



# COMPETITION RULES

**1 STARTING TIME:** All players must be at the venue 15mins prior to match commencement time. Start of play is 9.30am for day and 7pm for night. If a player is unavailable at any time he/she is scheduled to play the following shall apply: After the expiration of 10 minutes the opposing team may choose:- to claim a forfeit for that set, or to nominate an alternate set for which the players are available. If the opposing team chooses to claim a forfeit the following scheduled set must commence within 15 mins. If a player for either team is unavailable after the expiration of 15 mins. A further set may be claimed as a forfeit by either team. If the opposing team chooses to nominate an alternate set that team may nominate the order of each and every set as they become due for the remainder of the match.

**WARM UPS:** Players requiring 10 min. Warm ups before matches must be on court 10mins prior to match commencement time.

**FINISHING TIME:** The last set must be on the court by 2.45pm (day only). If not then the points for the last set will be shared. This rule does not apply to the finals series.

**2 MATCH FORMAT –** Teams of 3 : each match will consist of 6 sets. Teams of 4: each match will consist of 8 sets. Sets are the first to 6 games (no tie break for div 2 ladies day or ladies night) tie break played at 6 all for other comps. Change ends after odd games.

**3**

## ORDER OF SETS

### TEAMS OF THREE

1<sup>st</sup> set 1&2 V 1&2  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 2&3 V 2&3  
 3<sup>rd</sup> 3&1 V 3&1  
 4<sup>th</sup> 1&2 V 1&2  
 5<sup>th</sup> 2&3 V 2&3  
 6<sup>th</sup> 3&1 V 3&1

### TEAMS OF FOUR

1<sup>st</sup> set 1&2 V 1&2  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 3&4 V 3&4  
 3<sup>rd</sup> 1&2 V 1&2  
 4<sup>th</sup> 3&4 V 3&4  
 5<sup>th</sup> 1&3 V 1&3  
 6<sup>th</sup> 2&4 V 2&4  
 7<sup>th</sup> 1&4 v 1&4  
 8<sup>th</sup> 2&3 V 2&3

**4 POINTS:** During matches competition points shall be awarded as follows: 2 points will be awarded to the team winning the most sets. 1 point will be awarded for each set won. If sets are equal, 2 points are awarded to the team winning the most games. If sets and games are equal points are shared. This will apply to all competitions.

**5 UNFINISHED MATCHES:** In the case of a rained out match points will only be awarded after 5 sets have been played in an 8 set format and after 4 sets in a 6 set format. The points for a win will only be awarded if a team has an **unbeatable** lead on sets. Otherwise points for win and unplayed or unfinished sets will be shared.

**6 WET WEATHER:** On wet days/nights a committee decision is required to call off play. Day comp., a decision will be made at 9.30am. Players living out of town may phone the clubhouse until 9.15am Night matches decision to be made by 7.15pm (clubhouse ph. No. 44218655). All players to attend the clubhouse to obtain a decision. Any player leaving a match before an official decision is made is deemed to have forfeited his/her sets. In the event of extreme wet weather the committee has the power to make the decision to cancel tennis any time prior to match start time. In the event of rain delays during the match the committee will decide whether to cancel the match.

**7 EXTREME HEAT & WIND:** On days/nights of extreme heat and or wind the committee members may be approached to call off the match. The majority rule will apply and points awarded as for unfinished matches. (rule 5)

**8 DRAWN MATCHES FOR FINAL SERIES:** If at the end of the match sets and games are equal then tie break games will decide the match. In teams of 4 the first tie break will be played by the 4 players in the last set. The second tie break will be played by the 4 players in the previous set. The 2 tie break game points will be added together and the team with the most points is declared the winner. In the event of points equal after 2 tie breaks have been played then 2 more tie break games will be played and so on until a result is achieved, or the teams may decide to replay the complete match on another day. In teams of three 1 tie break game will be played by the 4 players in the last set.

**9 BORROWED PLAYERS:** Except for the final series it is the responsibility of each player to arrange a substitute player. They **MUST** inform their captain of the substitution. Subs must be registered players and must be of equal or lower ranking than their own position. Players may sub above their position not below. Eg: A no. 3 can play 1 or 2 not 4. If a player requires a sub they shall seek players in the following order:

- a: from the bye team, the player of equal number or 1 position below
- b: from the reserve list, a player of equivalent grading or lower
- c: from the bye team 3 or 4 below your grading

d: from the bye team in the division below. Players in the division below may only be put on stand-by until 24 hours prior to match time as they may be required for their own division. In the event of a 4 person team requiring 3 or more subs the opposing team shall be awarded 4 points plus the win + 6 points. In the event of a 3 person team requiring 3 subs the opposing team shall be awarded 3 points plus the win =5 points. All borrowed players must be written on your scoresheet as sub.

If a player requires a sub for the final series he/she will be appointed by the committee, if possible from the same division and once appointed that sub will play all the finals series **if needed**. Players on the reserve must be registered.

**10 INJURIES OR ILLNESS:** If a player is injured or taken ill during a match he/she is entitled to field a sub, if one is available, within 30 minutes to commence from point of injury. Where a player is injured or ill and does not wish to field a sub he/she must continue play within 10 minutes or forfeit that set. No player may compete for more than one team simultaneously. Doubling up is not permitted. Where a person is injured or ill and unable to play for 3 weeks or more the committee may use a replacement player in his/her stead.

**11 BYE DAYS & NIGHTS** Players are asked to remain available on their bye days until 10 am and nights until 7.30pm

**12 REGISTRATION FEES:** Registration fees should be paid by the 4<sup>th</sup> competition match. Fees may be paid in instalments, but must start at the commencement of the comp. Consist of regular payments and be paid in full by mid comp. **Only players that are fully financial will qualify to play in the finals series.**

**13 CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES:** To collect match fees and place in envelope (day Comp) with date, division & amount enclosed written on it. Check that money is correct.

To ensure that the correct order of sets is adhered to. This order can only be changed in extraordinary circumstances and must be agreed on by both captains.

To toss at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> set for choice of serve or end. Service shall alternate for every remaining set.

To decide, when a lower graded sub player is playing, after consulting with his/her team, in what order the team shall play.

To ensure score sheets are filled out correctly and signed at the end of the match.

**14 DRESS REGULATIONS:** Correct tennis attire is to be worn at all times during competition matches. Not necessarily designer clothing: netball skirts, plain polo/ T shirts and tailored shorts are acceptable. Tracksuit pants are only to be worn on extremely cold days/nights other than that they

are to be removed after warm up. Appropriate non marking tennis shoes are to be worn at all times whilst playing. **NOTE; BIKE PANTS, BRIEF SHORTS AND LEGGINGS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

**15, COMPLAINTS:** Any complaints regarding grading are to be forwarded in writing to the Secretary, Ladies Committee or The Secretary S.D.T.A. within 7 days of the draw being published. Any other complaints during competition should be forwarded to the Secretary either ladies committee or S.D.T.A. Try to settle minor matters on the spot with a committee member. **Please understand that the committee's decisions will not please everyone ....But someone has to make them.** Any problem with fees contact the Treasurer S.D.T.A.

**17 RULES FOR NON UMPIRED MATCHES:** Each player is responsible for all calls in his/her half of the court, and in making them, should be completely honest. If in doubt or unsighted on a line ball, he/she may play a let. It is the player's obligation to call all balls at his/her end, to help his/her opponent make calls when the opponent requests it, and to call against his/herself, any ball that he/she sees out on his/her opponent's side of the net. Any "out", "let", or "fault" call must be called immediately. "Lets" may be called by any participating player.

If a player calls a ball out and then realizes it was good he/she should correct the call and if a point ending shot, award the point to his/her opponent. When returning service, the partner of the receiver should generally call the service line for him/her. The receiver should generally call the centre and side service lines.

If players cannot agree on the score they should go back to the last score on which there was agreement and resume play from that point.

If a player serves from the wrong side of the court the point will stand and the next serve should be from the correct station according to the score.

If a player serves out of turn the player who ought to of served shall serve as soon as the mistake is discovered but all points scored before such discovery shall stand. If a game shall have been completed before such discovery the order of service remains as altered.

If during a game the order of receiving is changed by the receivers it shall remain as altered until the end of the game in which the mistake is discovered, but the partners shall resume their original order of receiving in the next game of that set in which they are receivers of service.

The server shall not serve until the receiver is ready. If the latter attempts to return the service he/she shall be deemed ready. This applies to either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> serves.

**18 COURT ETTIQUETTE:** All balls on the player's side are his/her responsibility to pick up and return directly to the server, preferably under the net.

The receiver should not return the 1<sup>st</sup> serve if it is an obvious fault- he/she should let it go by or ground it. Spectators should not be enlisted to aid in the making of line calls or to determine other on court matters.

To avoid controversy over the score the server should announce the game score before starting a game and the point score prior to serving for each point.

Players should wait until a point is over before walking behind a court where a match is in progress. The same applies when retrieving a ball from or returning a ball to another court, wait until the players have completed the point.

**Players should not stall, sulk, complain nor practice gamesmanship.**

Calls should be verbal and clearly audible to the opponents, followed by a signal if necessary.

**19 GENERAL:** No player should sign up for competition if she is pregnant or work commitments take priority over tennis commitments. Please keep in mind that competition tennis is a commitment. A player may be banned from competition if he/she withdraws from competition for no valid reason, after the draw is published. A player may also be banned for other reasons at the discretion of the committee.

**ALL ENQUIRIES REGARDING THESE RULES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY OF SHOALHAVEN DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION. (FOR LADIES COMP ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY OF THE LADIES COMMITTEE )**