

# Port Phillip

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## Leader

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# Game proves a hit

TENNIS on the beach? It's sure to make quite a racquet.

Port Melbourne beach will host the second International Beach Tennis Championships this weekend.

As Melburnians get into the swing with the international tennis, beachgoers can get in on the action without having to take to a local court.

Beach tennis differs slightly from the standard tennis, with a higher net and modified racquets and balls.

The game is aerial, with the ball always being played on the volley.

Tournament organiser Paul Mapley said the game was suitable for all ages.

"Beach tennis has demonstrated success by getting children and adults active, adding an exciting dynamic to existing sports programs," Mr Mapley said.

"I saw beach tennis as a way of getting more racquets in kids' hands ... The physical attributes of the game will make you stronger mentally, strategically and physically, but it's hard to stop there."

Juniors will take to the sand this Friday, with Saturday and Sunday reserved for men, women, seniors and masters to have a go.

Australian International Beach Tennis Championships are on January 11-13 at Beacon Cove, Port Melbourne.



Kelly DeBurgh and Paul Mapley get into the swing of beach tennis.

» Details: [www.beachtennis.com.au](http://www.beachtennis.com.au)

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