



NORTHERN SUBURBS **TENNIS ASSOCIATION Inc**

JUNIOR and SENIOR **COMPETITION RULES**

**These Rules apply to all NSTA
competitions and should be read in conjunction
with any particular rules pertaining to specific competitions**

(Reprinted May 2008)

SATURDAY MORNING JUNIOR COMPETITION RULES

N.B. THESE RULES ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE **SENIOR COMPETITION RULES** EXCEPT AS ALTERED BELOW.

STARTING TIME: 8.00 am Saturday

FINISHING TIME: Noon (unless otherwise stated under "Directions to Courts").

MATCH STARTING LATE:

If a team does not have one pair ready to play 15 minutes after the official starting time, one set shall be forfeited.

MATCH DELAYED:

A court is unplayable if the playing surface is too wet or too dangerous or could be damaged by play and the person in charge at the court (or centre) shall make the decision as to the court conditions. However, if a match has not started one hour after the correct starting time, or if it is stopped for one hour, say due to rain, it shall be called off unless both teams agree to wait longer.

HIT-UPS:

A 5 minute hit-up will be allowed in each player's first set only. When a team does not have the nominated players ready to play a set 5 minutes after the previous set has been completed, then the offending team must forfeit the following set and further sets for each 5 minutes which elapses before players are ready to play.

UMPIRING: Each set must have one umpire from the players involved in the match only. At any one time there can only be five people in the court enclosure for doubles – four players and the umpire, and only three people for singles. Spectators must not make line calls or comments on line calls. As an umpire, always call the score aloud after each point and at the end of each game and at the end of each set. Enter the score immediately on the result card.

TENNIS ATTIRE: Competition players may wear either white or coloured tennis clothes. **Jeans or trousers are not considered correct tennis attire.** Rippled sole or heeled shoes are not to be worn. Players who are incorrectly dressed will not be permitted to play.

FORFEITS:

If a team forfeits a whole or part of a match, the Club/school may be fined \$10.00 for each player not in attendance.

AN INJURED PLAYER: May be replaced during the course of a match (including semis or finals). If a player is injured during a set, that player's team must forfeit the incomplete set.

RESERVES DURING ROUNDS: A reserve must be under 19 years of age and graded lower or the same grade as the player replaced. Reserve's name, address, age and grade must be recorded on the result card in the space provided. If a reserve is to become a permanent playing member of a team, this may be indicated on the result card and such player need not be recorded as a reserve for future matches.

RESERVES FOR SEMIS AND FINALS: A reserve must be of the same grade (standard) or lower than the player replaced.

SEMIS AND FINALS

In the event of a tie on points, the finalists will be decided on match results between those 2 teams. Where the result was a draw or the match(es) not played, the result will be decided on percentages. In the event of a draw in the semi finals and/or finals, the last pairs on court play a tie-break to decide the winner. Semi finals and finals must be completed on the date set down and if not, then the team (s) placed highest on points will be declared the winner(s). In the semi finals however, if the final and deciding set is incomplete or unplayed, then that set may be played, commencing no later than one hour before the finals are set down to begin.

POINT SCORES: All matches are scored:

- one (1) point for each set won PLUS
- a bonus of two (2) points for winning the match
- if there is no result the bonus points are shared – 1 point each
- any unplayed/incomplete set the point is halved

Each match is decided on sets won – if sets equal, then the match is decided by the team with the greater number of games won.

SUPERVISION: Adult supervision must be present at all courts/centres.

SENIOR COMPETITION RULES

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1. ELIGIBILITY

All tennis players complying with the rules and by-laws of the Northern Suburbs Tennis Association Inc. and Tennis New South Wales are eligible to participate in the competitions.

2. INELIGIBILITY

Any player unfinancial with any Club or the Association or with any other Association will not be permitted to compete with a team in any Club until such time as the person has become financial. The eligibility or otherwise of players not covered by the above shall be determined by the Committee of Management as the need arises.

3. FEES AND FINES

- a) Fees of all nature shall be determined by the Committee of Management.
- b) If any team withdraws from a competition, the Club concerned may be fined as determined by the Committee of Management.
- c) Late entries will only be accepted prior to the grading of teams, subject to a late entry fee as determined by the Committee of Management and shall be payable at a time stipulated by the Committee of Management.
- d) A fine not exceeding \$80 may be imposed on any team which forfeits an entire match or \$20.00 per player who fails to appear for any match without sufficient reason as determined by the Committee of Management.

4. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- a) Competitions may be conducted on such days as the Committee of Management may think fit.
- b) Teams shall be of such composition and shall play in such manner as the Committee of Management may determine.
- c) Clubs should not enter players in a team with a grading difference of more than three grades, except in the case of reserves (see rule 11b - reserves are not "entered players"). Players who fall under this rule, cannot play for that team as a full member.
- d) There may be such grades and divisions as may be decided by the Grading Committee.
- e) The Grading Committee reserves the right to decide in which grade or division a team or individual player shall compete and no appeal will be allowed against any decision of the Committee of Management when teams are entered for the competition and subsequently regraded.
- f) Clubs may enter two teams per court.
- g) Each team must have a Captain with address and telephone number submitted with the team entry.
- h) Without the sanction of the Competition Committee no player shall be allowed to play in more than one match on the same day with the exception of juniors who may play in both Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon competitions.
- i) If in the opinion of the Grading Committee it subsequently appears that a team has been entered in a higher or lower grade than it should have been by way of incorrect information supplied by the Club as to grading or ability of any member of the team, such team may be disqualified by the Committee of Management and all competition points earned by or against it may be disallowed.

- j) The Committee of Management reserves the right to refuse the entry of any Club or player at their discretion.

5. MATCH RULES

- a) All matches must be played under the Rules of Tennis as adopted by Tennis New South Wales. This will preclude the use of mobile phones and similar devices on court during matches.
- b) Matches (not hit-up) will commence and finish at times and dates stipulated by the Committee of Management subject to local Club conditions.
- c) Players are entitled to a five minute hit-up before their first set ONLY.
- d) Every Club must delegate a person to be contacted for court condition in the event of doubtful weather. Should this person be unavailable then a responsible person of the Club will make the decision as to play. For the purpose of this rule a Team Captain is deemed to be a responsible person.
- e) Matches suspended by one hour shall be called off unless both teams mutually agree to wait longer.
- f) When a team does not have a pair (in mixed competition this means a mixed pair) ready to play at the stipulated commencing time, that team must forfeit a set. An additional set shall be forfeited for each 15 minutes elapsed when no pair is available to play. If after a match has commenced a team does not have the nominated player/players ready to play a set 5 minutes after the previous set has been completed, then the offending team must forfeit the following set and further sets for each 5 minutes which elapse before a player/players are ready to play. Any set which has been forfeited must be immediately noted on the result card by both captains or the forfeit shall not apply.
* Injured players refer Rule 11 g).
- g) Partners in a match once started cannot be altered, but may be altered for subsequent matches.
- h) Mixed competitions shall consist of 2 men and 2 women and play 2 mens and 2 ladies doubles and 4 mixed doubles, played in the following order: 2 mixed (the second mixed must be played by the pairs who did not play the first set), 1 ladies, 2 mens, 1 ladies, 2 mixed. If neither mixed pair is available to play the 1st (or 2nd) mixed, then a ladies doubles may be played if all ladies are present or, if not, a mens doubles if all men are present. The visiting Team Captain shall nominate his/her mixed pair for the first and seventh sets. The ladies do not toss to commence their second set, they continue from where they left off in the first set.
- i) Saturday mens/ladies competitions shall consist of three men/ladies and play two sets against each pair of the opposing team. Players will be numbered 1, 2, 3 for the entire competition and the order of set play is: 1&2 v 1&2, 1&3 v 1&3, 2&3 v 2&3 and then repeated. After each pair has played each of the other pairs once, they do not toss for serve again.
- j) If the Clubs concerned mutually agree to play their match on the court of the visiting Club or any other court, they may do so, but the Committee of Management will regard the fixture as having been played on the court of the team shown as the "home" team.
- k) The home team must supply at least 2 new approved tennis balls for all grades/divisions except for Friday evening junior, Saturday morning junior and Sunday 8am competitions. Where a court surface is a hard surface (such as plexipave), then three balls are required for 2 person competitions and four balls for 3 and 4 person competitions. All balls must comply with Rule 16b).
- l) A forfeit will apply against Clubs who do not notify their opposition by 10.00 pm Thursday prior to any match being moved from the court as shown in the "Directions to Courts". No play in that match shall take place, but if it does, it will be deemed that this rule has not been exercised.
- m) In the event of extreme heat (36 degrees celsius and over), the matches in progress may be continued by mutual agreement of teams concerned, or may be abandoned by a team player electing not to continue. In this case subsequent sets and points will be split.

6. DETERMINING QUALIFYING TEAMS

- a) Each grade or division is a competition on its own. Each team shall meet each other team in its own grade or division in the preliminary rounds. Unless prior permission is received from the Competition Committee, all rounds as set down in the fixture shall be played on the day set down in the draw. To decide which team is the winner of the grade or division at the end of the preliminary rounds, knockout quarter finals, semi-finals and a final shall be played where deemed appropriate by the Competition Committee and/or Committee of Management. The leading teams in the preliminary rounds as calculated below (Rule 7) shall participate in such knockout matches. The draw for semi-finals shall be 1st team plays 4th team, 2nd teams plays 3rd team. Semi-final winners then contest the final.
- b) When 2 or more teams finish on equal points then the team/teams which qualify shall be decided on match results between those teams. Where the result was a draw or the match(es) not played, the result will be decided on percentages. The percentage shall be percentage of sets won to total sets played. Should these be equal, the percentage of games won to total games played shall be calculated.

7. SCORING AND MATCH POINTS

- a) 12 point tie-break sets commencing at 6 games all are to be played in all competitions unless otherwise directed by the Competition Committee and/or Committee of Management.
- b) The result of matches will be decided on sets. If the sets are equal, the result will be decided on games.
- c) Four player teams will compete for 10 match points, three player teams for 8 match points and two player teams for 6 match points, calculated as follows:

- 2 points to the winning team (1 point to each team if match is drawn or unplayed, other than a forfeit)
- 1 point for each set won (half a point to each team if set is unfinished or unplayed)

In the case of a forfeited match, points will be shared unless at least 1 set in another match at the same centre in the same competition has been completed, or if a single court, at least 25% of matches in that competition have been commenced on that day.

8. RESULT CARDS

- Cards are to be provided by the home team
- Visiting Captains must sign the result card.
- The team responsible for the delivery of the card is:
 - If match is finished - winning team
 - If match is drawn - home team
 - If match is unfinished - leading team on sets; if sets equal home team
 - If match is forfeited - winning team
 - In the event of a match being rained out the Team Captain or Club official from the home Club must submit a result card even though it will not carry the signature of the visiting team.
- Cards are to be delivered by a time and place as determined by the Committee of Management or the points will be shared by the two opposing teams involved.
- Protest action - see Rule 14.

9. UMPIRES, BALLBOYS/GIRLS

May be arranged by Captains by mutual agreement, but if one team so insists then umpires and/or ballboys/girls must be arranged.

10. DIRECTIONS FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

- Semi-finals shall be played, where possible, on court of the team/s finishing highest in the rounds. Venues for semi finals and/or finals may not be altered by players once they have been allocated by the Competition Committee, unless with the approval of the Competition Committee.
- Clubs using courts without lights for semi finals and/or finals MUST commence their semi final or final matches at 12.00 noon or make alternate arrangements to provide a court with lights where play may continue until at least 6.00 pm.
- The team on whose court the semi-finals and final are played will be responsible for providing the result card, new balls in accordance with Rule 5k) and score book if desired.
- In semi finals and/or finals played on the court of the team/s finishing highest in the rounds, the **visiting** Team Captain shall nominate his/her mixed pair for the first and seventh sets. In semi finals and/or finals played on a *neutral* court, the Team Captains shall toss to determine home and visiting teams *prior to the start* of play.
- Semi finals and finals must be completed on the date set down and if not, then the team(s) placed highest on points will be declared the winner(s). In the semi finals however, if the final and deciding set is incomplete or unplayed, then that set should be played (or forfeited), commencing no later than one hour before the finals are set down to begin. Upon resumption of play, the same team members who started the match must complete it. Once a semi-final or final has started, a reserve may not be introduced (exception, see Rule 12f).
- If the result of a semi-final or final is a tie (i.e. sets and games even), a tie-break game (not a complete set) will be played by the pairs that completed the last set.
- The Committee of Management may determine a finishing date for all grades/divisions.
NOTE: It is customary for both teams to provide afternoon team in semi-finals and finals - see Reserve Rule 12 (this rule also includes quarter finals).

11. RESERVES

- Clubs may register as many players as they wish prior to the commencement of the first round of the competition, provided the player/players do not lift the team out of the grade or division in which the team has been placed by the Grading Committee.
- A reserve or substitute player must be of the same grade or lower than the player replaced, regardless of the nominal grade in which the team is entered. This rule applies to Division 1 competitions but does not apply to "A1" competitions where reserves may be of any grade. Note Rule 12c).
- A reserve may play for more than one team in the same division of the competition but that reserve may be ineligible to play in the semis and/or finals, subject to the discretion of the Competition Committee.
- Provided that the reserve is registered with the NSTA there is no need to notify the Competition Secretary where a substitute is made during the rounds.
- Reserve's name, address and grade must be recorded on the result card in the space provided. If a reserve is to become a permanent playing member of a team this may be indicated on the result card and such person need not be recorded as a reserve in future matches.

- f) No player whose team has qualified for the higher division after an 8 team division has been split may reserve in a team which qualified for the lower division.
 - g) A reserve may be introduced into a match after the commencement of play. For example, if a player is unable to continue due to an injury during a match, a reserve, provided he/she complies with the reserve requirements, may replace him/her. However, any incomplete set must be forfeited by the team of the injured player. A time limit of 5 minutes applies from the stoppage of play for the injured player to decide if he/she can continue the set. At the completion of the 5 minutes the injured player either re-commences the set or forfeits same. Should the injury occur within 5 minutes of finishing time, the set is not forfeited, only the game in progress.
- NOTE: I) For the purpose of this rule a player is deemed to be a person named on the original team entry form or subsequently added to that form. A reserve is deemed to be any other person who is not nominated for any team.
- II) Refer Rule 11a) and 11b)

12. RESERVES FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

- a) Players who have not played 3 rounds for their team are considered reserves, regardless of whether they were on the original team entry form or not.
- b) The maximum reserves for three or four person teams is two, while only one reserve is permitted in two person teams. Thus if any team needs more than the permitted number of reserves, it shall have to forfeit the match. The Competition Committee may replace any unavailable team with the next highest ranking team to play in the semi or final.
- c) Apart from complying with the above conditions, where applicable when a team requires a reserve, the Club must submit to the Competition Committee, before the match commences, the name of the intended reserve who shall be of the same grade or lower as the player being replaced, for approval.
- d) Any member of the Executive or Grading Committee shall have the power to accept last minute registrations for reserves, subject to confirmation by the Competition Secretary.
- e) Any person who has played in at least 3 rounds as a reserve is eligible to play.
- f) A player who is injured after commencement of play in a semi or final may, with the consent of the opposing Captain, after forfeiture of the set in progress, be replaced by a person who is a registered team member and who has played sufficient matches to qualify for the semi or final.

13. FORFEITS

- a) If any team forfeits or fails to play any match set down without, in the opinion of the Competition Committee, sufficient cause being shown, its opponents shall be awarded the whole match points.
- b) In the event of a team forfeiting more than one match, all points, sets and games relative to that team will be deleted, the team withdrawn from the competition and may be debarred from further competitions.
- c) See Rule 6 for effect on qualifying team.

14. PROTESTS

- a) Any question arising in any of the competitions as to the construction or application of these rules shall be decided by the Committee of Management, its decisions to be final. In the event of any dispute, protest in writing must be lodged within 3 days or such further time as the Committee of Management may allow, with the Association.
- b) In the event of a protest arising out of any particular match, intention to protest must be indicated on the result card.

15. MISCONDUCT

Complaints relating to any form of unsportsmanlike behaviour referred to the Committee of Management could result in that player being suspended from any or all NSTA events for a period of up to 12 months. The Tennis Australia Code of Conduct and Tennis Etiquette shall be observed in all NSTA competitions and tournaments and read in conjunction with the respective event's conditions.

16. COURTS AND BALLS

- a) All courts shall be kept in good order and be properly equipped and be subject to the Committee of Management's approval.
- b) Matches will be played with any tennis ball approved by Tennis Australia.

17. CORRECT TENNIS ATTIRE

Competition players (including reserves) may wear either white or coloured tennis clothes while playing in all competitions. Players who are incorrectly dressed will not be permitted to play at any time on the Association's courts.

18. GRADING LIST

- a) To be submitted as required by the Grading Committee.
- b) The Committee of Management reserves the right to re-grade any player at any time throughout the year.
- c) Whenever a player is regraded that grade becomes effective immediately, except however, if that player is playing in a competition which is deemed to be in progress, then, it is for the Competition Committee to adjudicate upon who is an

acceptable reserve for that re-graded player.
Note Rule 11 - Reserves.

19. USE OF COURTS FOR TOURNAMENTS ETC.

Each Club entering a team or teams in any Senior Competitions (i.e. Saturday afternoon and/or Sunday morning) shall be obliged, if required, to place courts at the disposal of the Association for tournament purposes.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) All correspondence to the Association's Committee of Management or Sub-committees on competitions from any registered member or our Association may only be accepted if submitted through the Secretary of their Club direct to the Association's Secretary.
- b) All correspondence from the Association will be directed through Club Secretaries unless the Association is notified otherwise.

21. INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

As determined by the Committee of Management.

NSTA TENNIS ETIQUETTE

PARENTS AND PLAYERS ARE REQUESTED TO ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING TENNIS ETIQUETTE WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED AND ADOPTED BY THE NORTHERN SUBURBS TENNIS ASSOCIATION FOR ALL COMPETITION PLAY:

- When you are the home team, try to identify your opponents before the match starts, welcome them and tell them which court the match will be played on
- Display good sportsmanship at all times. It is very important to be calm while you are playing and not lose your temper or throw your racquet. Staying calm will assist you to play better and improve your tennis
- Return the balls along the ground to the server
- Don't walk at the back or side of the court when a point is being played
- Say sorry or hold up your hand if you get a net cord
- Don't return faults unless the ball is very close
- Compliment good shots
- Don't talk during a point unless to say 'yours' etc.
- If your partner is playing his/her singles, do not talk to the players on court
- Don't talk to the umpire as it can disrupt his/her concentration
- Don't question the umpire's calls and especially don't hassle the umpire. Accept mistakes if they are made (mistakes are made at Wimbledon)
- **It is very important for parents and other spectators to also accept the umpire's (and players') calls, whether they are correct or not, and not interfere with the play from off the court**
- **Spectators (including parents) should not sit court-side or speak to the players during a match**
- Umpiring –
 - * concentrate
 - * call the balls and score loudly after each point
 - * call fairly – remember the edge of the line is in
- **Spectators should clap good shots on both sides and be particularly careful not to clap mistakes, e.g. double faults**

TENNIS AUSTRALIA, TENNIS ETIQUETTE

- It is your obligation to call all balls on your side, to help your opponent make calls when the opponent requests it, and to **call against yourself** (with the exception of all first service) any ball that you clearly see out on your opponent's side of the net.
- Each player is responsible for all decisions in his/her half of the court. He/she should be completely honest on all 'calls' but, if in doubt, he/she should give his/her opponent the benefit of the doubt and play the ball as good. You should **not** play a let.
- In doubles, when returning service, the partner of the receiver should call the service line for him/her, with the receiver calling the centre and side service lines.
- Any 'out', 'let' or 'fault' call must be made instantaneously (i.e. made before either an opponent has hit the return or the return has gone out of play); otherwise the ball continues in play.
- If you call a ball 'out', and then realise it was good, you should correct your call.
- Do **not** enlist the aid of spectators in making the line call.
- If players cannot agree on the score, they may go back to the last score on which there was agreement and resume play from that point.
- To avoid controversy over the score, the server should announce the game score before starting a game and the point score prior to serving each point.
- Players are prohibited from checking the mark of the ball on their opponent's side of the court.
- Wait until a point is over before walking behind a court where a match is in progress.
- To retrieve a ball from another court or to return a ball to another court, wait until the players have completed a point.
- Do not stall, sulk, complain nor practice gamesmanship.
- When ball persons are not available all balls on your side of the net are your responsibility to pick up and where appropriate, return direct to the server.
- The receiver should not return the first service if it is an obvious fault – let it go by or ground it.

TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE

1. SINGLES

- a) A player who first wins seven (7) points shall win the game and the set provided he leads by a margin of two (2) points. If the score reaches six (6) points all, the game shall be extended until this margin has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tie-break game.
- b) The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. His opponent shall be the server for the second and third points and thereafter each player shall serve alternately for two (2) consecutive points until the winner of the game and set has been decided.
- c) From the first point, each service shall be delivered alternately from the right and left courts, beginning from the right court.
- d) Players shall change ends after every six (6) points and at the conclusion of the tie-break game.

2. DOUBLES

In doubles, the procedure for singles shall apply, the player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter each player shall serve in rotation for two points in the same order as previously in that set until the winners of the game and set have been decided.

Example of how played: A and B play C and D

