

US Open's reimagined mixed doubles puts singles stars in the spotlight

The US Open's experiment to bring a bigger spotlight to the mixed doubles kicked off yesterday, as the competition gets its own place on the calendar and organisers lure fans with partnerships made up of top singles players.

Beloved by diehard fans but often lost in a schedule which is dominated by singles action, the mixed doubles begins five days before the main draw with a sell-out crowd expected at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Fast US Open singles champions Emma Raducanu and Carlos Alcaraz will play together while six-time Grand Slam winner Iga Swiatek joins forces with 2022 finalist Casper Ruud in a star-studded line-up that fans scarcely

could have imagined before.

The format was overhauled to feature 16 teams — half as many as competed a year ago — with eight entries based on combined singles rankings of players and eight wild cards.

The fan response has been positive, and prices for a pair of courtside seats today's semis and final were listed for upwards of \$500 (\$8,800) on the secondary ticket platform StubHub as of Monday.

While not everyone loves change, I think we've mostly seen that fans are really excited to see these top singles' players compete together," Eric Butorac, the tournament's senior director for player relations and business development, said.

Organisers were inspired to pursue the new format after watching retired greats Serena Williams and Andy Murray play together in the mixed doubles at Wimbledon in 2019, a dream pairing that got the attention of fans and the media.

Other sports have got the message, too — golf, athletics and swimming added mixed events to their Olympic agenda while the addition of WNBA sharpshooter Sabrina Ionescu to the NBA 3-Point Challenge in 2024 led to a surge of TV viewership.

"How do we make this happen at the US Open?"

"It was that question that sort of started us all thinking of... the reasons why the top players don't play, but how can we make

it happen," Butorac said.

A huge increase in prize money for the winners, up to \$1m (\$17.6m) from \$200,000 (\$3.5m) a year ago, sweetened the deal, while the stand-alone place on the calendar in the week before the main draw meant players could more easily participate.

"When the singles players are playing mixed doubles, it's a great thing for fans," Swiatek said.

The plan has also attracted plenty of critics, including veteran doubles players and Italian reigning champions Sara Errani and Andrea Panatta, who earned wild card entry and had called the format a "profound injustice".

Doubles Olympic champion Katerina Siniakova questioned why top doubles players would

need a wild-card entry.

"A lot of [the critics] are people that I played with on tour so they all have my phone number and were not afraid to call," Butorac, a retired doubles specialist, said.

Organisers took the total \$680,000 (\$11.9m) in prize money offered in the mixed doubles a year ago and added it to the men's and women's doubles, on top of already scheduled increases in prize money to keep doubles players' earnings potential up.

"When we had those conversations with the doubles players, I don't think any of them necessarily liked the decision, but I think a lot of them understood that from a broader fan perspective, this is something that we really want to try," Butorac said. — Reuters

FUNERAL NOTICES

NICHOL - NORMAN
Passed away peacefully on Sunday 17th August 2025. Much loved husband of Jane and father of Lisa and Greg. The service will be held at Milneron Chapel, First Avenue Funeral Home, 1st Avenue Walmer, on Tuesday 26 August 2025 at 12 noon.

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nelson mandela bay MUNICIPALITY

NOTICE

CANCELLATION OF TENDERS
Please note that the following tenders have been cancelled as per City Manager resolution 4782, 4749 & 4807:

Contract Enquiry No.	Description	Reason
SCM/1225/24-2025	PORT ELIZABETH CBD LEASING FOR OFFICE SPACE/ ACCOMMODATION, ARCHIVES & PARKING BAYS.	As per Section 28(12)(c) of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Supply Chain Management Policy (i.e. no acceptable bids are received).
SCM/1259/24-2025	ALTERATIONS AND RE-FURNISHMENT OF HRMS OFFICE (FIDELITY BUILDING) FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.	As per Section 28(12)(c) of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Supply Chain Management Policy (i.e. no acceptable bids are received).
SCM/1261/24-2025	INSTITUTIONAL HYGIENE HEALTH CARE SERVICES.	As per Section 28(12)(c) of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Supply Chain Management Policy (i.e. no acceptable bids are received).

Ref. 80 – 20 August 2025
Under the hand of the Acting City Manager, Mr D.M. Pillay
TOGETHER WE CAN ADOPT A WATER-SAVING LIFESTYLE

KOUGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

NOTICE

VARIOUS FLEET REQUIREMENTS FOR KOUGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
Prospective Service Providers are hereby invited to submit tenders for the following contracts to Koug Local Municipality:

CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION	CLAUSE/ITEM NO.	CLOSING DATE
FS2025	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS BUSES AND TRUCKS UNTIL THE 30TH OF JUNE 2026	N/A	Friday, 19 September 2025 at 12:00.
FS2025	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BELL TUB 3158L, 4X4 PARTS UNTIL THE 30TH OF JUNE 2026	N/A	Friday, 19 September 2025 at 12:00.

Tenders
An electronic copy of the tender document will be available on e-Tender portal www.tenders.gov.za or the municipal website www.koug.gov.za as from Wednesday, 20 August 2025. After downloading the tender document from the website each prospective bidder MUST ensure that a complete tender document is printed.

Please note:
• Telephonic, electronic, fax, facsimile, email or other tenders will not be accepted.
• This contract will be evaluated on the 80 (80) points.
• The specific goods will be for a maximum period of 20 years, to deliver specific goods prospective bidders MUST submit pre-qualified documents.
• An electronic copy of the completed tender document with returnable documents must be submitted with tender submission saved in a flash drive or CD/DVD to submit an ORIGINAL, HARD COPY AND A COPY ON EITHER USB or CD will deem the bid non-responsive.
• Bidders must note that the Municipality will make use of additional vetting methods to further verify capacity of bidders to ensure delivery during project implementation.
• Bidders must note that warranty certificates may be requested.
• A valid Tax compliance Status pin must be submitted.
• Prospective Service Providers must register on Koug Municipality's Supplier database as per the registration requirements.
• The National Treasury Central Supplier Database Summary report must be submitted.
• The Council reserves the right to accept any tender and, or part thereof, appoint more than one contractor, and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. The Council reserves the right to appoint any contractor.
• The validity period for submission must be 90 days from the closing date.
• Tenders that are deposited in the incorrect box or delivered to any other venue will not be considered.

Any enquiries relating to this tender must be submitted in writing via e-mail to tenders@koug.gov.za and copied to reg@koug.gov.za
Completed documents in a sealed envelope addressed "NOTICE NO: 166/2025: CONTRACT DESCRIPTION FOR THE ABOVE TENDERS" must be placed in the Tender Box 21 St Croix Street (back entrance) or 16 Wollmerdale Street (front entrance), Jeffrey's Bay, Room 122 on or before FRIDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2025 at 12:00.

C. DU PLESSIS
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

P.O. Box 21 ST CROIX JEFFREY'S BAY 6300

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Telephone Adverts:
Monday to Thursday: Friday 12:45 for Monday
Friday 14:30 for Monday
Class Adverts:
Monday to Thursday: Friday 14:15 for Monday
Friday 14:15 for Monday
Auction, Legal, Tender, Official, Estate Notices:
In Column Display, LEADER PAGE
Monday to Friday: 11:45 for preceding publication
Friday 13:50 for Monday

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SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

ACCOMMODATION OF 4 BASIC TRAFFIC COURSE LEARNERS FOR A PERIOD OF 207 DAYS

BID INVITATION
BID NO: SRVM 001/2026

Sundays River Valley Municipality invites proposals from suitable and experienced service providers for the following service: **Accommodation of 4 basic traffic course learners for a period of 207 days.**

The physical address for collection of tender documents is: **SRVM Cashiers Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood.** Documents may be collected during working hours from 08h30am till 16h00pm from **21 August 2025.** Tender documents will be available at a non-refundable deposit of R 300.00 each (no cash accepted) Bank as follows: **First National Bank, Account Number 620 254 90856, Branch Number 210817, Reference – Tender Number.** Proof of payment should be provided upon tender collection.

Completed bid documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope endorsed with **Accommodation of 4 basic traffic course learners for a period of 207 days for SRVM 001/2026** and must be deposited in the Bid box, at the offices of the Sundays River Valley Municipality, Supply Chain Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood not later than **09 September 2025 at 12h00pm.**

TENDERS WILL BE EVALUATED INTERMS OF THE 80/20 PREFERENTIAL POINT SYSTEM AS PER PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATION 2022, AS WELL AS FUNCTIONALITY.

Stage 1: Evaluation – Functionality

CRITERIA	ALLOCATION POINTS
NOTE: Accommodation must be within 40 km radius from PE to Traffic College	
1. Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none">One Driver with valid driver's license. Attach copy of the licenseAlternate Driver, with valid driver's license, Attach a certified copy of the license	5 5 10
2. Required Certificate to be Submitted in Order to get the Whole points of 60: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Roadworthy CertificateTourism Grading Certificate 2-3 Star ratingCertificate of Acceptability (COA) for food preparationsBusiness registrationDocuments proving ownership or a valid lease agreement for the propertyFire Safety CertificateProof of Insurance for both transport and accommodation	60
3. Experience Reference letters from previous clients <ul style="list-style-type: none">Accommodation between 3 – 5 monthsAccommodation between 6 – 11 moreAccommodation between 12 – 24 months more	5 10 15

• Functionality: Tender offers will only be considered responsive if the minimum Functionality requirement of 70% is achieved.

Stage 2: Price and Specific Goals

Evaluation Criteria

	Points
Price	80
Agreement	10
LED (Proof of address signed by ward Councillor / Lease Agreement)	10
Total	100

SUPPLIERS/SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING BID CONDITIONS:
[a] Sundays River Valley Municipality Supply Chain Management Policy will apply.
[b] Sundays River Valley Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest BID or any other BID and reserves the right to accept the whole or part of the BID;
[c] Bids which are late, incomplete, unsigned, or submitted by facsimile or electronically, will not be accepted.
[d] Price(s) quoted must be valid for at least ninety (90) days from the date of your offer.
[e] Price(s) quoted must be firm and must be inclusive of VAT.
[f] A firm delivery period must be indicated.
[g] The following compulsory documents must be submitted with the tender.
1. Valid Tax Clearance Certificate- OR Status Pin.
2. B-BBEE Certificate Original or Certified copy, Sworn Affidavit Original or Certified Copy.
3. Original certified ID Copies of Entity's Director(s)
(Certification not older than 3 months before the closing date)
4. Completed MBD forms -1, 4, 6, 1, 8 & 9.
5. Company registration Documents.
6. Municipal statement of Rates or Billing Clearance not older than three months or valid Lease Agreement.
7. Proof of Central Supplier Database (CSD) registration- a full report printed.

Failure to submit any of the above requested documents will invalidate your bid and it will not be evaluated further.

Technical enquiries related to this bid can be directed to yuyiswale@srvm.gov.za or 084 073 0911. SCM enquiries related to this bid can be directed to phelokazi@srvm.gov.za or 042 230 7807.

Mr. T. Klaas
Municipal Manager



SENDING A MESSAGE: Poland's Iga Swiatek returns a shot against Jasmine Paolini, of Italy, during the Cincinnati Open at the Lindner Family Tennis Centre on Monday. PICTURE: AARON DOSTER/IMAGIMAGES

Swiatek downs Italy's Paolini to claim first Cincinnati Open title

Iga Swiatek captured her first Cincinnati Open title on Monday by beating Jasmine Paolini 7-6 6-4, with the Pole third seed sending a powerful message after top seed Janik Sinner retired after feeling unwell, raising concerns about the Italian's fitness just days before he is due to begin the defence of his US Open title.

The Spanish second seed snapped the world number one's 26-match winning streak on hard courts when his ailing rival signalled he could no longer continue while trailing 5-0 in the first set of the final.

"This is not the way that I want to win trophies. I just have to say sorry, I can understand how you must feel now," Alcaraz told Sinner during the presentation ceremony after capturing his third Masters 1000 crown of the season after his success in Monte Carlo and Rome.

"As I said many times, you are a true champion, and I am sure that from these situations, you are going to come back even stronger, as you always do. That's what true champions do."

Sinner had been bidding to become the first man to conquer Roger Federer in 2015 to win back-to-back Cincinnati titles but he looked uncomfortable early on in the sweltering conditions.

He called it quits after 23 minutes of play.

"I'm super, super sorry to disappoint you," Sinner told Federer.

"Yesterday I didn't feel great. I thought that I would improve during the night, but it came up worse."

"I tried to come out, tried to make it at least a small match, but I couldn't handle more, so I'm very sorry." — Reuters