



COMPETITION RULES

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February 2010

Section 1

Adult Competitions

DEFINITIONS

A **REGISTERED** player is one who is:

- (a) financial with Tennis Wollongong and financial with Tennis NSW; and
 - (i) financial with the club that they represent or
 - (ii) a financial member of the pool; or
- (b) financial with an invitee association and Tennis NSW. See Rules 2.1 and 31.

An **UNFINANCIAL** player is a player nominated in a team in any current competition but has not paid the required registration, competition or membership fees to a relevant association or club. Players can only be unfinancial for four weeks after commencing play in the competition, otherwise they are not a registered player. See Rules 2.1 and 31.

An **UNFINANCIAL** team is one that has not paid the current competition team fees.

A **NOMINATED** player is one who is listed to play in a specific team in a specific competition.

A **NEW** player is one who is a late registration and is nominated to play in a specific team (see also Rule 13.3). **All players seeking late registration to play in a competition must give a full and accurate personal tennis history, including change of name if applicable.**

A **BORROWED** player is one who is can be borrowed from other teams and other competitions. The player must be registered and currently playing in a team in a Tennis Wollongong competition (see Rule 15).

A **POOL** player is one who requests to be listed with Tennis Wollongong, is not nominated in a specific team for a particular competition and is accepted by Tennis Wollongong as a designated pool player. This player may play for any division nominated by the Competition Committee, for different teams in the same division and may play as often as required but is not available to play in the finals series for any team.

A **TEAM CAPTAIN** is the person nominated on the team entry form at the commencement of the competition or any person nominated on the day of competition as being the "team captain" for the match.

A **SUBSTITUTE** player is one who replaces an incapacitated player after the commencement of a match (see Rule 17).

A **JUNIOR** player is one who is under 19 years of age on the day.

The **EXECUTIVE** is the Executive of Tennis Wollongong.

An **INVITEE** team is a team from an affiliated club of a neighbouring association that has accepted an invitation to participate in Tennis Wollongong competitions and so shall conform to these rules.

A **CLEAR WINNER ON GAMES** is where, at the cessation of play and including all games played in the incomplete set, the opposition cannot, if they won all the unfinished and unplayed sets, overtake the games already won by the team in front at the cessation of play. For example:

- a 7 games in front before start of last set; 13 games in front with 2 unfinished sets;
- b with two sets not finished and nine games in front before commencement of the second last set, the team in front must win at least four more games to claim the win on games; or
- c with one set not finished and two games in front, the team in front must win at least 5 games in the last set to claim a win on games.

1. RULES

- 1.1 All matches shall be played under:
- a. the Rules of Tennis as laid down in the official book of the Tennis Australia Umpires Association; and
 - b. the rules of Tennis Wollongong as specified hereunder.
- 1.2 In competitions run by Tennis Wollongong where teams from other associations are invited to participate, all players must be registered with their respective associations prior to the commencement of play.

2. REGISTERED PLAYERS

- 2.1 Any team playing an unregistered player shall receive a penalty according to Rule 31 (see also Rule 14).
- a. Persons wishing to play representative matches and tournaments with Tennis Wollongong and in other association teams must be registered with their respective associations and must submit a written application to play to the Association Secretary.
 - b. Players selected to participate in representative matches shall be advised by the Tennis Wollongong Secretary. A player so selected and notified shall in turn advise the Association of his/her availability to play. Any player failing to notify the Association Secretary of his/her availability for selection shall be liable to suspension from the competition match affected by the representative match.
 - c. Any player wishing to compete in a tournament which clashes with a normal competition of Tennis Wollongong, must ensure that his/her proposed absence will not disadvantage his/her team in any way.
 - d. If a club advises Tennis Wollongong in writing that a player is not financial with the club, that player will be withdrawn as a member of any team and declared an unregistered player.
- Disciplinary action may be taken towards any player not adhering to this rule.

3. AFFILIATION, COMPETITION AND REGISTRATION FEES

- 3.1 All clubs joining the association shall pay a yearly affiliation fee payable within one month of the start of the financial year.
- 3.2 A competition team entry fee will be fixed by the Management Committee each year and must be paid by the nominated date.
- 3.3 An annual registration fee for each player will be fixed by the Management Committee and must be paid by the nominated date.
- 3.4 Where players or teams from neighbouring associations enter in Tennis Wollongong competitions by invitation, entry and registration fees payable for each team and individuals are to be set by the Management Committee as required.
- 3.5 If a junior progresses to senior competition during the year, then a fee set by the Management Committee will be payable.
- 3.6 Failure to be financial may result in the loss of competition points during the period in which the club, team or player is unfinancial.

4. TEAM ENTRY

- 4.1 All entries must be completed fully on the entry form available from Tennis Wollongong and must reach the Control Room by the due date.
- 4.2 Clubs may enter as many teams as they desire in any competition provided they can make available for play one court for every two teams entered.
- 4.3 The Executive reserves the right to inspect any court and surrounds and determine their suitability for competitive tennis.
- 4.4 Any team (including all team members) who withdraw from a competition after the draw has been made and without a satisfactory reason may be suspended from all Tennis Wollongong events for the duration of that competition and the one following. The team may still be liable for the team entry fee and player registrations.
- 4.5 Players originally nominated in a specific team should fulfil their obligations by playing at least 20% of matches played by their team. Failure to fulfil these obligations may result in suspension from following competitions, at the discretion of the relevant committee.

5. PLAYING OF TEAM MATCHES

- 5.1 The format, number and types of sets, number of players, number of teams in a grade or division, commencement time, grades or divisions etc. will be determined by the relevant competition committee for ratification by the Management Committee.
- 5.2 The relevant competition committee reserves the right to place a team or late registered player in any grade or division other than that to which entry was sought and also reserves the right to handicap any player, team or division.
- 5.3 Competition matches, semi-finals, finals and grand finals of all weekend competitions shall not be scheduled for decision over the middle weekend of a two-week school holiday.
- 5.4 There will be no competition set down for decision over a public holiday period.

6. MATCH RESULTS

- 6.1 The winning captain is responsible for sending in the results of a match on the result sheets designed by Tennis Wollongong. Result sheets must be signed by both captains or their representatives and are to include the names of all players in their respective teams and also the individual results of all sets played. Full names of players together with their handicap and competition number, where applicable, must be shown on the result form. Both captains are responsible for ensuring all match details on the result sheet are correct before the sheet is sent in.
- 6.2 During normal rounds the home team completes their team details including players' names first, and then the visiting team completes their details. These must be completed prior to commencement of the match.
- 6.3 Competition result sheet deadlines will be notified as necessary on the relevant draw sheets.
- 6.4 Results of the last round, semi-finals and finals of all competitions must be received by, or phoned to, the relevant competition committee by the time specified on the

draw. Where results are phoned in, the result sheet must be sent in by the usual time.

- 6.5 Should a match be forfeited, the captain of a team receiving a forfeit shall forward the result of the match to the control room.
- 6.6 Result sheets must also be forwarded by the home captain in the event of:-
a. no play taking place.
b. a match ceasing before a decision is reached.
c. the match ending in a draw.
The only exception to this rule occurs when a match has been abandoned by mutual agreement by telephone. In this case, both captains must submit a result sheet showing the appropriate details of their intended team and the name of the person who was contacted on the opposing team.
- 6.7 If the result sheet is not received on time as specified in Rule 6.3, the offending team may lose points as specified in Rule 31.
- 6.8 Incorrect or incomplete result forms may incur a penalty as specified in Rule 31.
- 6.9 It is the responsibility of both team captains to see that sets are played with correct pairings. A team playing an incorrect pairing will be penalised according to Rule 31.
- 6.10 The relevant competition committee has the power to correct any errors on the result sheets, even if it effects the result of the match. Club secretaries and/or team captains concerned in result changes will be notified by the relevant competition committee.
- 6.11 If result sheets are faxed to Tennis Wollongong, the originals must be kept until the end of the competition or sent in to Tennis Wollongong at a later date.

7. ALLOCATION OF POINTS FOR A MATCH

- 7.1 A match is won by a team gaining the greatest number of points. If games are equal at the end of a match, the points allocated for winning of the games are to be shared equally.
- 7.2 The number of points for winning sets and the most games will be stipulated by the relevant competition committee on the draw sheet.
- 7.3 If a match is completely washed out, all points will be shared equally – see Rule 20.13 for final series determination.
- 7.4 If a match is not completed (due to rain, light etc) sets completed to the point of cessation of play shall be counted for points, and all remaining points are to be shared, including points allocated for winning on games unless a team is a clear games winner – see Rule 20.13 for final series determination.
- 7.5 If the reason given for a match being incomplete is unsatisfactory, the relevant competition committee will determine what points, if any, are awarded. See Rule 31.

- 7.6 Should a team withdraw during the competition before the first round has been completed, all points for and against shall be deleted, but, in the event of a withdrawal after a round has been completed, points for the completed round shall remain unaltered subject to the discretion of the relevant competition committee.

8. COMMENCEMENT AND CONTINUATION OF PLAY

- 8.1 a. The maximum hit-up time is 3 minutes.
- b. Commencement and finishing times for any competition shall be determined by the relevant competition committee and announced on the draw sheet for each competition. Where the finishing time is not the same every week, the finishing times will be notified on the draw sheet for each week of the competition. Play in a new game must not commence after the designated finishing time. Play in matches in finals will normally continue until a result is determined (see Rule 20).
- 8.2 Where insufficient members of a team are present to enable the first set to be played, 10 minutes grace will be allowed from the starting time. At the end of that period, the opposing captain may claim the set. If, after a further 10 minutes, play still cannot commence, then the second set may be claimed. After a further 10 minutes with play unable to commence, the match may be claimed.

NOTE: *After the first 10 minutes grace period, any set that can be played must be played. Where the order of play has been altered because of the above, the non-offending team has the right to select the order of play for the remainder of the match.*

- 8.3 Play is to be continuous. To cover the case where a team fails to have a pair ready to commence a new set, a forfeit of that set may be claimed after 3 minutes from the finish of the previous set. Subsequent forfeits may be claimed for each 10 minutes elapsed.
- 8.4 Where a team fails to field a complete side, the sets involving missing player/s will be forfeited, as they fall due, to the opposing team. All other sets that can be played should be played. An originally nominated team member must be listed on the result sheet prior to the commencement of the match for the purpose of determining team handicap (Refer Rule 6.2). Where a team fails to field a complete team in a handicap competition, that team shall forfeit the right to collect the winning points.
- 8.5 If captains agree, sets may be played out of order. This agreement should be reached before play commences.
- NOTE:** *See Rule 20.8 (all sets must be played in order in the finals series).*
- 8.6 No player is permitted to play in 2 matches that run concurrently.

9. BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY

- 9.1 The home team captain shall fill in the players' names, competition numbers and handicaps on the score sheet in the order in which they will be playing and hand the sheet to the visiting team captain for their team to be entered on the score sheet. Both captains then check the sheets and the handicap totals if required.
- 9.2 Where the order of serving is not already specified, a toss decides who will serve in the first and odd numbered sets. The team winning the toss has a choice for the

first set and then the service alternates for each subsequent set. If the team winning the toss chooses to serve first in the first set, that team serves first in all the odd numbered sets. If the team winning the toss chooses to receive in the first set, they serve first in all the even numbered sets. In either case, the team not serving in the first game of any set chooses which end of the court they start the set.

- 9.3 In the final series, the first toss is for the choice of being the home team or the visiting team and the second toss, if required by the competition, is for the choices in Rule 9.2.

10. **BALLS AND THEIR PROVISION**

- 10.1 The type of balls to be used shall be Tennis Australia approved.
- 10.2 The home team shall provide the match balls. The relevant competition committee will decide the number of balls to be used. This will be stipulated on the draw sheet.
- 10.3 For the final series and play-offs, each team shall supply half the required number of new balls of the same type. Captains must contact each other prior to the match to determine the type of ball to be used. If no agreement can be reached, the Tennis Wollongong preferred ball will be used.

11. **HANDICAP COMPETITIONS**

- 11.1 In the event of a player's handicap being altered after the commencement of a competition, such a player will still be eligible to play in the competition carrying his/her new handicap even though the team's new total handicap may exceed the limit set for that competition, provided the said player was nominated prior to the commencement of the competition. Late registrations/nominations are covered by Rules 12.2 and 12.3.

12. **GRADING and HANDICAPPING OF PLAYERS**

- 12.1 Players are to be graded and handicapped individually by the relevant competition committee at the end of each competition, or as otherwise determined. A player's handicap or grade is subject to review and possible alteration at the end of each round of the competition.
- 12.2 In the case of a player who did not play in the previous competition, this player must recommence competition play on his/her last assessed handicap or grade, if such handicap or grade is based on play within 4 years prior to the re-commencement. Such a player may be re-handicapped and re-graded by the relevant competition committee at any time. (See also Rule 13.3)
- 12.3 Newly nominated players joining the competition may be re-handicapped and re-graded at any time and this may be made retrospective at the discretion of the competition committee.
- 12.4 Before registering a new player, club secretaries must ascertain and declare the new player's grade or handicap.

13. **ADDITIONS TO TEAMS**

- 13.1 All late Tennis Wollongong registrations or nominations should be forwarded through the relevant club secretary (see 12.4).
- a. All "Invitee" late registrations or nominations should be forwarded to the relevant competition committee secretary through the team captain. The relevant competition committee secretary should then ascertain the player eligibility by contacting the "Invitee" Association secretary.

- 13.2 A new team player must be correctly nominated with Tennis Wollongong and the relevant competition committee (contact numbers for the relevant competition committee will be printed on the relevant competition draw sheet). Such a nomination must be completed prior to the commencement of play and include the new player's proposed handicap or grading. New player information (name, address, etc.) must be entered in the appropriate area on the result sheet.

- 13.3 Any player who is a late registration or nomination, i.e., is not originally nominated on the team entry form, must meet the handicap and grading requirements for the particular division. This player may play in up to 2 divisions or grades below the division or grade last played.

- 13.4 a. Penalties for playing an unregistered player are listed in Rule 31.
b. If a team plays a Tennis Wollongong registered player who is not nominated in a team and not registered as a Pool Player in any of the current competitions, that player must either become a member of that team or a member of the pool.

- 13.5 Late registration fees must be paid within 7 days of the first match played.

- 13.6 Late registrations and nominations will be accepted up to and including the final competition round. This includes players who wish to change teams with the approval of the club secretary and the relevant competition committee.

Comment: This player movement may become necessary to fill teams left short by injury etc. from teams which may have extra players. This could assist in the avoidance of forfeits.

- 13.7 The registration and/or nomination of new, pool, or borrowed players must be noted on the result sheet in the space provided.

14. **DIVISIONAL LIMITS**

- 14.1 A team shall not play with a total handicap outside the limits set for that division or grade. The penalty is listed in Rule 31.
- 14.2 All division or grade handicap limits for players and teams, where applicable, will be listed on the draw sheets for each competition.

15. **BORROWING PLAYERS**

- 15.1 a. There is no limit to the number of times a player may be borrowed in any one competition.
b. A borrowed player who is a member of a team in the same competition, is not eligible to play for a single team more than 25% (rounded up to the nearest integer) of the total number of matches in the competition (excluding the final series). Playing an ineligible player will lead to a loss of points (see Rule 31).
c. A borrowed player who is a member of a team that plays at a different time or for a different association can be borrowed twice by teams in a particular competition and then must choose to become a member of a team or a member of the pool for

that competition the next time he or she plays as a borrowed player in that competition.

- 15.2 The registration and/or nomination of a borrowed player must be noted on the result sheet. This means that the appropriate box, such as 'borrowed', 'pool' or 'new', must be ticked on the result sheet indicating which category applies. New players must also have details (name address etc) entered.

Note: All team members must be approached for their availability before a player is borrowed from another team or pool.

15.3 Saturday Afternoon Competition

Should a player be required, teams may only borrow players who meet the handicap criteria for the team and, for the Seniors, who are also 35 years of age or over during the calendar year of the competition. They can choose:-

- a. players from the division above, the same or lower divisions (see also Rule 15.2).
- b. players from ladies' mid-week and any ladies' or men's night competitions who have been reported to the Association Secretary or nominated officials as per the draw sheet and issued a handicap by said officials (see also Rule 15.2).
- c. players from Saturday morning juniors' competition, as long as they have been reported to the Association Secretary or nominated officials and issued a handicap by said officials (see also Rule 15.2).
- d. a pool player, listed for Saturday afternoon competitions, who already has a handicap or grade assessed by the relevant officials (see also Rule 15.2).
- e. A player from the senior division of the Saturday afternoon competition (see also Rule 15.2).
- f. In the seniors division, one woman may be borrowed to replace a man.

15.4 Night Competitions

Should a player be required, teams may only borrow players who meet the handicap criteria for the team. Teams may choose:-

- a. players from the division above, the same or lower divisions (see also Rule 15.2).
- b. players from other competitions who have been notified to Tennis Wollongong or the relevant competition committee **and have been issued a handicap or grading**. Details are to be recorded on the result sheet (see also Rule 15.2).
- c. pool players listed for that particular night competition, who already have a handicap or grade assessed by the relevant officials and who meets the specified handicap or grade conditions set out in the draw. Details are to be recorded on the result sheet (see also Rule 15.2).

15.5 Ladies Midweek Competition

Should a player be required, teams may only borrow players who meet the handicap criteria for the team. Teams may choose:-

- a. players from the same and lower grades or divisions (see also Rule 15.2).
- b. players from Saturday afternoon mixed competitions, junior competitions, ladies night competitions or other associations. Nominated or borrowed players must be accepted by the Ladies Midweek Committee before the match commences (see also Rule 15.2).

- 15.6 Borrowed players can represent any team, providing divisional and handicap conditions are met, however, filling in for more than one team in another division disqualifies the player from playing the finals series in that division.

- 15.7 School and public holiday matches and Melbourne Cup matches may be played before the date set down on the draw, providing both captains are agreeable and the LMW Secretary has been informed of the new date. If the first match of the

competition is set down for school holidays, the match may be played at any time during the first round providing the LMW Secretary has been informed of the new date.

15.8 Junior and Beginners Competitions

See Section 2 of this document

16. FORFEITURE OF MATCHES

- 16.1 A team forfeiting a match (when no sets at all can be played) shall score no points and the opposing team shall be deemed to have won the match and scored maximum points. In the event that both teams forfeit the match, neither team will receive any points.

- 16.2 Any team forfeiting a match twice in succession or 3 times in total in any one competition shall be disqualified from the competition unless a satisfactory reason is provided and is accepted by the Competition Committee. Penalties may also apply as per Rule 4.4.

- 16.3 If a team is disqualified, all points scored for and against them for all teams for a completed round will stand. Otherwise, these points will be deleted.

- 16.4 Teams and/or clubs may be fined an amount set by the Management Committee for each forfeit offence unless a satisfactory reason is provided.

17. SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

- 17.1 In the event of a player being unable to continue to play in any match through incapacitation, sickness (including an immediate family bereavement), such player may be substituted by an eligible player for the remaining sets. The relevant competition committee reserves the right to adjudicate whether a reason is acceptable, if necessary. The incomplete set is to be forfeited

- 17.2 A player wearing prescription glasses or contact lenses that are damaged during play may be substituted as set out in Rule 17.1 if that player is unable to continue playing.

- 17.3 A substitute player is eligible if one of the following points conform:-
- a. the substitute player is a registered member of the same team; or
 - b. the substitute player may come from any team in the divisions below, or the same division if that team is in the lowest or the senior division. The player must be of the same or higher handicap (such handicap indicating not a better player) provided they are not involved in another match on the same day; or
 - c. the replacement can be a borrowed or pool player in normal preliminary rounds, however a pool player is ineligible to play in the final series (see Definitions).

- 17.4 A player who is substituted in a match after sustaining an injury or illness can take no further playing part in the match.

In any handicap match where a player is replaced for any reason, the team handicap shall be adjusted on the basis of averaging the individual handicap of each player concerned on the basis of the number of sets played by each player.

18. WEATHER CONDITIONS

- 18.1 In the event of bad light, extreme weather or unplayable court conditions, the captains, or their representative, may make a mutual decision for play to cease. Should there be no agreement, the match will be called off. The exception of this will be in the final series when the decision will be made by the relevant competition committee.
- 18.2 If a dispute arises regarding bad light, from Rule 18.1, the time set for completion of the match as per draw sheet or Rule 8.1(b) will be adhered to.
- 18.3 In the event of a rain interrupted match, a decision on the possibility of play resuming shall be left to the captains. Should the captains disagree, the match will be called off. The exception of this will be in the final series when the decision will be made by the relevant competition committee.
- 18.4 Captains of teams, or their representative, must be in attendance at the nominated starting time of a match to fill out the result sheet as per Rule 6.2 should it be decided the match is to be called off due to adverse weather. Unless mutually agreed, play will not start after one hour later than the proposed commencement time. If there is no result to the match, the home team is responsible for submission of the result sheet.

If weather conditions are bleak, cancellation of a match can be made by the teams over the phone no earlier than one hour prior to the proposed commencement time. If that action is taken, the home team is to send in the result sheet with the names of the member of each team who made the decision and the time the decision was made printed on the sheet. The sheet must also be filled out with all other details required, but need not contain a list of players, and must be signed by the home team member. If there is no agreement, both teams must go to the tennis court.

19. UMPIRES

- 19.1 If umpires are required by either team during the competition, the home team supplies the first umpire and then the appointment of the umpire alternates between the teams for the remainder of the match if required. A non-playing team member may umpire if both captains agree.
- 19.2 There shall be only one person in the umpire's chair and that person is to be the umpire.
- 19.3 Where a team or club are appointed as umpires for a match in the final series and the said team or club fails to provide umpires, they may be fined an amount set by the Management Committee.

20. THE FINALS SERIES

- 20.1 A player who, because of illness or other unforeseen circumstances is unable to take his or her place in the continuation of a postponed match may have his or her place taken by a reserve player who meets the necessary criteria (see also Rule 17.3).
- 20.2 Deviations from Rule 17.3 will only be allowed by the relevant competition committee following the written application by the relevant club secretary. This could involve any unforeseen circumstance that might prevent a team or team member from taking part in the finals series.
- 20.3 The remaining games of the set in progress will be forfeited if an injury is such that a player cannot continue. Alternatively, the player may elect to complete the remaining games of the set and notify the umpire or captains at the conclusion of the set that he or she requires a substitute player for the remainder of the match.
- 20.4 Players from teams involved in the final series (i.e. Semi- or Grand Final) cannot be borrowed by another team from the same division playing in the final series.
- 20.5 The format of the finals series will be determined at the beginning of each competition by the relevant competition committee and written on the draw.
- 20.6 Lights will be used in the final series if needed to complete matches.
- 20.7 If a match is drawn in the finals series of all competitions, the result will be decided in the following manner:
- Semifinals
The team higher on the point score table will go through to play the final.
 - Finals
The team higher on the point score table will go through to play the grand final.
 - Grand Finals
Should a draw occur at the conclusion of the grand final, then the team higher on the point score table will be declared the winner.
- 20.8 a. All players participating in the finals series must have played at least 20% of matches, from the commencement of the competition, in their originally nominated team. If a player is suffering from illness, injury or some other unforeseen circumstance preventing them from competing, the clubs/teams must apply in writing to the relevant competition committee before the commencement of play, to include a player thus not qualified.
- b. The application must contain reasons why members of the team are not available as well as three names of available players whose handicaps are similar to that of the team members unable to play and who have been playing for a team in the same competition. The committee will only accept a player from the same division or a lower division. See also Rule 20.4.
A decision will be made with any approval or denial having to come from at least 3 members of the relevant competition committee in consultation with each other.
- 20.9 For the finals series, the toss determines home team and then each captain is to write down their team order and exchange with the umpire (where used) or the opposing captain. The teams must then be written down in the specified order on the result sheet. See also Rules 9.4 and 10.3.
- 20.10 All sets are to be played in the order set down on the result sheet. Where more than one court is allocated for the match, if the captains agree there may be one social team break of 15 minutes taken during the match, otherwise the next set must be started if a court and the players are available.

- 20.11 a. Matches for each grade are to be played on a uniform surface throughout the finals series where possible i.e. (begin on grass, end on grass). Junior competitions may vary due to court availability.
- b. The Competition Committee has the authority to change the venue or court surface for matches when the allocated courts are unplayable due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.
- 20.12 Details of formats for competitions and finals series will be shown on the competition draws.
- 20.13 a. Where no play is possible in the Finals Series, due to extreme weather conditions, teams highest on the point score at the end of the rounds go through to their next respective match.
- b. However, in the case of the Grand Finals ONLY, an extra day or night may be provided in the draw, where time permits, to allow the Grand Final to be rescheduled or completed if it cannot be played on the original date due to inclement weather. Where this provision is made, it will be indicated on the draw when initially published.
- c. Matches may be delayed up to two hours from the commencement of play, or one hour after stoppage of play, due to weather conditions, in an endeavour to complete the match on the set day. Teams must attend on Grand Final day to enable the presentation of trophies.
- 20.14 Where play is abandoned during the match due to extreme weather conditions- (For non completed matches refer to Rule 20.13 b).
1. the following are **NOT considered to be a match:**
- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 10 set Format | 5 sets or less completed |
| 8 set Format | 4 sets or less completed |
| 6 set Format | 3 sets or less completed |
| 3 set Format | less than 2 sets |
2. the following are **deemed to be a match:**
- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 10 set Format | 5 sets plus 1 game or more |
| 8 set Format | 4 sets plus 1 game or more |
| 6 set Format | 3 sets plus 1 game or more |
| 3 set Format | 2 sets |
- and are calculated as follows:
- a. Points for the remaining sets and winning points are to be calculated as per Rule 7.4.
- b. If teams are equal after (a) then the team winning the most sets is declared the winner.
- c. If teams are still equal then the team highest on the points score is declared the winner
- 20.15 If a match is not started or completed due to unforeseen circumstances, eg. light/power failure, but not extreme weather, the match must be completed before the next scheduled match. Where teams cannot agree on a day or time, the relevant competition committee will set a time, date and venue for the match to be played or completed. Failure to play the match will result in the non-offending team being awarded the match.

21. VENUES FOR FINALS

- 22.1 The relevant competition committee has the right to use any affiliated club's courts for the playing of the finals series.

22. TEAMS EQUAL ON POINTSCORE

- 22.1 In the event of two or more teams being equal on points score at the end of the rounds, a count back will be carried out and their positions determined by the percentage of sets won over sets played. If the result is still even, the percentage of games won over games played will be used. In arriving at such a percentage, should a contending team have received a forfeit, the other contending teams' matches against the forfeiting team in that round shall be calculated on the same basis, i.e. as if they also received a forfeit from the same team in the same round.

23. DISPUTES

- 23.1 a. Where captains fail to agree on any matter, they should approach the nearest member of the Competition committee or Executive of the Association if one is available.
- b. If unable to make contact as per 23.1 (i), the match should be completed if possible and the details of the dispute put in writing and given to their respective club secretaries, who will consider the situation and if they cannot resolve the situation at club level, forward the details to the Association Secretary for decision by the relevant committee.
- c. Where a match or set is played under protest, this must be recorded on the result form and the protest information should be signed on the reverse of the score sheet.
- 23.2 All protests, disputes or complaints, correctly submitted by the secretary of any particular club, shall be placed before the relevant committee. Such protests, disputes or complaints shall be lodged in writing with the Association Secretary within 7 days of the event occurring, and shall be accompanied by all available evidence.

24. JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The rules of the Judiciary Committee are listed in the Constitution of Tennis Wollongong

25. REPLAY OF MATCHES

- 25.1 The relevant competition committee has the power to order a replay of any match and shall name the date, time, venue and court for such play.

26. INTERPRETATION OF RULES

- 26.1 Any question arising out of the interpretation of these rules shall be submitted to the relevant committee for decision. The interpretation of these rules shall devolve on the committee. The committee shall have the power to deal with and decide upon any matter not covered by these rules.

26.2 For the interpretation of these rules, the words 'his, him, he etc.' may be construed as 'hers, her, she etc.', and vice-versa.

27. TROPHIES

27.1 Trophies, money or equivalent will be presented to members of winning and runners-up teams in all divisions. If required, additional trophies may be purchased at the team's cost. Numbers of trophies to be purchased will be determined from time to time by the relevant competition committee.

28. NOTICES

28.1 It shall be sufficient notice of any Association function, fixture or instruction if it is published by the local media or by circular to Club Secretaries or appears on Association Notice Boards which are on permanent display at the Control Room.

29. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

29.1 These rules may be amended or added by the Management Committee as the need arises from time to time.

29.2 These rule changes will be sent to all Club Secretaries and so distributed through the clubs

30. COURT ATTIRE

30.1 White, pastel or coloured clothing may be worn for Tennis Wollongong fixtures providing the clothing satisfies the current Tennis Australia Dress and Equipment Regulations. As a guideline, clothing must be recognised tennis attire with no logo, writing or picture larger than 100 mm square. During very cold or windy weather, suitable jackets or tracksuits may be worn.

30.2 Clubs, officials, captains and players are responsible for setting and maintaining the standard of court attire and court etiquette.

30.3 Failure to observe dress rules will result in a warning from an association official. If no officials are available and a dispute arises over dress rules, it will be necessary for both captains to make a report on the result sheet.

30.4 A second report will result in the loss of all sets played on the second occasion while wearing the offending clothing or unsuitable attire.

31. PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENTS OF THE RULES

Application of penalties for infringement of the rules is at the discretion of the relevant competition committee. In the finals, the relevant committee may apply other penalties.

31.1 Playing an unregistered player (see definitions).

Penalty: forfeit of all sets played by unregistered player (opposition gets 6 – 0 score in their favour for those sets).

31.2 Playing an un-financial player (see definitions).

Penalty: Loss of points for the sets won by unfinancial player(s) plus one point for each unfinancial player every match they play, with a minimum score of zero for a match.

31.3 Playing an ineligible player (not in a team or the pool).

Penalty: Loss of points earned in sets played by that player and forfeit of the winning points (winning points go to other team).

31.4 Playing an ineligible player (handicap outside range of division).

Penalty: Loss of points equal to the difference between the player handicap and the division borrowed player handicap limit, with a cut off of zero points for the team.

31.5 Putting an ineligible team on the court (handicap outside the range of the division).

Penalty: Loss of one point for each handicap point outside the allowable range, with a cut off of zero points for the team. The opposition team is awarded the points lost up to a maximum of the points for winning the games.

31.6 Playing an unfinancial team.

Penalty: Loss of 1/4 of total match points for competition (rounded up) each week.

31.7 Playing an incorrect player or pairing, for example players 1 and 2 when players 1 and 4 were due to play.

Penalty: Forfeit of all sets played with incorrect players (opposition gets 6 – 0 score in their favour for those sets).

31.8 Late result sheet.

Penalty: Loss of two points per week

31.9 Incorrect entries on result sheet.

Penalty: Loss of one point for each type of error up to a maximum of three points each team.

31.10 Unsatisfactory reason for not completing a match.

Penalty: Loss of two points by both teams.

Section 2

Saturday

Junior Competitions

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Contact number 4228 6570

SATURDAY JUNIOR COMPETITION RULES
(Extracts from Tennis Wollongong competition rules)

ALL MATCHES TO BE PLAYED UNDER TENNIS WOLLONGONG RULES SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING RULES:-

1. COMPETITION DEFINITIONS

(a) Davis Cup Division

- Format of 5 sets with singles and doubles – 4 hours allowed for completion commencing at 8.30 am or 10.30 am.

(b) Junior Mixed Competition

- Format of 3 sets of 2 singles and 1 doubles played over two time slots i.e. 8.30 am and 10.30 am.

(c) Boys and Girls Competition

- Format of 3 sets of 2 singles and 1 doubles played over two time slots i.e. 8.30 am and 10.30 am.

(d) Beginners Competition

- Format of 3 sets of doubles for juniors coming into competition play from coaching. This competition is played over 2 hours with time slots from 8.30 am, 10.30 am or 12.30 pm.

2. PLAYER DEFINITIONS

2.1 ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- (a)** Players in this competition must be 18 years or under and must NOT turn 19 during the competition.
- 16 - 18 year old players must be nominated for Davis Cup or Mixed Divisions. This should also apply if nominated in teams with younger players.
 - Players currently playing in the Senior/Adult competitions (Saturday Afternoon mixed, Wednesday men's night, Ladies' Mid-wwek or Ladies' night competitions) or who have played Senior/Adult competition may re-apply to play in the Saturday Junior competition. Nominations will be considered by the Junior Committee.
- (b)** Players participating in the lowest division of singles and/or doubles must be 13 years of age or under with the exception of players participating in the Beginners' Competition. Exceptions may be granted under special circumstances upon application to the committee.
- (c)** Players may be registered in only one (1) team in the Saturday Junior Competition, but may play a second match on the day as a borrowed player if eligible as per rule 3.
- (d)** Any player once registered with a team shall not play in a lower division in the same competition. Permission may be granted if a player has not played in a registered team, and a club requests permission to change a player to a team in a lower division.
- (e)** Players eligible and nominated to play in the Singles Format of the Saturday Junior Competition, and under the age of 18 years as at the first day of the relevant competition, shall also be eligible to be nominated to play in a team in the Saturday Afternoon Mixed Competition on the same day.

2.2 New Players

A “**New Player**” is a player not registered in a team at the commencement of the competition. The Competition Secretary must be advised of the player's name, address, telephone number and date of birth before the player's first match. If the Competition Secretary is unavailable, the relevant information should be left on the answering machine on 4228 6570 at the Control Room or emailed to admin@tenniswollongong.com.au.

Also the player's details must be stated on the results Sheet under **New Player**. Failure to notify Tennis Wollongong of a new player before the match will result in the sets played by the player being forfeited.

2.3 Borrowed Players

A “**Borrowed Player**” must be a player registered with Tennis Wollongong and currently playing in the Saturday Junior Competition and may be from your Club or from any other Club; except as in **2.3(f)** below.

A player may play a second match on the same day as a “**Borrowed Player**”; see rule **2.1(c)**

A “**Borrowed Player**” may be borrowed as often as required but may play only **three (3) times** for any one (1) team in any one competition. If a player plays as a borrowed player more than three (3) times for any one team during a competition, all sets played in the fourth and any subsequent matches will be forfeited.

IF YOU CANNOT FIELD A TEAM BUT HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS TO PLAY A SET, THEN THAT SET MUST BE PLAYED TO AVOID A FULL FORFEIT.

(a) Davis Cup Division

Players may be borrowed from teams in the same division or any lower grade/division including mixed division, boys or girls divisions and beginners. Players may be borrowed from any division of the Junior Competition.

(b) Mixed Divisions

Players may be borrowed from teams in the same mixed division or any lower grade/division including mixed division, boys or girls divisions and beginners. Players may be borrowed from coaching but such a player must not have participated in any previous junior (or senior/adult) competition. If a player has played in a previous competition such a player must be registered as a team member, after permission has been granted by the Junior Committee.

(c) Boys and Girls Division

Players may be borrowed from teams in the same or lower division of the boys or girls division of the junior competition. Players may be borrowed from any team in the Beginners competition or lowest mixed division. Players may be borrowed from coaching under the same rules as stated for Mixed Division.

(d) Beginners Competition

Players may be borrowed from any team in the Beginners competition. Players may be borrowed from coaching but such players must not have previously played in the Junior Competition and must be registered with Tennis NSW. A player who has played as a registered team member in a previous competition is not eligible to play as a borrowed player from coaching.

(e) Borrowed Player from Coaching

The player is subject to Tennis NSW registration fees upon playing the first match and such player may be borrowed four (4) times to help all teams in the lower divisions to field a full team. A player who has played as a registered team member in a previous competition is not eligible to be borrowed from coaching.

BUT, should a player from Coaching be required for a fifth time, then the Club/Coach must register the said player in a team and the player will be subject to Tennis Wollongong registration fees. Such fees are to be paid to Tennis Wollongong within seven (7) days of the registration.

(f) Borrowed Player from Invitee Association

- Any Invitee Team from another Association may borrow a player from Tennis Wollongong subject to the conditions set down in **2.3(a) to 2.3(d)**.
- Any Invitee Team from another Association may borrow a player from their own Association's junior competition providing that the Competition Secretary has been advised of the player's details before the relevant match.

3. COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY

- (a) Matches must commence on time. Where insufficient members of a team are present to enable the first set to be played, 10 minutes grace will be allowed from the starting time. At the end of that period, the opposing captain may claim the set. If, after a further 10 minutes, play still cannot commence, then the second set may be claimed. After a further 10 minutes with play unable to commence, the match may be claimed.

Note: *After the first 10 minutes grace period, any set that can be played must be played.*

- (b) If the captains agree, sets may be played out of order. This agreement should be reached before play commences.
- (c) 8:30 am matches must vacate the court by 10:30 am (except Davis Cup format matches) to allow the next match to begin. 10:30 am matches must be off the court by 12:30 pm (except Davis Cup format matches) to allow the 12.30 pm matches to commence.
- (d) During normal rounds the home team writes their names on the score sheet first and then the visitors write theirs.

4. BALLS

- (a) All teams **must** be provided with a minimum of two (2) **new balls** at the commencement of **each round** of the competition. Home teams must provide balls and a result sheet for their home matches. Any delay in providing these may cost the home team the first set of the match.

5. FORFEITURE OF MATCHES

A team forfeiting a match (when no sets at all can be played) shall score no points and the opposing team shall be deemed to have won the match and score maximum points.

Any team forfeiting a match twice in succession may be disqualified. Clubs will be advised if a team has forfeited twice in succession and they will be responsible to advise the team and forward an explanation to Tennis Wollongong.

If a team forfeits twice in non-consecutive matches the club will be advised that further forfeits will result in automatic disqualification.

If a team is disqualified, all points scored for and against will be deleted.

6. WEATHER

The following rules apply to the rounds of the competition only.

- (a) Captains of teams, or their representatives, must be in attendance at the nominated starting time of a match to fill out the result sheet. Unless mutually agreed, play will not start later than 9:00 am in respect to 8:30 am matches and 11:00 am in respect to 10:30 matches for both junior and beginners competitions.
- (b) In extreme weather conditions cancellation of a match can be made by the captains over the phone after 7:45 am in respect to 8:30 am matches, and 9:45 am in respect to 10:30 am matches, 11.45am for 12.30pm matches. If that action is taken, **home team** captains are to send in a result sheet listing their intended team and also the name of the person contacted from the opposite team. **If no contact has been made between teams and no agreement can be reached, then you must go to the court.**
- (c) A second court cannot be used to complete a match during the rounds of the competition.
- (d) In the event of bad light, extreme weather or unplayable court conditions, then the captains may make a mutual decision for play to cease.
- (e) In the event of a rain-interrupted match, a decision on the possibility of play resuming shall be left to the captains. Should the captains disagree, the match will be called off. The exception to this will be in the final series when the decision will be made by the relevant competition committee.

7. REPLACING AN INJURED PLAYER

- (a) If a player is injured during a match, the remaining games of the set in progress will be forfeited if the injury or illness is such that the player cannot continue, or alternatively the player may elect to complete the remaining games of the set and notify the captains and/or umpire at the conclusion of the set that he requires a substitute player for the remaining sets of the match.
- (b) A player who is substituted in a match after sustaining an injury or illness can take no further part in the match.
- (c) A replacement player is eligible if :-
- The replacement player is a registered player of the same team, or
 - The replacement player comes from a team in the same division or a lower division, and provided that such a player is not involved in another match in the same time slot.

8. UMPIRING

All players entering the competition must be capable of umpiring from the central umpire's chair.

- (a) **SINGLES FORMAT** Visitors to umpire 2nd set (1st singles)
Home Team to umpire 3rd set (2nd singles)
- (b) **DOUBLES FORMAT** Home Team to umpire 1st set
Visitors to umpire 2nd set
Home Team to umpire 3rd set
- (c) **SERVE** Home Team to serve first in 1st set
Visitors to serve first in 2nd set
Home Team to serve first in 3rd set
- (d) Parents are not permitted on the court during play unless permission is given by the competition secretary and/or competition committee and must not interfere with the umpiring of any matches. The umpire has control of the match. Parental interference may result in the loss of points for the relevant team.
- (e) If a problem should arise during a match and an official is not available, a report should be written out and signed by the team captain lodging the complaint. This must then be given to the secretary of your club who will then forward it to the competition secretary. If the complaint could alter the result of the match, then **do not sign the score sheet**. A signed score sheet indicates your agreement with the result.
- (f) One umpire only is allowed in the umpire's chair during the match except in the Beginners competition where two players are permitted in the chair if required.
- (g) Semi-finals, elimination finals, and grand finals will be supervised by Court Officials appointed by the relevant Competition Committee.
- Semi-finals will be umpired by neutral umpires (where possible) appointed by the relevant competition committee.
 - The loser of the minor semi-final will umpire the elimination final, and the loser of the elimination final will umpire the grand final.

9. FINAL SERIES (Semi-Final, Final, and/or Grand-Final)

9.1 Format

- (a) The format of the Final Series will be determined at the beginning of each competition by the Competition Committee and written on the Draw. It is each teams responsibility to check if they are to participate in or umpire matches.
- (b) All matches during the Final Series will commence at 8:30 am
- (c) Matches must commence on time. If play is not commenced within 10 minutes of the commencement time. The team which does not have a player (singles) or pair (doubles) on the court will lose the first set. After the forfeit of the first set, if the second set is not commenced within 10 minutes then the second set will be forfeited. If play is not commenced within 30 minutes of the commencement time, then the match will be claimed on forfeit.
- (d) MATCHES WILL NOT BE OFFICIALLY CANCELLED BY TENNIS WOLLONGONG during the Final Series due to extreme weather conditions. Players and umpires must report to the allocated court venue at 8:30 am and the match must be completed by 12:30 pm.
- i) Four (4) hours 8:30 am to 12:30 pm is equivalent to two Saturday Junior matches.
 - ii) If play has not commenced by 9:30 am, then the Umpires may be released from their duties. In the case where there are no Umpires or the Umpires have been released, the Home team shall umpire the first set, the Visitors are to umpire the second set, and in the "Doubles Format" the third set shall be umpired by the Home team if a third player is available.
 - iii) If play has not commenced by 10:40 am, then the match becomes subject to Rule 9.2 of the Saturday Junior Competition (see below).
 - iv) If the match has commenced, but cannot be completed within the four (4) hours, then the match becomes subject to Rule 9.3.
- (e) All clubs and coaches are responsible for their players reporting to the allocated court at 8:30 am on the day set down for the relevant match, including players required for umpiring duties.
- (f) All teams playing in the Final Series must supply **two new or good used tennis balls**.
- (g) All matches in the Final Series will be umpired by independent umpires, where possible, subject to rule 9.1(d) ii).
- (h) Teams not reporting for umpiring duties will be reported to the Junior Branch Committee for further action.
- (i) Substitute Players during the Final Series

If a player is suffering from some illness, injury or some other unforeseen circumstances preventing them from competing, then their Club may apply to the Junior Competition Secretary **before commencement of play** to include a substitute player. This player may be from the same division or from a lower division. The player/s must be from a team not involved in the Final Series, neither playing nor umpiring.

(j) Each team participating in a Final Series has the choice to play all members of the team in the said Final Series matches, but subject to the following conditions: -

- **SINGLES:** a maximum of three (3) players can participate. Two individual players to play the singles sets and a third team member, if listed, plays in the doubles set.
- **DOUBLES:** a maximum of five (5) players may participate. Each player will be limited to a maximum of 2 sets. Each pairing can only play one set.
- A special Final Series Result Sheet is to be used. Names of all players listed on this result sheet **MUST** play on the day. Before the match, each Captain will write down a list of their players and hand that list to the independent Umpire or the Court Official if no independent Umpire is available.

In The Singles Format:

- If two players are listed on the final series result sheet then they play both singles and doubles.
- If three players are listed on the team sheet then:
 - the players listed as 1 and 2 must play the respective singles
 - player 3 and either of player 1 or 2 plays the doublesThe Umpire or Court Official will toss to determine the Home team and then the names of the players will be written down on the Result Sheet in the order specified on the Captains' lists.

In The Doubles Format:

- If only three players have been nominated, then the normal format will be played: that is, first set players 1 & 2; second set players 2 & 3; and in the third set players 1 & 3.
- If more than three players have been nominated, then players 1 & 2 will play the first set; players 3 & 4 the second set; and any other combination (subject to Rule 9(j)) can play the third set.
- The Umpire or Court Official will toss to determine the Home team and then the names of the players will be written down on the Result Sheet in the order specified on the Captains' lists.

(k) All sets are to be played in the order set down on the results sheet, with the players playing in the order specified on the "players list".

(l) Forfeits by teams during the Finals Series will result in disqualification from any further match play. The team will be required to umpire the next match.

9.2 No Play Due To Extreme Weather Conditions

(a) Semi-final, Final and Grand Final format

- NO PLAY in Semi-finals (1 v 2); (3 v 4)
1 v 2: 1st goes to Grand Final; 2nd goes to Final
3 v 4: 3rd goes to Final; 4th to Umpire the Final
- NO PLAY in Final
Of the three teams remaining, the two teams with the highest points at the end of the competition rounds go through to the Grand Final, and the team with the third highest points is to Umpire the Grand Final.
- NO PLAY in Grand Final
Of the two remaining teams, the team with the highest points at the end of the competition rounds is declared the winner.

(b) Semi-final and Final format

- NO PLAY in Semi-finals (1 v 4); (2 v 3)
The two teams with the highest points go through to the Final.
The team with the third highest points is to Umpire the Final.
- NO PLAY in Final
Of the two remaining teams, the team with the highest points at the end of the competition rounds is declared the winner.

9.3 Only Partial Play Due To Extreme Weather Conditions

Any match in the Final Series abandoned during the match due to extreme weather conditions is subject to the following: -

- If less than two sets have been completed, then the match becomes subject to Rule 9.2.
- Where a match is incomplete, but two sets have been played, then the point for the remaining set is to be shared and the points calculated as per the Score Sheet instructions.
- If the teams are equal after Rule 9.3(b), the team with the highest points at the end of the competition rounds is declared the winner.