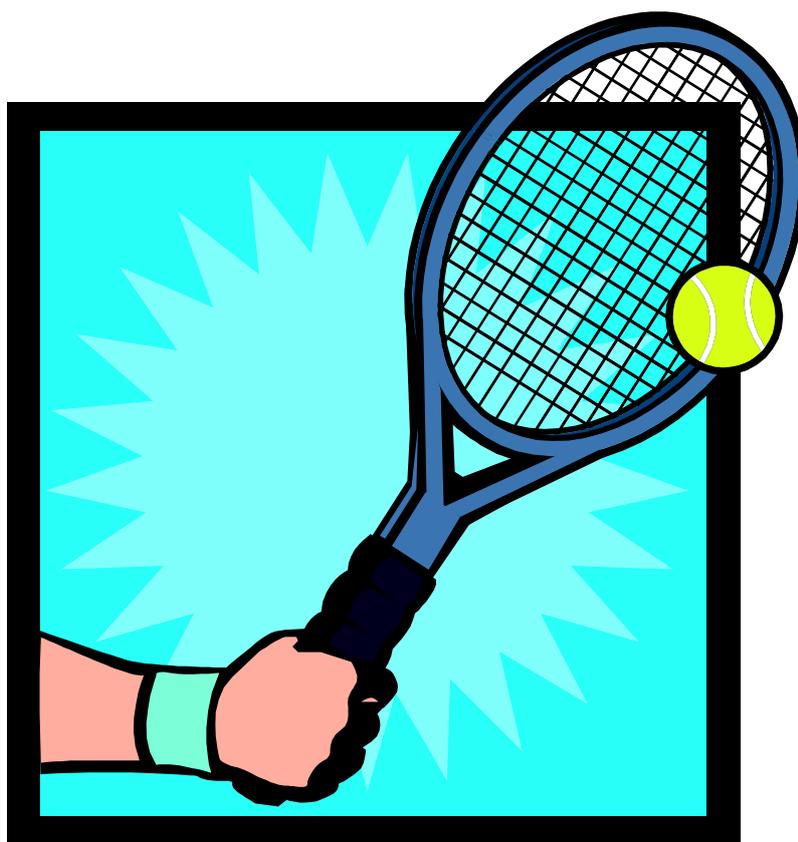


Nepean District Tennis Association Inc.

Competition Rules and Conditions

(Section 15 of the By-Laws)



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1 Administration

- 1(a) The Nepean District Tennis Association Incorporated shall have full control of all competitions.

2 Disputes

- 2(a) The Management Committee of the Association shall deal with any matter in dispute or not covered by these rules, and its decision in such matters shall be final. Players or teams who fail to follow the rules of the Association, or decisions of the Management Committee, shall be liable to suspension from competitions or any other penalty as determined by the Management Committee.
- 2(b) The Management Committee shall investigate protests, which must be in writing stating the reason for such protest. Protests must be lodged with the Secretary within seventy two (72) hours of the completion of a match. In such cases the protesting captain should not sign the result card.

3 Conditions of Entry

- 3(a) All competitions shall be conducted in divisions. Teams may be entered for any competition stating the division in which each team desires to play. The Management Committee retains the right of finally deciding the division in which each team shall play (Grading guidelines are included as an Appendix to these rules).
- 3(b) Entries are submitted on the basis that all players nominated indicate their willingness to accept the division in which the Management Committee places their team. Players nominated in any team which withdraws from the competition after the draw has been made, and without a reason acceptable to the Management Committee, are liable to suspension for a period of twelve (12) months (ie. the current competition for which they have nominated and the one following), or such other penalty as determined by the Management Committee. Members of teams withdrawing after the draw has been made may not join a team in any division but, with the permission of the Management Committee, may play from the Reserve Pool for a maximum of two (2) matches in any one team.
- 3(c) Each team must have the necessary court available for play as required by the Association, or make application to the Association for a court. The allocation of courts at the Association Courts in Penrith and at St Marys Tennis Club shall be based on the time of receipt of entry, ie. the first teams nominating such courts shall be given them.
- 3(d) Teams entering the night competition must be prepared to play on any night as determined by the Association.
- 3(e) Team nominations must be made on the nomination form (Competition Entry Form) provided by the Association. All appropriate sections on the nomination form shall be fully completed, including the names of all team members. A complete team for the appropriate competition must be nominated. A team may nominate up to eight (8) players only, for any adult competition.

- 3(f) The Management Committee shall be responsible for the individual grading of all players taking part in competitions. In competitions with teams of two (2) men and two (2) women, no more than one seeded player may be a member of any one team. Additionally no team may play more than one seeded player in any match.
- 3(g) Any other grading restrictions for a competition shall be determined by the Management Committee and shall be advertised on the Competition Entry Form. Any player wishing to nominate in a division lower than that indicated for their grading must make written application to the Management Committee for approval.
- 3(h) When teams are graded into divisions for competition play, the Management Committee shall have the right to declare any player nominated in a team ineligible to be a member of that team if his/her grading is significantly different from that of the other team members. In such cases the team shall be given time, as determined by the Management Committee, to find a replacement player of an appropriate grade.
- 3(i) The Management Committee reserves the right to grade or regrade new players to any competition. In the event that a player is graded in such a way that he/she is ineligible to remain in a team, no loss of points for any matches played prior to the Management Committee's decision shall be incurred.
- 3(j) In order to be a member of a team in any competition a player, where possible, shall be nominated on the original team nomination form. The Management Committee reserves the right to refuse the nomination of any player into a team after the teams have been graded into divisions.
- 3(k) Any graded player added to a team or used by a team after the teams have been graded by the Management Committee must ensure that he/she does not play in a division lower than that specified in the grading/division limitations stated on the current Competition Entry Form, without the approval of the Management Committee.
- 3(l) Players who have participated in the Association's senior competitions and have no current grading, and are added to a team or used by a team after the teams have been graded, must ensure that they do not play in a division lower than that in which they last played, without the approval of the Management Committee.
- 3(m) Players who have no current grading and who have not previously played in the Association's senior competitions must seek and obtain the approval of the Competition Secretary before playing in any match. An appeal against any decision of the Competition Secretary may be made in writing to the Management Committee.
- 3(n) Any player contravening any of the above three rules (3k, 3l, 3m) shall forfeit all sets in which he/she took part, or would have taken part.
- 3(o) The name, address, age (if under 12 years) and current grading of any additional player participating in any team after the teams have been graded should be forwarded to the Competition Secretary in writing (using an Association Membership Application Form or Competition Reserve Pool Application Form or Notification of Reserve or "Fill-in" Player Used form, as appropriate), along with payment of the appropriate fee. Sets played by such player shall be forfeited if the Competition Secretary has not been notified and the appropriate application or notification form has not been received (along with the appropriate fee) within seventy two (72) hours

of the completion of the new player's first match. Teams using such players will not be awarded competition points for subsequent matches until the requirements are met, irrespective of whether such players are involved.

- 3(p) Team entry fees must accompany competition entry forms. Additionally, all players nominated on a team entry form as members of that team must be Members of the Association, or must have submitted applications for membership together with the appropriate membership fee, before taking the court for their first match in a competition. Competition points will only be awarded for matches played after the payment of all relevant membership fees. Players with outstanding fees will be ineligible to participate in the Association's tennis activities until such payments have been made.
- 3(q) No player shall be a member of more than one team in any competition. However a player in a lower division may, if necessary, arise and play in a higher division on not more than two (2) occasions in any one team. Additionally a player may fill in for a team in a lower division of the same competition on not more than two (2) occasions in any one team if his/her individual player grading normally allows him/her to play in that division. A player who so plays on more than two (2) occasions in any other team, together with such team, shall be liable to such penalty as imposed by the Management Committee.
- 3(r) Where a team in the bottom division of any competition needs a reserve or fill-in player for a match, and is unable to find a player of the appropriate grade for that division, then with the approval of the Competition Secretary a player one grade higher than that normally allowed may be used. Such player may only play up to two (2) times in any one team in that division. The Competition Secretary must be satisfied that a genuine effort has been made to get a player of the appropriate grade, before the above will be permitted.
- 3(s) A player shall only be granted a transfer from one team to another during the course of a competition under exceptional circumstances. A player requesting a transfer must apply in writing and outline the reasons for such a transfer. Included with this application must be a letter of approval from the captain of the team with which the applicant was originally registered. A transfer shall be granted only if it is determined that the competition shall not be adversely affected by such transfer.
- 3(t) A team will be permitted to use any number of replacement players in a match in accordance with these rules, but will be permitted to draw only three (3) replacement players from other teams in the same or a higher division (but no more than two (2) players from any one team) for any one match. Such players cannot play against their own team, and cannot play as a reserve on more than two (2) occasions with any one team in that competition.
- 3(u) A player may fill in for another team in the same or in another division only if he/she is "spare", ie. only if his/her own team does not require use of a fill in player of the same sex on that day/night. The penalty for any breach of this rule shall be the forfeiture of all sets played by the player filling-in in the offending player's own team. Additionally, if the Management Committee is satisfied that the borrowing team was aware of the breach when borrowing the player, then it too shall be penalised by the forfeiture of all sets played by the borrowed player.

4 Reserve Pool

- 4(a) Any players who are not nominated with a team in any competition are eligible to become members of the Reserve Pool for that competition, subject to the approval of the Management Committee. Any player wishing to join the Reserve Pool must apply to the Competition Secretary, who will specify the lowest division in which such player may play. There is no fee to join the Reserve Pool.
- 4(b) When that player plays three(3) competition matches in a particular season he/she must pay the applicable annual Association membership fee, and submit an application for membership, within seventy two (72) hours of the completion of the player's third match.
- 4(c) Reserve Pool players are eligible to play for any team which is short of players at any time during the preliminary rounds of any competition, subject to the following conditions:
- The player must not play in a division lower than that specified by the Competition Secretary when the player was added to the Reserve Pool;
 - A player drawn from the Reserve Pool playing three (3) matches in any one team is then classed as a member of that team and is not to return to the Reserve Pool for the remainder of that competition;
 - A seeded player from the Reserve Pool may only replace a seeded player, for a maximum of two (2) matches in any team of which a seeded player is a member.

5 Persons Under the Age of Twelve

- 5(a) No person under the age of twelve (12) years shall be permitted to play in any competition under the direct control of the Management Committee unless approval has been granted as the result of special application for exemption from this rule.
- 5(b) The ability of juniors under twelve (12) years of age wishing to participate in adult competitions for the first time must be assessed by an officer/s appointed by the Management Committee, before their names are placed on a competition nomination form. A form designed for this purpose, signed by the above-mentioned officer/s, must accompany the competition nomination form, or be submitted to the Competition Secretary if a competition is in progress.

6 Additional Restrictions

- 6(a) Any additional restriction placed on participation in a particular competition shall be notified on the competition entry form.

7 Misconduct

- 7(a) Any player found guilty of misconduct (eg. racquet throwing, swearing, etc.) can be suspended from competition play for any period of time as determined by the Management Committee.

8 Suitability of Courts for Play

- 8(a) The owner/s or persons in charge of courts shall decide whether courts, owing to inclement weather, are suitable for play.

- 8(b) If play is unable to be commenced or recommenced (as the case may be) within forty five (45) minutes of any curtailment due to inclement weather, the match shall be declared unfinished.
- 8(c) For all courts, a decision on court playability shall be made at least one (1) hour before the scheduled commencement time of a match.
- 8(d) Secretaries of visiting teams playing on courts other than the Association Courts in Penrith or the St Marys Tennis Club courts should contact the secretary of the home team to ascertain court playability within the hour before the match is due to commence. It shall be the responsibility of home team secretaries of teams using such courts to obtain the decision on court playability no later than one (1) hour before the scheduled commencement time of the match.

9 Hot Weather

- 9(a) If the air temperature reaches 35 degrees Celsius in the shade, as measured by the official thermometer in place at any match venue, the match will cease at the conclusion of any game in progress, or otherwise immediately.
- 9(b) If this temperature is reached at or after 12.00 noon on the day of the match, and prior to the start of play, the match will be cancelled and all competition points shared.
- 9(c) The owners or persons in charge of courts shall administer this rule and announce to teams any cessation of play.
- 9(d) Should the air temperature be below 35 degrees Celsius in the shade, teams shall not be permitted to mutually call off play due to heat.
- 9(e) In semi-final and final matches only, teams may be required to wait for up to twenty (20) minutes and resume play if the air temperature falls below 34 degrees Celsius in the shade within that waiting period. However if the air temperature again reaches 35 degrees Celsius in the shade, the match will cease in accordance with clause 9(a).

10 Payment of Court and Ball Fees

- 10(a) Payment for competition play must be made prior to the commencement of play.
- 10(b) Refunds on the occasions of inclement weather or hot weather are indicated elsewhere in the Association's By-Laws (Section 8, Clause 4: Competition Fees: Refunds). This is included as an Appendix to these rules.

11 Umpires

- 11(a) Two opposing teams may decide that there is no need for the provision of umpires.
- 11(b) However, where no such agreement can be reached, teams shall provide alternate umpires throughout the match. In such circumstances, it shall be the responsibility of the home team captain, or the winner of the toss where no home team applies, to provide an umpire for the first set.
- 11(c) Any team refusing to umpire shall forfeit that set.

12 Starting and Finishing Times

- 12(a) Saturday afternoon competition play shall start in all matches at 1.00pm. Players for the first set are expected to take the court by 12.55pm, so that play can start at 1.00pm.
- 12(b) Play shall commence at 7.30pm in night competition matches and shall cease when the lights (which will be set as close as possible to 11.30pm for competitions where 6 sets are played, and 10.15pm for competitions where 4 sets are played) are extinguished. Players for the first set are expected to take the court by 7.25pm, so that play can start at 7.30pm.
- 12(c) Any team failing to commence at the time stated shall forfeit one (1) set after every fifteen (15) minutes until such time as the match is commenced. The order of such sets to be forfeited shall be the same as set down for the order of play.
- 12(d) If no pair from a team is ready to play within forty five (45) minutes of the scheduled commencement time of the match, the opposing team is entitled to claim the match as a forfeit.
- 12(e) In the Saturday afternoon competition, play will be continuous throughout the afternoon. All play in preliminary round matches shall cease after the conclusion of the game in progress at 6.00pm. Lights are to be used to complete matches if necessary, with no additional court hire charge. Court lights shall be turned on at the request of either team captain, but are not to be turned on before 4.30pm

13 Lights for Semi-finals and Finals

- 13(a) In the case of semi-finals and finals, the Association may require matches to be completed under lights.

14 Time Between Sets

- 14(a) A maximum of five (5) minutes shall be allowed from the conclusion of the last point of one set to the commencement of the first point of the next set.

15 Court Condition/Availability

- 15(a) All matches shall be played on the one court as allocated for that competition match, except that the last set of any match may, with the agreement of both captains, and with the agreement of the owner/s, or person/s in charge, of courts, be commenced on another court while the second last set is in progress. The two teams must purchase or arrange for their own balls for this set.
- 15(b) If court controllers wish to re-allocate courts due to maintenance or court condition, this may be allowed with the permission of the Competition Secretary.
- 15(c) In the event of a court scheduled for competition play being reported unavailable or unplayable to the Competition Secretary or a delegated official at least eighteen (18) hours (ie. by 7.00pm Friday for Saturday afternoon competition matches) prior to the commencement time of the match, the Competition Secretary or delegated official may transfer the match to another court.

16 Scheduled Date and Time for Matches

- 16(a) Matches must be played on the date and at the time determined by the Management Committee, unless permission has been granted by the Management Committee to vary the date and/or time on receipt of a written application at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled match.

17 Mode of Play: Saturday Afternoon Mixed Competition

- 17(a) A team for a match shall consist of two (2) men and two (2) women.
- 17(b) Each match shall consist of eight (8) tie-break sets, with the tie-break played at five (5) games-all, and played in the following order:
- Set 1 Men's Doubles
 - Set 2 Women's Doubles
 - Set 3 Mixed Doubles
 - Set 4 Mixed Doubles
 - Set 5 Men's Doubles
 - Set 6 Women's Doubles
 - Set 7 Mixed Doubles
 - Set 8 Mixed Doubles
- 17(c) This rule will not operate where opposing captains agree to any other order of play. Additionally, the order of the first four (4) sets of any match may be varied without penalty to either team, to enable the match to commence on time.
- 17(d) In preliminary rounds, the team numbered first on the draw for a match shall be regarded as the home team.
- 17(e) In preliminary rounds, the home team captain shall have the preference in set number 3, and the visiting team captain in set number 7.
- 17(f) The right to be server or receiver, and the choice of ends, in the first game of the set numbered 1 (as per clause 17(b) above) shall be decided by toss. The winner of the toss shall have the preference in sets 1, 2, 7 and 8, and the loser in sets 3, 4, 5 and 6. The captain winning the toss may choose:
- the right to be server or receiver, in which case the other captain shall choose the end, or
 - the end, in which case the other captain shall choose the right to be server or receiver.
- 17(g) Each man shall partner the same woman in both mixed doubles sets.
- 17(h) No mixed pair shall play two (2) successive sets unless both captains agree to the change in the order of play.
- 17(i) No player shall play more than four (4) sets, and each player shall play two men's or women's doubles and two mixed doubles.
- 17(j) No mixed pair shall play against the same mixed pair in more than one (1) set in any match.

- 17(k) If a team is one (1) player short, the entire match shall be declared a forfeit.
- 17(l) However if a match commences, in the belief that both teams have a complete team, but then one team turns out to be a player short (eg. a player fails to arrive, due to a misunderstanding or for some other reason) then any sets already played or which can be played will count, with the sets of the missing player being recorded as forfeited sets.

18 Mode of Play: Night Mixed Competition

- 18(a) A team for a match shall consist of two (2) men and two (2) women.
- 18(b) Each match shall consist of six (6) tie-break sets, with the tie-break played at five (5) games-all, and played in the following order:
- Set 1 Men's Doubles
 - Set 2 Women's Doubles
 - Set 3 Mixed Doubles
 - Set 4 Men's Doubles
 - Set 5 Women's Doubles
 - Set 6 Mixed Doubles
- 18(c) This rule will not operate where opposing captains agree to any other order of play. Additionally, the order of the first three (3) sets of any match may be varied without penalty to either team, to enable the match to commence on time.
- 18(d) In preliminary rounds, the team numbered first on the draw for a match shall be regarded as the home team.
- 18(e) In preliminary rounds, the visiting team captain shall have the preference in the set numbered 3 (as per clause 18(b) above).
- 18(f) The right to be server or receiver, and the choice of ends, in the first game of the set numbered 1 (as per clause 18(b) above) shall be decided by toss. The winner of the toss shall have the preference in sets 1, 3 and 5, and the loser in sets 2, 4 and 6. The captain winning the toss may choose:
- the right to be server or receiver, in which case the other captain shall choose the end, or
 - the end, in which case the other captain shall choose the right to be server or receiver.
- 18(g) No player shall play more than three (3) sets, and each player shall play two men's or women's doubles and one mixed doubles.
- 18(h) If a team is one (1) player short, the entire match shall be declared a forfeit.
- 18(i) However if a match commences, in the belief that both teams have a complete team, but then one team turns out to be a player short (eg. a player fails to arrive, due to a misunderstanding or for some other reason) then any sets already played or which can be played will count, with the sets of the missing player being recorded as forfeited sets.

19 **Mode of Play: Sunday Morning Men's/Women's Competition**

- 19(a) A team for a match shall consist of two (2) men or two (2) women, ranked 1 and 2 for singles play.
- 19(b) All matches shall commence at 9.00am and conclude at the completion of the game in progress at 11.30am.
- 19(c) Each match shall consist of four (4) tie-break sets, with the tie-break played at five (5) games-all, and played in the following order:
- Set 1 Doubles
 - Set 2 Singles
 - Set 3 Singles
 - Set 4 Doubles
- 19(d) This rule will not operate where opposing captains agree to any other order of play.
- 19(e) In preliminary rounds, the team numbered first on the draw for a match shall be regarded as the home team.
- 19(f) In preliminary rounds, the visiting team captain shall have the preference in the set numbered 2 (as per clause 19(c) above), ie. 1 v 1 or 2 v 2 in singles.
- 19(g) The right to be server or receiver, and the choice of ends, in the first game of the set numbered 1 (as per clause 19(c) above) shall be decided by toss. The winner of the toss shall have the preference in sets 1 and 3, and the loser in sets 2 and 4. The captain winning the toss may choose:
- the right to be server or receiver, in which case the other captain shall choose the end, or
 - the end, in which case the other captain shall choose the right to be server or receiver.
- 19(h) No player shall play more than three (3) sets, and each shall play two doubles and one singles.
- 19(i) If a team is one (1) player short, the entire match shall be declared a forfeit.
- 19(j) However if a match commences, in the belief that both teams have a complete team, but then one team turns out to be a player short (eg. a player fails to arrive, due to a misunderstanding or for some other reason) then any sets already played or which can be played will count, with the sets of the missing player being recorded as forfeited sets.

20 **Balls**

- 20(a) In all competitions, the balls are to be of a make specified by the Association and such balls must not have been previously used.
- 20(b) In all daylight competitions, three (3) balls must be used for any match on a synthetic hardcourt surface, and two (2) balls must be used for any match on any other surface. In all night competitions, two (2) balls must be used for any match.
- 20(c) In all competitions, when matches are drawn for the Association Courts in Penrith,

the balls shall be purchased from the Tennis Shop at the Association Courts. When matches are drawn for any other venue, the balls shall be purchased from the owner or person in charge of the courts, or provided by the home team.

21 Rules of Play

21(a) The rules of play shall be those adopted by Tennis New South Wales.

21(b) During the playing of any set, no instructions or advice may be issued to the players. Any instructions necessary must be issued prior to the set commencing.

22 Substitutes During Play

22(a) In the event of any player becoming incapacitated during the course of a match, a qualified substitute may be allowed, under the following conditions:

- Such substitute must not be a player who has already participated in the match.
- Unless the substitute is present and ready to resume the set in which the incapacitated player was taking part, the remainder of that particular set shall be forfeited to the opposing team, with any games scored by the forfeiting team to stand.
- The opposing captain must be notified immediately if a player suffers injury and is to be replaced.

22(b) The above rule will apply to deferred matches, if any player becomes unavailable due to extenuating circumstances.

22(c) A player replaced as a result of becoming incapacitated during the course of a match may not subsequently return to that match.

22(d) If a player becomes injured and announces that he/she will have to forfeit all his/her remaining sets, but play is subsequently washed out or abandoned due to hot weather before reaching those sets, then those sets are not forfeited. They will be regarded as washed out or abandoned due to hot weather.

22(e) Advice of any substitution of a player shall be forwarded to the Competition Secretary and recorded on the result card.

23 Forfeits

23(a) Any team forfeiting a match in the preliminary rounds of any competition must submit a written explanation to the Management Committee within seventy two (72) hours of the scheduled match, and must notify the team they are forfeiting to and the Competition Secretary. Should such explanation either not be received, or not be satisfactory to the Management Committee, then the forfeiting team shall be required to pay its half of the court hire for that match.

23(b) Notification of such forfeiture must be given to the opposing team and to the Competition Secretary as soon as possible, but no later than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled commencement time of the match.

23(c) Should a team forfeit three (3) times in all in the preliminary rounds of a competition, it shall be barred from further competition play in that competition, unless a

reasonable explanation is advanced to the satisfaction of the Management Committee.

- 23(d) If a team receives a forfeit, it should advise the Competition Secretary (verbally or via a result card) of the players who would have played in that match, so that this can count as a match for those players. This must be done within 72 hours of the scheduled commencement time of the match, otherwise the opportunity to nominate these players is lost.
- 23(e) If a team forfeits a match, then subsequently it occurs that the match would have been washed out or abandoned due to hot weather, before the scheduled commencement time of the match, the forfeit shall not stand and that match will be declared washed out or abandoned due to hot weather. In all other circumstances the forfeit will stand.
- 23(f) Where a match in the preliminary rounds of any competition is forfeited before being commenced, any of the players of either team may elect to use the court for social play. In that case they shall be required to hire the court at 50% of the normal social court hire rate.
- 23(g) Where a match is commenced, but then sets are forfeited due to the non-arrival of one or more of the players (see Rules 17(l), 18(i) and 19(j)), the non-offending team shall be refunded its court hire payment if less than two (2) hours of play takes place (ie. if play ceases within two hours of the scheduled commencement time of the match).
- 23(h) Payment of any court hire fees by a forfeiting team must be made within seven (7) days of notification by the Management Committee that such fees are required. If such court hire fees are not received within the specified time, the team will not receive any competition points while the fees remain outstanding. Additionally the team and its members may be disqualified from further competition play.
- 23(i) Where a team forfeits a semi-final or final, no court hire fees shall be charged.

24 Competition Points

- 24(a) All matches will be decided on sets, and if sets are equal, on games, except in those divisions where handicaps apply. Competition points shall be allotted for each match as follows.
- 24(b) Saturday afternoon mixed: twelve (12) points, as follows:
- One (1) point for each set won, half (1/2) a point for each unplayed or unfinished set, and four (4) points to the winning team (except where a match is unfinished or tied, in which case teams receive two (2) points each).
 - In divisions where handicaps apply, eighteen (18) points shall be allotted for each match, as follows: one (1) point for each set won, half (1/2) a point for each unplayed or unfinished set, and ten (10) points to the winning team (except where a match is unfinished or tied, in which case teams receive five (5) points each).
- 24(c) Night mixed: ten (10) points, as follows:

- One (1) point for each set won, half (1/2) a point for each unplayed or unfinished set, and four (4) points to the winning team (except where a match is unfinished or tied, in which case teams receive two (2) points each).

24(d) Sunday morning men's/women's: six (6) points, as follows:

- One (1) point for each set won, half (1/2) a point for each unplayed or unfinished set, and two (2) points to the winning team (except where a match is unfinished or tied, in which case teams receive one (1) point each).

24(e) In any competition, where a match does not commence because of inclement weather or heat, competition points shall be divided evenly between both teams.

24(f) A match is defined as "unfinished" if the team trailing still has a chance of winning or drawing, if the match were to be played to a conclusion.

24(g) No team shall receive any points for a bye.

24(h) When a match has been forfeited, the team receiving the forfeit shall be awarded the maximum number of competition points available for that match, ie.

- in Saturday Afternoon Mixed, twelve (12) points
- in Night Mixed, ten (10) points
- in Wednesday Night Pairs, six (6) points
- in Friday Night Hopman Mixed, six (6) points
- in Saturday Morning and Thursday Night Singles, twenty (20) points.

24(i) In the event of a team withdrawing or being debarred from further competition, the competition points scored for and against the team shall be dealt with as follows:

- If before the completion of the first round, all competition points scored for and against shall be cancelled.
- If after the commencement of the second round, only competition points scored in any completed round shall be credited to the teams concerned.
- Any round is completed once the matches scheduled for that division have reached the stage where the next matches scheduled are for teams playing against teams they have already been drawn against in that competition.

24(j) In the event of a competition being abandoned at any time after the completion of one full round of matches, the team leading on points at the conclusion of the last completed full round of matches shall be declared the winner.

24(k) If a team wishes to appeal against the loss of competition points for a match, such appeal must be made to the Competition Secretary within fourteen (14) days of the match concerned.

25 **Semi-finals and Finals**

25(a) The four (4) leading teams in each division will play off in semi-finals at the conclusion of the final preliminary round. In addition, for teams which do not make the semi-finals or finals of any competition, additional playoff matches may be arranged on the semi-final and final dates, as determined by the Management Committee.

- 25(b) In the event of two or more teams being equal in first, second, third or fourth place, the placement of the teams shall be determined on averages, ie. sets won over sets played. All forfeited sets must be noted on the result cards and such sets will not be counted when averages are being calculated. If averages based on sets are equal, then games shall be used.
- 25(c) In semi-finals, teams finishing first shall play teams finishing fourth and teams finishing second shall play teams finishing third.
- 25(d) No member of any team shall be eligible to play in semi-finals or finals until he/she has been approved for membership of the Association, and has played for that team in three (3) or more matches in the preliminary rounds.
- 25(e) If a match is declared washed out or abandoned due to hot weather before the scheduled commencement time of the match, then it does not count as a match for any player who would have played. If the washout or abandonment is declared after the scheduled commencement time of the match, or after the match has commenced, then it will count as a match for all players who took part or would have taken part, provided that the Competition Secretary has been notified (verbally or via the result card) of the names of the players, within 72 hours of the scheduled commencement time of the match. If this is not done within the 72 hours specified, the opportunity to nominate these players is lost.
- 25(f) In the event of a semi-final or final being interrupted, play shall recommence from the exact position at cease of play.
- 25(g) In the event of a tied semi-final, the match will be awarded to the team placed higher on the competition points table.
- 25(h) In the event of a tied final, joint premiers will be declared.

26 Match Results

- 26(a) Match results must be signed at the conclusion of play by opposing captains, unless a protest has been lodged.
- 26(b) Certified result cards must reach the Competition Secretary within seventy two (72) hours of the completion of the match.
- 26(c) The result card is to be forwarded by the captain of the winning team. In the event of a drawn or unfinished match, the captain of the home team has this responsibility.
- 26(d) Failure to comply with this rule will result in loss of the competition points scored in that match by the winning team or home team, whichever applies.
- 26(e) Winning team captains must ensure that all relevant sections of the result card have been fully completed. In any unfinished match, the home team captain must ensure that details of all sets played, whether finished or not, are recorded.
- 26(f) The home team captain must give notification to the Competition Secretary in all matches which are not commenced due to inclement weather or heat.

- 26(g) Where a match is forfeited, the team receiving the forfeit should fill in a result card with the names of the players who would have played for that team on that day. This will count as a match for those players, with regard to eligibility for semi-finals and finals, except where Rule 23(e) applies.
- 26(h) In the event of a match commencing but not finishing due to inclement weather or heat, the names of the players who took part or would have taken part may be recorded on the result card, and this shall count as a match for those players, with regard to eligibility for semi-finals and finals. This rule will not apply to any match which is declared washed out, or abandoned due to hot weather, before the scheduled commencement time of the match.

27 Tennis Attire

- 27(a) Correct tennis attire must be worn by members of both sexes, including:
- males: shirts with collars, with tennis shorts or long white or cream trousers, and
 - females: dresses, blouses or shirts, with skirts, shorts or culottes.
- 27(b) Such clothing should be that produced by a recognised tennis wear manufacturer.
- 27(c) Sleeveless singlets, tee-shirts, football shorts and football socks are not considered to be correct tennis attire.
- 27(d) Clothing bearing writing, lettering, illustrations or similar designs is not permitted without prior approval of the Management Committee, but no objection shall be taken to small manufacturer identification motifs, or personal monograms, on garments.
- 27(e) Shoes, in addition to complying with the above, must be free of heels, bars or tread which is normally injurious to courts.
- 27(f) Any player, and/or his/her team, after receiving a warning as to his/her failure to wear correct tennis attire, will be penalised as deemed suitable by the Management Committee.

28 Procedures for the Tie-break

- 28(a) The twelve (12) point tie-break system, as specified in the Rules of Tennis (Rule 27(b)), will operate when the score reaches five (5) games-all in any set in any teams' competition conducted by the Association, except where variations have been specified by the Association.
- 28(b) 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 winner of the game and set has been decided. That is, in doubles, the player who served in the third and seventh games of that set shall serve the first point of the tie-break game.
- 28(c) Where it is determined that a tie-break shall take place in tournament or championship play, it shall take place when the game score reaches six (6) games-all.

29 Maintenance and Availability of Competition Rules and Conditions

29(a) The Competition Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date copy of these Competition Rules and Conditions. Additionally the Tennis Shop at the Association Courts in Penrith should always have an up-to-date copy. Appropriate notification of all rule changes should be given to team secretaries (this may be done via a noticeboard or newsletter).

29(b) A printed copy of the Competition Rules and Conditions shall be made available to all team secretaries at no cost. There may be a charge for any additional copies required.

Appendix A

Grading of Competition Teams

The main objective of grading is to try to ensure that the playing standard of all teams involved in a particular division is as even as possible, thus resulting in closer competition. Team performance in the competition prior to grading is the main guide, with due consideration being given to changes to team members and new team entries. In general, teams winning a division will advance to a higher division, and teams finishing last will be relegated to a lower division, if:

- the team members are substantially the same, and/or
- the number of divisions or teams in a particular division is the same, and/or
- there are no new teams entered.

On the other hand:

- if a number of teams of a higher standard enter and cause an increase in the total number of divisions, or an increase in the number of teams applying for a division, the winning team may remain in the same division, and/or
- when additional divisions are created due to a large increase in the number of teams entered, some teams in the previous competition may appear to fall by one division. However, a team may have been placed in a lower numerical division even though the standard of play in that division has not altered. In other words, division 7 in a 9 division competition is not directly related to division 7 in an 11 division competition.

Where the number of divisions is the same, teams which won by a very significant margin may be elevated by more than one division, while teams which fared very poorly may be relegated by more than one division, in the interests of achieving the main objective of closer and more even competition in all divisions.

Grading is the sole responsibility of the Management Committee and is carried out to the best of its ability. Decisions of the Management Committee are final.

Appendix B

Competition Fees: Refunds (By-Laws, Section 8, Clause 4)

At the Association courts at Woodriff Gardens, where a court is officially determined as being unsafe or unplayable, or where play is abandoned due to the application of the hot

weather rule (Rule 9), within ninety (90) minutes of the commencing time of a match, in all competition play, the following will apply:

A credit in full of court hire (or a refund where a credit is impractical) will apply for that team's next match at Woodriff Gardens. Credit or refund for the ball cost will apply only if the ball has not been used and is returned. After 90 minutes, no credit or refund applies.

Appendix C

Singles Competition (Saturday Morning and Thursday Night) Format and Rules

Competition Format

- Each competition will be played, as far as possible, within one school term.
- Divisions will, as far as possible, consist of eight (8) players. Each player will be scheduled to play each other player once (ie. 7 rounds). The top 6 players will qualify for playoffs, which will be played as follows:
 - quarter-finals: 3rd v 6th, 4th v 5th
 - semi-finals: 1st v winner of (4th v 5th), 2nd v winner of (3rd v 6th)
 - final: winners of the semi-finals.

Match Format and Rules

- Matches will be played at one of the following time slots, as allocated by the Competition Administrator: Saturday Morning: 7.30am-8.30am; 8.30am-9.30am; 9.30am-10.30am; or 10.30am-11.30am. Thursday Night: 7.30pm-8.30pm; or 8.30pm-9.30pm. A division may be split over two time slots if necessary.
- Match hitups commence at 7.30am or 8.30am or 9.30am or 10.30am (Saturday) or 7.30pm or 8.30pm (Thursday) sharp. A match ceases at the conclusion of the point in progress one hour later. Any player not ready to commence at the allocated time shall forfeit one game after every three (3) minutes. Once 6 games are forfeited, the whole match is forfeited.
- All players are entitled to a maximum of five (5) minutes hitup (ie. the match should be 55 minutes). Should both players choose to waive all or part of the hitup, then they may commence play when ready.
- A match shall consist of 16 games. Any game/s not completed or started within the time limit will be considered "unfinished".
- Competition Points: 1 point for each game won; half a point for each "unfinished" game; 4 points for the winner of the match* ie. a total of 20 points allotted for the match. (* A player must have won 9 or more games to be the "winner" of the match, otherwise the match is "unfinished" and players receive 2 points each)
- Forfeits: a player receiving a forfeit shall be awarded the full 20 points (the forfeiting player receives no points).
- If, at the end of the preliminary rounds, two or more players are tied on points, positions will be determined by:
 - the result of the match between those players (ie. the head-to-head result). Games won/lost between those players will be used if necessary

- if that is equal, the margin between total matches won and lost by each player will be considered
- if that is equal, the margin between total games won and lost by each player will be considered.
- If a quarter-final, semi-final or final is tied (8 games-all) then an additional tie-breaker game will be played to determine the winner. Quarter-final, semi-final and final matches may go beyond the normal time limit in order to obtain a result.
- Matches may be rescheduled due to special circumstances, under the following conditions:
 - The rescheduling must be agreed to by both players, and must be advised to the Association, along with the reason, by 5.00pm Friday (for Saturday Morning Competition) or by 10.00am Thursday (for Thursday Night Competition). Notification after these times will result in a forfeit by the unavailable player.
 - The rescheduled match must be played after the originally scheduled date and before the next scheduled round, and must be played at the Woodriff Gardens Tennis Complex.
 - Any rescheduled “last round” or “quarter-final” or “semi-final” matches must be played within four (4) days of the originally scheduled date, to allow the following week’s draw to be prepared in reasonable time.
 - If a rescheduled match cannot be played on the new/rescheduled date for any reason, the player unable to play on the originally scheduled date must forfeit.
 - If the original Saturday morning is a washout for all other matches in a division, then no matches in that division can be rescheduled.
 - If a rescheduled match is played at night, then any additional court hire cost applicable to night hire must be paid.
- No replacement/substitute player will be allowed for a player unable to play a match or reschedule. The player will simply need to forfeit.
- Any player forfeiting three (3) matches in all during the preliminary rounds will be disqualified from further participation in the competition, unless a reasonable explanation is advanced to the satisfaction of the Competition Administrator.

Grading of Players Into Divisions

- At the end of each competition, the top two (2) players in each division will, where possible, be promoted to a higher division. Alternatively they may be invited to participate in playoffs for promotion to a higher division, at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- New players to a competition may be required to participate in playoffs for placement in the division they have requested.
- The bottom two players in each division should expect relegation to the next division below. Alternatively they may be invited to participate in playoffs if they wish to remain in that division, at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- Depending on overall entries received, other players may be required to participate in playoffs at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- The format of playoff matches will be determined by the number of players involved.

- Any playoffs necessary will be held one week before the start of any competition. This will be included in the advertising for that competition. Players must be available if they wish to participate, otherwise their division placement is entirely at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Special Note: Each competing player must be an Association Member for the calendar year in which the competition is being played.

