



**INTER
DISTRICT**
SYDNEY TEAM TENNIS



The New South Wales
HARDCOURT TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Celebrating 100 years!

Interdistrict Competition Rules 2024

PLAYING RULES

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Playing Rules

- Authority P1
- Interference P2
- Courts for Matches P3
- Teams to play for “Cup” P4
- Commencement of Play P5
- Continuity of Play P6
- Termination of Play – Round Matches P7
- Abandoned Matches P8
- Format of Play -
- Round Matches, Semi Finals & Div Playoffs P9
- Format of Play – Finals P10
- Eligibility- Div Play Offs, Semi Finals & Finals P11

- Tossing P12
- Promoted Players P13
- Substitution of Players P14
- Forfeits-Withdrawals P15
- Point Scores – Within Rounds only P16
- Declaration of Winners, Division 3 & Below P17
- Umpiring Responsibilities P18
- Provision of balls P19
- Rosewall/Hardcourt Medals P20

Playing Rules

P1 Authority

The Association Secretary or Inter District Representative shall be the sole authority to approach the NSWHTA any matters relating to the Interdistrict competition.

P2 Interference

During the progress of a set/rubber, neither the captain, manager, nor any other person, shall coach, advise or instruct any player participating in that particular set/rubber.

P3 Courts for Matches

All matches for the Under 10 s and Division 3 and below in all Junior cups shall be played on one (1) court in ordinary rounds, divisional play offs, semi finals and finals.

Division 1 & 2 (except 10 s) and all Open Cups will use 2 courts for all matches except FINALS where one (1) court only will be used.

All divisions of “Seniors” Cups will play on one court one (1) court

P4 Teams Playing for Cup Only teams from Divisions Premier 1 & 2 shall compete for the “Cup”. All other divisions shall compete for divisional medals, with points being awarded towards the George McKerihan Shield.

P5 Commencement of Play

- a. Ordinary Rounds: 12:30pm and not before that time
- b. Divisional Playoffs & Semi Finals: 12.30pm and must finish (with the aid of lights, if necessary)
- c. Finals (All Cups) 9.00 am
- d. If a team does not have a pair on the court at the scheduled starting time, the opposing team shall be awarded the first set 6-0 or rubber 6-0 6-0
Thereafter, whilst a team continues in default, a further set or rubber shall be awarded at 30 minute intervals.
Should a team be unable to proceed with a match as laid down by the rules for 2hrs 30mins, the entire match shall be forfeited. The decision to claim a forfeit shall be left to the teams concerned & once a decision has been made the set or rubber claimed shall not be played
- e. In the event of any match not commencing by 1:30pm in round matches because of inclement weather, the match shall be declared abandoned and the points shall be shared between both teams.
- f. The “Home/Host Association, or in the case of “Finals”, the duly appointed Referee shall be the Sole Arbiter as to matches being called off due to inclement weather or court playability.

P6 Continuity of Play

- a. Play shall be continuous for the entire match, and no interval is permissible, except in the case of inclement weather. No more than three (3) minutes, including a hit-up (**there shall be no hit-ups after each player has played a set**) shall elapse between the conclusion of any set/rubber and the commencement of the next set/rubber. **No hit-ups permitted after each player has played a set. The captains of both teams shall be jointly responsible for the observation of this rule.**
- b. Matches suspended for more than one (1) hour, due to inclement weather may be called off by the Duty Officer/Association. Duty Officers/Associations shall be the sole arbiter in determining whether play shall cease and/or recommence. In matches where three (3) set singles are the format, play shall be deemed to have commenced/restarted provided that play is possible on at least one (1) court within the prescribed period.
- c. **N.B.** Time wasted between sets/rubbers or consequent upon prolonged hit-ups is often responsible for unfinished matches which is undesirable. Captains should have their players ready to commence the next set/rubber, and strictly observe this rule. Teams will be allowed to claim a forfeit if opposing player(s) are not ready to commence play within three (3) minutes of the completion of the previous set/rubber.
- d. The “Home/Host” Association, or in the case of “Finals”, the duty appointed Referee shall be the sole arbiter as to matches being called off due to inclement weather.

P7 Termination of Play – Round Matches

Unless both captains/managers agree to cease play due to failing light, then play shall cease at 6:00pm (lights may be used if necessary). Any game in progress at 6:00pm must be completed.

P8 Abandoned Matches

All teams shall be on the grounds whatever the weather, excepting where a team captain/manager has telephoned the number listed and received the decision that the court is unplayable from the person listed. This decision must be made by 11.00am

No postponements will be allowed for any reason, except under exceptional circumstances. The Competition Committee shall have the authority to cancel/abandon matches as required.

P9 Format of Play for Round Matches, Div Play Offs & Semi Finals:-

ALL SETS IN ALL MATCHES

- **First to 6 games with a 2 game advantage**
- **7 point tie breaker at 6 all with 2 point advantage**
- **Long Deuces (no add all)**
- **Order of Serve**
Home team has the choice to serve or receive in 1st set and all odd number sets
Visiting team has the choice in all even number sets

- a Two (2) rounds or as determined by the Management Committee shall be played in each Cup.
- b All singles play: seeded players shall meet the corresponding seeded player of the opposing team. Where sets are played out of order as seeded, the sets are to be forfeited by the defaulting team. Promoted or additional players must be seeded in the new team on merit with UTR's being the principal method for seeding

c **The following FIXED format shall be followed:-**

All Open Cups & Premier Divisions 1 & 2 of all Junior Cups (except 10 s).

The first two (2) matches shall be the No 1 Singles players & the doubles between 2 & 3 V 2 & 3

At the conclusion of the first doubles, the remaining two (2) singles matches are to be played with the No 2 players first followed by the No 3 players.

The remaining doubles shall then be played with the No 1 players being paired with whichever of the above singles finishes first, followed by the No 1 players with the remaining players

All Junior Cups Division 3 & below & all 10 s matches

The first 2 sets shall be doubles, 1 & 2 V 1 & 2 followed by 2 & 3 V 2 & 3.

The No 1 Singles will then be played followed by the No 3 Singles Followed by the No 2 Singles. The final set will be the remaining doubles 1 & 3 V 1 & 3

Senior Cups

All teams shall nominate their player Rankings prior to the commencement of all matches

Matches shall consist of eight (8) Tie Break sets of doubles played on 1 court in the following order

1&2 V 1&2, 3&4 V 3&4, 1&3 V 1&3, 2&4 V 2&4, 1&4 V 1&4, 2&3 V 2&3, 1&2 V 3&4, 3&4 V 1&2

P 10 Format of Play – Finals

- a Finals play to commence at 9.00am
- b **Open & Junior Cups (except 10 s)** Format is the same as round matches. Teams that usually use 2 courts will have 1 court only allocated for finals
- c **Finals for 10 s Matches** At the end of the normal 6 sets

there will be 3 additional singles matches. Number 2 singles followed by Number 1 singles followed by number 3 singles

d **Finals for Seniors**

All teams shall nominate their players rankings prior to the commencement of play.

“Seniors” (35years & over) Cups shall play 10 sets in the following order: 1&2 V 1&2, 3&4 v 3&4, 1&3 V 1&3, 2&4 v 2&4, 1&4 V 1&4, 2&3 V 2&3, 1&2 V 3&4, 3&4 v 1&2, 1&2 v 1&2, 3&4 v 3&4

Choice of Serve (To be read in conjunction with Rule P 9 & P12)

e **Winners - Semis & Finals & Divisional Play Offs**

The result shall be decided solely on sets won against sets lost.

If sets are equal then games will be taken into account to determine the winner.

If both sets and games are equal a single Tie Break SET of doubles shall be played to determine the winner.

(Teams may nominate any pairing to play the deciding set).

Home team to declare pairing first

f In all Finals matches where play does not commence or is stopped by stress of weather, the Referee or the Competition Committee may abandon the match & the team which was higher placed after the Semi Finals shall be declared the Cup Winner

Teams for Semi Finals (All Cups)

g In **ALL** Cups where there is only one (1) Division there will be **no** Semi Finals with the two (2) teams leading on points at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds advancing straight to the Final

h A minimum of 2 Divisions are required for Semi Finals to be conducted. The 3 teams leading on points at the

conclusion of the preliminary rounds from Premier Division 1 together with the team leading on points from Premier Division 2 shall comprise the Semi Finalists. The draw shall be 1 V 4 & 2 v 3 (No 4 being the leading team from Div 2)

i **Divisional Playoffs**

For Divisions 3 & below a Divisional Play Off shall be played between the 2 teams leading on points at the completion of the preliminary rounds in each division

j **(Inclement Weather)**

Should matches be washed out or are incomplete due to stress of weather or failing light at Divisional Play Off or Semi final stage, the team leading in the point score at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds in Division 3 & below shall be declared the Division Winner

For Premier Div 1 & 2 the two (2) teams leading at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds from Premier Division 1 shall advance to the Final.

P11 Eligibility for Div Play Offs, Semi Finals & Finals;-

In Divisional Playoffs, Semi Finals & Finals, no player shall be eligible to play unless he/she has **competed** in at least two (2) matches in the preliminary rounds of the Cup they are competing in. If a team receives a total forfeit or teams have a complete wet match or Bye they may nominate the players who would have participated under normal circumstances. Notification of players in these circumstances must be received no later than 7pm on the Monday immediately following the match. Players can be credited with only one (1) match for either a Bye, forfeit or wet match in any competition period

Players who have competed in a Playoff, Semi Final or Final match of one Cup, shall not be eligible to play in a Playoff, Semi Final or Final match of another Cup in the same competition.

P12 Tossing

Before Play Off, Semi Final or Finals matches commence, the respective captains shall toss for the choice of being either the Home or Visiting team, and both captains shall declare their team players, after which no player/s may be changed unless Rule P13 “Substitution of Players” applies.

P13 Promoted Players

- a. In the event of an Association entering more than one (1) team in any one Cup a player in a lower team may, if necessity arises, play in a higher team. Promoted players may return to their original team only if they have played in three (3) matches or less in the higher team.
- b. Players who are originally graded in Blackwell Cup, Angus & Coote Cup, Irene Matthews Cup, President’s Cup, Wade & Neal Cup, Esca Stephens, McAndrew & Crakanthorp Cup are NOT permitted to play in a lower age group in the current competition.
(Seniors Cups are considered to be a lower grading than Blackwell Cup and Angus & Coote Cup).

P14 Substitution of Players

- a. In the event of a player becoming incapacitated during the progress of a match, he/she may NOT be replaced by another player in that particular set/rubber in which he/she was participating
- b. A replacement by a player of a **lower** grading shall be allowed to complete the remaining sets/rubber
 - (i). If the singles sets/rubbers have commenced the substituted player shall take the place and grading of the player for whom he/she is substituting subject to b. above.
 - (ii). If the singles sets/rubbers have not commenced the player's grading shall be progressed as set out in Order of Play.
 - (iii). **Any player who is substituted, shall not take any further part in that match.**

P15 Forfeits – Withdrawals

- a. Should a team forfeit any part of a round match for reasons other than illness or injury suffered by one or more of its players during the playing of a match, the team shall be fined as follows:-
 - (i) For all “Seniors” competitions & divisions 3 & below of all Junior competitions one(1) point for each player not in attendance.
 - (ii) for Blackwell Cup, Angus & Coote Cup & divisions Premier 1 & 2 of all Junior Cups two(2) points for each player not in attendance.
- b. Should the Association not be at fault but the player or some of them are responsible for the forfeit then the players concerned may be disqualified from participating in the Interdistrict competition for four (4) matches inclusive of Divisional Playoffs, Semi Final and Final matches.
- c. In the event of a team forfeiting two (2) or more matches it shall be disqualified from further competition.

- d. Should a team withdraw or be disqualified from the competition during the first round, all points for and against shall be deleted. Should a team withdraw or be disqualified from the competition during the second round, all points for and against shall be deleted for the second round only.

P16 Point Scores – Round Matches Only

All matches shall be decided solely on SETS WON AGAINST SETS LOST. If equal on sets, games shall be taken into account to determine the winner.

Premier 1 and 2 Matches (except 10 s) will be allocated eleven (11) points per match .

All “Seniors” matches shall be allocated 10 points per match. Stan Pedersen & Harry Beck Cups together with divisions 3 & below of remaining Junior matches shall be allocated 8 points per match

Points shall be allocated as follows:

- a. **Winning team:** 2 points, plus 1 point for each set won and ½ point for each incomplete/unplayed set
- b. **Losing team:** 1 point for each set won and ½ point for each incomplete/unplayed set
- c. **Drawn matches:** 1 point to each team and 1 point for each set won.
- d. **Unfinished matches:** 1 point each team and 1 point for each set won and ½ point for each incomplete or unplayed set. If either team has won **HALF** of the scheduled sets and the games accumulated amount to one (1) more than the opposition could have possibly win in this match, then the result would be scored as a winning team as detailed in (a).
- e. **Forfeited Matches:** All points allotted to team receiving forfeit - no points to team giving the forfeit.
- f. **Unplayed Matches** (other than Forfeit) Allotted points to be shared equally between each team.

P17 Declaration of Winners

- a In the event of two (2) or more teams being equal on points at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds their respective positions for the right to progress will be determined on averages i.e. Sets won over Sets played, and if the sets averages are equal, then the games will be taken into consideration.
- b. All forfeited sets must be noted on result cards, and such sets will not be recorded in averages where applicable

P18 Umpiring Responsibilities

- a Umpiring of preliminary round matches is to be shared by both teams.
The “Home” team will umpire first set/rubber and alternate thereafter.
- b Teams may agree to confine umpires to Singles only
- c In any match where one team requests an umpire at any stage of the match the other team must agree to participate.
- d For “Finals” matches, endeavours will be made for the NSWTA Umpires’ Association to provide umpires, otherwise the opposing captains shall mutually agree upon umpires.
- e Ball persons from the team not umpiring must be provided for all singles matches

P19 Provision of Balls

- a New & Approved Championship balls are to be used in all matches.
Slazenger are the preferred supplier & Associations are requested to use these balls
Associations who have a “Sponsorship” arrangement with a ball supplier are permitted to use those balls providing they are approved & of Championship quality

- b For All 10 & U matches
“Green” balls, as directed by Tennis Australia, must be used.
- c. In ordinary rounds the “Home Association” shall provide not less than three (3) new balls for each court.
- d For **Divisional Playoffs, Semi-Finals & Final Matches** the NSW Hardcourt Tennis Association shall provide the balls.

P 20 Rosewall Medal & Hardcourt Medal

The Rosewall Medal shall be competed for annually by all players participating in Premier 1 Division of all Open & Junior “Cups”.

Participating is compulsory.

The Rosewall & Hardcourt Medals shall be competed for following the guidelines as set down from time to time by the Management Committee.

The Hardcourt Medal shall be competed for annually by all players competing in Seniors/Vets Cups

Criteria

Open & Junior Cups - Each nominee must win their singles match and at least one doubles.

Veteran Cups – Each nominee must win at least three sets in the match.