 to 1.0 (inclusive)
- B4-Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 0.8 to 0.9 (inclusive)

B1-Up to 3 bounces on 42 ft. x 20ft. court with a 21 inch or 23 inch racquet

B2-Up to 3 bounces on 60 ft. x 27 ft. court with a 23 inch or 25 inch racquet

B3-Up to 2 bounces on 60 ft. x 27 ft. court with a 23 inch or 25 inch racquet

B4-Up to 1 bounce on 60 ft. x 27 ft. court with a 25 inch or 27 inch racquet