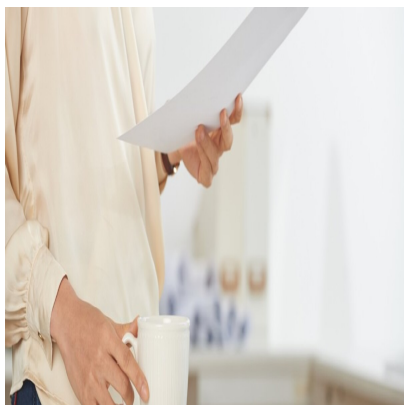




Singapore T-Bill Auctions: Cash, CPF or SRS Decision Guide

Description

A Singapore T-bill is bought at auction at a discount and redeemed at face value. Before applying, choose the funding source—cash, Supplementary Retirement Scheme or eligible CPF funds—and decide whether to submit a competitive yield or accept the auction cut-off through a non-competitive bid. The latest past yield is context, not a guaranteed return for the next issue.

This guide is for a Singapore saver considering a six-month or one-year government t-bill. It resolves one practical task: choose a funding account and bid type after comparing yield uncertainty, liquidity and operational cost. It is desk-reported from the two cited primary sources and does not claim a field visit or professional advice.

Use this decision table first

Fact pattern	Practical result
You will accept the auction cut-off yield	Use a non-competitive bid, subject to allocation rules
You require a minimum yield	Use a competitive bid and accept non-allocation risk
Cash needed before maturity	T-bill may be unsuitable despite a short tenor
Using CPF Ordinary Account	Compare lost CPF interest and bank processing friction
Using SRS	Check the operator's deadline and available balance
Amount not multiple of S\$1,000	Adjust to the published denomination

Read the issuance calendar, not headlines

MAS publishes auction dates, issue dates and maturities. Bank application cut-offs may be earlier than the auction. Identify the exact security and close the funding-account check before the bank deadline rather than assuming every six-month bill follows the same weekday. The controlling reference is [MAS Singapore Government Securities investor guide](#).

Competitive bids trade certainty for control

A competitive bidder states the yield required. A bid above the eventual cut-off can receive no allocation; a bid at the cut-off may be prorated. A non-competitive bidder accepts the cut-off yield and has priority within the published non-competitive allocation limit, but allocation is still subject to auction rules.

Translate discount into dollars

For an illustrative S\$10,000 face value at a 2.0% annualised yield over roughly six months, the discount is about S\$100 before day-count precision, so the purchase price is about S\$9,900 and redemption is S\$10,000. This estimate is for comparison; auction settlement uses the official price.

CPF has an opportunity cost

Using CPF OA can forgo account interest during the transfer and investment period, and unsuccessful or matured funds may take time to return. Compare the expected incremental T-bill return with lost CPF interest and administrative days, not only with the headline cut-off yield. Cross-check the operational detail against [MAS T-bill prices and yields](#).

Cash and SRS have different frictions

Cash applications require a CDP-linked route through participating banks, while SRS uses the SRS operator. Check fees, settlement balance and maturity destination. A product with the same government credit can deliver different net convenience depending on the account used.

Plan maturity before buying

T-bills are tradable, but selling before maturity exposes the holder to market price and liquidity conditions. If the money funds a known bill, home purchase or tax payment, align maturity with that date and maintain a separate buffer.

A worked decision

A saver has S\$20,000 in cash but needs S\$8,000 in four months. A six-month bill would mismatch that obligation, so only S\$12,000 is potentially available—and the S\$1,000 denomination fits. If the saver accepts the auction result, a non-competitive application avoids selecting a yield, while still requiring acceptance of the final allocation and return.

Complete these checks in order

1. Choose the exact MAS issue and note the bank cut-off.
2. Set aside money needed before maturity.

3. Compare cash, SRS and CPF opportunity costs.
4. Choose competitive or non-competitive deliberately.
5. Apply in a S\$1,000 multiple through the correct account.
6. Check auction result, allocation and settlement price.
7. Record maturity and where redemption proceeds will land.

For the next financial decision, compare our [CPF retirement-sum guide](#) and [ETF due-diligence checklist](#). Those pages answer distinct downstream questions and do not replace the authority rules cited here.

Common mistakes to avoid

- Treating the last auction yield as a promise
- Bidding competitively without understanding non-allocation
- Using CPF without pricing lost interest and transfer days
- Investing money needed before maturity
- Applying after the bank's earlier operational cut-off

Keep a dated file containing the source pages, submitted forms, approvals, signed agreement and calculations. Rules, service interfaces and temporary concessions can change. Recheck the authority page immediately before acting, especially when the transaction will occur after a published end date or involves an unusual use, payment or occupier.

Make the decision easy to revisit

Before acting, write down the date, the fact that determines the outcome and the source page used. For this question, the decision is whether to choose a funding account and bid type after comparing yield uncertainty, liquidity and operational cost. The two practical tools above—a funding-source matrix comparing cash, cpf and srs friction and a labelled s\$10,000 discount estimate plus a four-month liquidity scenario—are intended to make that reasoning visible. Save the result with receipts, confirmations or screenshots generated by the official service. If a deadline, amount, status, traveller, employee, property or health circumstance changes, rerun the decision from the beginning instead of editing the old answer from memory. Where a professional adviser, agency officer or service provider gives a different answer, ask which current rule and which facts produce the difference. That short record is valuable when two family members, colleagues or counterparties otherwise remember the same conversation differently.

Questions readers ask

What is the minimum application size?

MAS states S\$1,000 and multiples of S\$1,000.

Is a non-competitive bid guaranteed?

No. It accepts the cut-off yield but remains subject to the auction's allocation rules.

Can I sell before maturity?

T-bills can be traded, but price and liquidity risk mean the proceeds may differ from holding to redemption.

Primary references and limits

[MAS Singapore Government Securities investor guide](#) and [MAS T-bill prices and yields](#) were checked on 17 July 2026. The article applies their published general rules to the examples above. It does not determine an individual application, resolve a contractual dispute or replace legal, tax or regulated advice.

Date Created

17/07/2026

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