
Moorabbin & District Junior Tennis Association Inc.

Rules as of February 2023

Sections in italics are guidelines rather than rules

Eligibility

1. All members of teams (including emergencies) must be 18 years of age or under for the duration of each competition/season.
2. If a player is found to be over-age, all singles and doubles matches played by the player during the current season will be forfeited as well as any match result points.
3. Players can only play for one Club through the season. All points (involving that player) will be awarded to the opposition if a player plays for a Club other than the Club that originally nominated them. *No player transfers will be approved after grading.*
4. Players can only play one match per round. The date of each round is deemed to be the date on which the match was originally scheduled to be played. All points (involving that player) will be awarded to the opposition in the second match that a player plays in the week.

Prior to Saturday matches

5. Where possible any Club unable to field a team must advise the opposing club delegate preferably on Friday evening or early Saturday morning. *Please be aware that a match can still be played with only 3 players, although a match cannot be won with 3 players.*

Saturdays – Conditions of Play in Home and Away Season

6. Matches may commence at 8.00am, 8.30am or 10.00am, depending on advice from the **Home** Club. *All Players should be in attendance at least 15 minutes prior to the advised commencement time. Just as in football or netball, the match shall commence at the advised time whether all players are in attendance or not.*
7. Prior to the commencement of the match the Captains of the teams must complete the scoresheet. Doubles pairings and then singles listed in the order of merit approved by MDJTA. **THERE IS NO ORDER OF MERIT FOR DOUBLES PAIRINGS.** Surnames must be included. Scoresheets can only be amended with the prior approval of the Home Club Supervisor.

All sections are to play **singles** in the order approved by MDJTA at the commencement of the season. Clubs may request MDJTA to consider a change in the order of merit of a team. If approved, the change of order will be applicable from the next match after receiving approval from MDJTA. After Round 7 no changes in the order of merit will be allowed.

If a player plays lower than their approved order they will be considered an ineligible player and the sets (doubles and singles) played will be forfeited.

Emergencies are required to play in order of merit as approved by the Association.

No emergency can strengthen a team. If a Club is any doubt, they should check with the Association prior to playing an emergency that could breach this rule.

Teams are advised not to change the order of a team unless they have received advice from their club of an approved change to the nominated order.

8. Once 3 matches have been played by a player in a higher team, the player cannot drop back into their originally nominated team. Where a club has two (or more) teams in one section, once a player has played 3 matches in one team in the section they may not play in any other team in that section, without prior Committee approval, which shall only be given in exceptional circumstances.
9. Home clubs must provide at 2 courts per match.
10. Where clubs have multiple surfaces, teams are to be scheduled to play on the same surface for the duration of the match. In the event of wet weather, a change of surface can be made with the approval of both team captains.
11. Where there are two start times for the morning, i.e., 8.00am and 10.00am, 8.00am teams must be allowed to complete any set still being played at 10.00am.
12. Home teams must supply a scoresheet and good used balls. Away teams should complete their own copy of the score sheet for confirmation of results.
13. Home Clubs **must** have a supervisor in attendance for the entire Saturday morning. The Home Club Supervisor must wear the MDJTA Home Club Supervisor Vest on the outside of clothing for the duration of their responsibility as the Home Club Supervisor. At the conclusion of each doubles and singles match the score must be entered on the scoresheet, do not leave it until the end of the match to remember the scores. Team Captains must sign the scoresheet at the end of the match. The supervisor must sign the score sheets and note any breaches of the rules on the back of the sheet.

No comments or protests may be written on the scoresheet after both team captains have signed the scoresheet.

Teams are advised to take a photo of the front and back of the scoresheet each week for their own record.

14. Players must wear correct tennis attire. Acceptable shorts and shirts for the boys and skirts/shorts/dresses for the girls. Correct shoes must be worn especially (but not limited to) on en-tout-cas courts. Clubs can request to view the shoes and if they are not the correct type, can refuse to let players on the courts. *If in doubt ask your coach or club as to what they consider correct tennis attire.*
15. Matches shall commence no later than 5 minutes after the advised start time. The two doubles matches shall be played first. If there are only 3 players in attendance then a doubles and singles should be played. If a team is unable to do so, then the team will forfeit the doubles rubber that could not be played.

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16. All team members must be present within 15 minutes from the advised start time. If a player(s) is/are not present after 15 minutes, then they cannot take part in the match.

A team cannot win a match with only 3 players, but all singles and doubles matches that can be played should be played other than those of the players who were in excess of 15 minutes late.

If a club allows a player who is in excess of 15 minutes late to play in a match, then the club cannot subsequently claim any the sets played or the match as a forfeit.

17. Boys Sections 1 – 10 inclusive and Girls Sections 1 – 5 inclusive, play a 12 point tie break at 6 all if required in any set. All other sections play a straight six game set, i.e. first to 6 games.
18. Hit-ups are limited to 3 minutes for each set.
19. All players are expected to abide by Tennis Australia's "Rules for Matches Played Without a Chair Umpire". A copy of which is available on the MDJTA website.

Please note that a Club Supervisor is unlikely to be a qualified Court Supervisor or Referee but may act in their place to ensure all disputes are quickly settled and the matches continue promptly other than fitness of a court surface for play, in which case if there is a disagreement the match should not be played (or continued as the case may be) and the matter referred to the MDJTA committee for determination. See Section 23.2.

Any such disagreement must be noted on the back of the scoresheet and signed by both team captains and the entered by the delegate in the comments section in the online system.

Teams are advised to take a photo of the front and back of the scoresheet each week for their own record.

20. All players are subject to the Tennis Australia's Code of Behaviour – Weekly Competitions. A copy of which is available on the MDJTA website.

Should the Home Club Supervisor note any breach, the player will receive a warning and if a second incident occurs, the player will be forfeited. All details of any incident must be written down on the back of scoresheet and signed by both team captains. Incidents must be entered into the online system in the comments section at the same time as the results are entered.

No comments may be entered after both team captains have signed the scoresheet.

Teams are advised to take a photo of the front and back of the scoresheet each week for their own record.

21. MDJTA and the MDJTA Disciplinary Committee shall have the widest and most absolute power and discretion relating to its competition or any matter or thing arising from or in connection with its competition and without limiting the foregoing shall have the power and discretion at any time without giving or assigning any reasons therefore to:

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- (a) Demand from any club any information of any nature relating to any matter or thing from any match, and in the event of any club refusing or neglecting to supply such information to MDJTA within the time reasonably prescribed by MDJTA to suspend or disqualify such club from its competition for such time as MDJTA determines and to cancel points awarded to such club.
- (b) Demand the replay of any match wholly or in part, and to alter or extend the place, day or time for the playing of any match
- (c) Suspend or disqualify a player from its competition as a result of a player's conduct or behaviour arising from or in connection with a match.
- (d) Impose penalties whether by fine, suspension or disqualification or by forfeiture of points for any non-compliance or breach of any of these conditions.

In cases of serious mis-conduct the MDJTA reserves the right to refer the matter to Tennis Victoria and/or Tennis Australia.

A player serving a suspension from any member association of Tennis Australia is ineligible to compete in a MDJTA competition until that suspension has been served.

22. All matches are decided on **Games**. If games are equal then the match is decided on sets. If games and sets are equal, the match is declared a draw, other than for finals, in which case see Section 28.

Teams will receive 4 points for a win, 2 points each for a draw, plus 1 point for each set won. No points will be awarded for a Bye. In the event of a washout or heat out, points will be awarded for any sets completed and the 4 points for the "win" will be split between the two teams.

23. The Association supports Tennis Australia's Extreme Weather Policy, a copy of which is available on the MDJTA website and has adopted or bettered the regulations for competitions involving players under 16 years of age.

23.1 Extreme Heat

Where the forecasted temperature determined 1 hour prior to the scheduled start of play for the Moorabbin Airport is a WBGT (as determined via the BOM website) of 34 C or greater or an Ambient Temperature of 35 C or greater, play for the day will be cancelled and an announcement made on the MDJTA website. Any matches played in violation of this rule will be treated as a draw.

The Home Club Supervisor must ensure that where, during Saturday morning the WBGT is identified as 34C or greater or the Ambient Temperature 35 C or greater play must cease on completion of the current game. The Association reserves the right to investigate any match that has been completed in violation of this rule where other matches have been stopped.

Scoresheets must be completed and entered into the online system.

23.2 Wet Weather (Other than for finals, in which case see Section 30)

In the event of wet weather, sufficient for the Home Club to consider that no play would be possible within the scheduled timeframe for the match, then the Home Club should contact the Away Club Delegate to advise of a washout as early as possible on the Saturday morning of the match. No matches are to be determined a washout prior to the Saturday morning of the match.

The Home club should enter the score sheet on-line as a washout including names of players, where known. Away teams should email the Records Secretary the names of players for their team by 7.00pm Sunday night.

Washouts count towards finals eligibility and for Section Awards at the end of the Season, Clubs are recommended to ensure that names are included by 7.00pm Sunday night, no late advice of names will be accepted.

If the team does not receive advice of a washout then they should proceed to the match venue.

In the event of wet weather during a match, play may be discontinued and conditions reassessed to determine whether play should continue. The Home Club Supervisor should ensure that the court surface and surrounds are safe for play. It is essential that each court is inspected to determine if matches can be resumed.

In the event of a disagreement between the teams as to the fitness of the courts to start or continue a match then the match shall not be played and the matter referred to the MDJTA committee for determination.

Where the MDJTA Committee determines that a team disagrees as to the fitness of a court to protect a final's position the MDJTA Committee may award the match against that team. The MDJTA Committee will consider a number of issues such as, but not limited to, general weather conditions, matches played at the same venue matches played at similar localities.

When both teams are at a venue the scoresheet is to be completed and signed by the Team Captains.

23.3 Lightning

When thunderstorms threaten, the Home Club Supervisor should ensure that all players and spectators where possible are inside a safe shelter during a thunderstorm. Where lightning can be seen or thunder heard there is already a risk. Home Club Supervisors should use the 30-30 lightning rule.

If the flash to bang count approaches 30 seconds all individuals should be inside safe shelter. Play shall not be allowed to continue until 30 minutes after the last thunder sound or observation of lightning. Each time lightning is observed or thunder is heard the 30 minute clock should be restarted.

23.4 High Winds

High winds have the potential to create dangerous conditions for players and spectators. Where these winds create unreasonable risks the Home Club Supervisor may suspend the match until the winds abate.

Indications of risk would be on court furniture or fixtures disturbed, fences damaged, items being blown onto the court or the force of the wind threatening player health.

23.5 Smoke

Smoke is a by-product of a number of other extreme conditions including weather and can create a possible risk for people with certain conditions i.e. asthma and heart conditions. The Home Club Supervisor must be aware of these extreme conditions and take necessary steps to suspend or cancel play in the case of a significant potential risk.

24. The Home Club Supervisor is to ensure that no adults or others interfere with play (other than in subsection d> below):

- a>. no line calling, scoring or coaching from a player's entourage (parent, family member, coach or friend) from outside the court area.
- b>. no filming or videoing (by any means) of any
- c>. no adults are to enter the playing area during a match.

Should the Supervisor note any interference the player from that team will receive a warning and if a second incident occurs, the player will be forfeited.

A report is then to be submitted by the Home Club Secretary along with a copy of the score sheet (front and back pages) to the President of the Association for investigation by the Association's disciplinary committee.

- d>. For the first four rounds of each season the lowest section of boys and lowest section of girls will be subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. A Parent / Carer may enter the court and standing at the net post at the side of the court:
 - i. Correct the score once the players have called the score;
 - ii. Direct the server to have 2 balls with them before they serve and correct them if they are serving from the wrong side;
 - iii. Prompt the players to return the balls to the server, under the net;
 - iv. Direct when to change ends;
 - v. Encourage loud calls of in/out, fault (other than into the net) and not to return faults.

2. A Parent / Carer on the court **cannot**:
- i. be assisting on their own child's court;
 - ii. advise on technique;
 - iii. advise on where to stand at the start of and during the point.

Teams are advised to take a photo of the front and back of the scoresheet each week for their own record.

25. The Home Team must pass the scoresheets to their Club Delegate for entry into the online system by no later than 7.00pm on the Sunday night following the match.

Any incidents noted by the Home Supervisor on the Scoresheet must be entered into the Comments section in the online system by 7.00pm on the Sunday night with the match results. Clubs failing to enter the results will be subject to a fine as listed in Section 33.

If a score sheet is deemed to be "missing" (red asterisk on the ladder), the Club responsible must forward the information to the Record Secretary no later than the Friday following the publication of the Ladder.

Failure to attend to this matter will result in all points being awarded to the Away Team.

26. All protests by Clubs on any match related matter must be submitted by the Club Secretary or other executive committee member by email or in writing, to reach the Secretary of the Association by the Tuesday following the match.

The Association will not act upon protests where clubs do not abide by this requirement, unless the Association decides in its sole discretion to investigate any matter brought to its attention.

Finals

27. At the conclusion of the Home and Away matches the highest point scoring 4 teams shall play off in a final series. The highest scoring team shall be Team 1 and the 4th highest scoring team shall be Team 4. Any ties shall be determined by the highest % of games of the teams.

Order of Play for Finals Series:

Semi- Finals: Team 1 plays Team 2 with the winner going straight into the Grand Final.
Team 3 plays Team 4 with the loser being eliminated from the finals series.

Preliminary Finals: The loser of the Teams 1 and 2 match will play the winner of the Teams 3 & 4 match. The loser of this match is eliminated and winner goes to the Grand Final.

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Grand Final: Winning team from the Semi-Final Team 1 v Team 2 match plays the winner of the Preliminary Final.

Both Grand Final team's members will receive trophies at a presentation ceremony to be held immediately the Grand Final at a nominated venue. The Association will provide 5 trophies per team, competing clubs should advise the Record Secretary on grand final day when lodging scoresheets if they require further trophies. Clubs will be invoiced for the additional trophies.

All Finals matches will be played at venues as determined by the Committee.

28. Players must have played at least 4 matches during the current season, with 3 of those matches played prior to the last three matches; with that team or a lower graded team within their Club.
29. There are no draws in the finals series. Where games and sets are equal at the conclusion of the match, one doubles set will be played. Any two players (that participated in the match) can be nominated to play in this doubles. The doubles match will consist of a 6 game set, tiebreak at 6-all for Boys Section 1 – 10 and Girls Sections 1 – 5 and a straight 6 game set for all other sections. This will ensure a decision in the match.
30. In the event of wet weather in a finals match, **ALL** players must turn up regardless of the weather. Teams must wait 30 minutes before calling a washout unless agreed by both Team Captains. Scoresheet is to be completed and signed by the Team Captains. This sheet should be taken when the match is re-scheduled.
30. The Committee reserves the right to determine the rescheduling of all finals matches.
31. A maximum of 6 eligible players can play in a finals match.
32. Each team must supply four good used balls for finals along with a scoresheet.

Awards

33. The Committee reserves the right to determine the awarding of all trophies

Section 1

33.1 Ron Cummins Trophy

The Ron Cummins trophy is awarded to the best performed player at the No. 1 position in the Boys Section 1. To be eligible a player must play at least 70% of the season's matches in the No.1 position only.

33.2 Phyl Crowther Trophy

The Phyl Crowther trophy is awarded to the best performed player at the No. 1 position in the Girls Section 1. To be eligible a player must play at least 70% of the season's matches in the No. 1 position only.

33.3 Strachan Shield

The Strachan Shield is presented to the team with the highest games percentage over the season.

33.4 Section 1 Achievement Awards

Achievement awards are made to the next best performed player in both Boys and Girls Section 1 regardless of their position in the team. Players must have played 70% of matches in the current season.

33.5. All Other Sections Achievement Awards

Achievement awards will be made for the best performed player in both boys and girls in all sections regardless of their position in the team. Players must have played 70% of matches in the current season.

34. Fines

Withdrawal of team after draw published (when sent to delegates)	\$50
Non- attendance at AGM – with an apology records	\$20
Non-attendance at AGM – without an apology recorded	\$40
Late entry of team result (later than 7.00pm Sunday night)	\$10 per team

35. Interpretation of these Rules and Conditions

Any question arising from or in connection with the MDJTA competitions or as to the interpretation or construction of these Rules and Conditions shall be determined by MDJTA in their absolute discretion.