



BY LAWS – ALL COMPETITIONS

MACEDON RANGES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 These By-Laws and Match Regulations once adopted shall not be repealed, or altered, nor added to without notice of motion given at least 21 calendar days before a meeting of the Macedon Ranges Tennis Association (MRTA) General Committee called to deal with the repeal, alteration, or addition to the By-Laws and Match Regulations. These By-laws apply to all MRTA competitions.
- 1.2 If any rules are deemed to cause hardship to a club, that club has the right of appeal to the MRTA General Committee for relief.
- 1.3 Ignorance of the rules shall not be regarded as an excuse for any breach thereof.
- 1.4 The MRTA is affiliated with Tennis Victoria. The order of precedence for the application of By-Laws and Match Regulations is MRTA then Tennis Victoria.
- 1.5 Before a team entry can be accepted for any Competition the associated club/s:
 - (a) must be a current financial member/s of the MRTA, and
 - (b) should be a current financial affiliated club/s of Tennis Victoria.
- 1.6 All players competing in MRTA organised competitions shall abide by the MRTA Code of Conduct. Non-observance and a failure to abide by the Code of Conduct will result in warnings and then penalties as deemed fit by the relevant Match and Permit Committee. Penalties may include, but not be limited to, a loss of games, loss of sets, deduction of premiership points and possibly even player suspensions.
- 1.7 All clubs will be invoiced their team registration fees by the MRTA- Clubs not paying these fees by the due date will be liable for a penalty as determined by the MRTA General Committee of up to, but not exceeding, 50% of the total registration fees due. Non-financial teams shall be ineligible to play in finals. Combined Club Teams shall be paid by the nominating clubs.
- 1.8 Correct tennis attire (including footwear), consistent with the MRTA Dress Code, must be always worn during matches. Non-observance may incur game penalties imposed by the Match and Permit Committee, as defined in the Dress Code.
- 1.9 All clubs must have a nominated MRTA Representative attend all four MRTA meetings, including the AGM, per year. Failure to attend any meeting will result in the offending club losing 2 premiership points per team entered in all MRTA competitions for the current season for every meeting not attended. The offending club will also be ineligible for any MRTA grant funding in the current financial year.



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2 COMPETITION/GRADING

- 2.1 All associated clubs shall supply to the relevant Match and Permit Committee a list of teams to be entered in the competition. Each team entry shall comprise a list of names of regular team members and emergencies and shall be submitted using the League Manager system. Team entries which comprise players of differing club affiliation can be submitted as Combined Club Teams. Combined Club Teams will list the ‘home’ club as the club team and the combined club as the team’s name. Team entries for the following season are due on the last home and away game in the current season or as directed by the relevant Match and Permit Committee.
- 2.2 Each person listed as an emergency player for a club, if agreed to by the player, can be listed on a Central Emergency List (CEL). CEL players will be graded pre-season to a section. Once a player is graded and on the CEL, that player will be able to fill in for any team at any club in the relevant competition. The CEL player can only play in either the section to which they have been graded or a higher section. CEL players do not need to obtain Match and Permit approval once they have been added to the Central Emergency List.
- 2.3 The relevant Match and Permit Committee will grade teams in accordance with these Bylaws. The relevant Match and Permit Committee will use all information available to them when grading teams/players, including but not limited to results from previous seasons.
- 2.4 In all competitions the relevant Match and Permit Committee will determine the section each team will play in. Consideration will be given to finishing ladder positions from the previous season, finals matches played, the composition of the team being entered into the competition and any other relevant information.
- 2.5 The relevant Match and Permit Committee shall provide a fixture of matches for the season between competing teams in each section. Matches shall be played as set out in the MRTA fixture. The relevant Match and Permit Committee shall arrange matches so that all teams in a section play all other teams in that section an equal number of times.
- 2.6 Only courts/venues that have been approved by the MRTA shall be used in competition.
- 2.7 When submitting teams, clubs shall allow a minimum of 1.5 courts per team.
- 2.8 The home team shall supply 4 new balls of a type endorsed by Tennis Australia, per match. For junior D grade matches, these balls should be green dot low compression balls as recommended by Tennis Victoria.



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- 2.9 **JUNIOR COMPETITION** - Each team **MUST** provide a minimum of one umpire per match for C grade and D grade matches, consisting of at least one central umpire per court. The umpires shall be adults. Players in C1 should be actively encouraged to self-score, however a responsible adult must remain courtside to supervise and intervene if necessary. Other players in C grades can be encouraged to self-score, although a responsible adult must always stand in the central umpires' position. Failure of teams to provide an umpire will result in a loss of 2 points.
- 2.10 **JUNIOR COMPETITION** – Players in grades A and B must play in relative ranked order as determined at the start of the season.
- 2.11 **JUNIOR COMPETITION** - Ranked order may be changed at the season midpoint only and the team re-submitted to the Junior Match and Permit Committee by listing the new order on the back of the first official score sheet for the second half of the season.
- 2.12 **JUNIOR COMPETITION** - Participants in finals matches must play in the relative ranked order of either the first or second half of the season. Whichever ranked order is chosen for the first finals match played by a team must be used for any other finals match played by that team in that season.
- 2.13 **JUNIOR COMPETITION** - Players playing in a position below their relative ranked order will be penalised by the loss of all games won by that player.



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- 3 FORMATS – ALL COMPETITIONS** The formats listed will be used for MRTA Competitions. The order of the sets listed are considered to be the Order of Play.

Junior A grade, B grade and C grade will use **Format no. 1** Teams consist of four players (any combination of male and female).

Junior D grade and Thursday Night Open will use **Format no. 2** Teams consist of four players (any combination of male and female).

Wednesday Night Women's will use **Format no. 2** Teams consist of four female players.

Saturday Afternoon Open will use **Format no. 3** Teams consist of four players (two male and two female).

Format No. 1 – Play shall be in the following order:

- 1st Doubles (players 1 and 2)
- 2nd Doubles (players 3 and 4)
- 1st Singles
- 2nd Singles
- 3rd Singles
- 4th Singles
- 3rd Doubles (players 1 and 3)
- 4th Doubles (players 2 and 4)

Format No. 2 – Play shall be in the following order:

- 1st Doubles (players 1 and 2)
- 2nd Doubles (players 3 and 4)
- 3rd Doubles (players 1 and 3)
- 4th Doubles (players 2 and 4)
- 5th Doubles (players 1 and 4)
- 6th Doubles (players 2 and 3)

Format No. 3 – Play shall be in the following order:

- Men's Doubles (players 1 and 2)
- Women's Doubles (players 3 and 4)
- 1st Mixed Doubles (1st Man & 1st Woman)
- 2nd Mixed Doubles (2nd Man & 2nd Woman)
- 3rd Mixed Doubles (1st Man & 2nd Woman)
- 4th Mixed Doubles (2nd Man & 1st Woman)

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4 PLAYERS/ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 **JUNIOR COMPETITION** - To be eligible to play in the summer competition, players must be under 18 years of age on September 30th of the year the summer competition starts. To be eligible to play in Section D, players must be 12 years or under.
- 4.2 **JUNIOR COMPETITION** - To be eligible to play in the Winter competition, players must be under 18 years of age on April 30th of the year the Winter competition takes place. To be eligible to play in Section D, players must be 12 years or under.
- 4.3 No player shall play in any team competing in an event organised by the MRTA unless they are a financial member of an affiliated MRTA club and has the approval of the relevant Match and Permit Committee. All players must have a Tennis Australia Tennis ID which needs to be linked to their Universal Tennis Ranking (UTR).
- 4.4 No player shall play with more than one club in the MRTA in the same season unless they are a CEL player. Members of a Combined Club Team are eligible to play for their nominating club in the same section or a higher section. Combined Club Team players must give priority to playing for their Combined Club Team.
- 4.5 A player cannot play below the grading allocated by the relevant Match and Permit Committee.
- 4.6 Teams needing an emergency player can use a player from their own club, a constituent club in the case of a Combined Club Team, or from the Central Emergency List. Teams may use any player from any team in their club, playing in the relevant competition, from the same section or below. Where a club has more than one team in a particular section, a player may play up to and including three matches in a team before being ineligible to play in other teams in that section. Once a player has played four or more matches for a team, they are ineligible to play in any other team in that section. A Match and Permit Authority (M&P Authority) is not needed in these situations.
- 4.7 Teams may also use players from their club, or one of the constituent clubs in the case of a Combined Club Team, who are not registered to play for a team in that season as an emergency player. In this case, a M&P Authority must be obtained from the relevant Match and Permit Committee and recorded on the official scoresheet where a paper scoresheet is used. The M&P Authority then remains valid for that player for the rest of the season. Any team playing a player/s whose eligibility does not comply with these Bylaws shall be penalised by the forfeiture of all games and sets in which the ineligible player/s takes part.
- 4.8 If a player, upon sustaining an injury or becoming ill during a set, is unable to continue play within 15 minutes of sustaining the injury or feeling unwell, then the opposing team shall be deemed to have won all remaining games in that set. For the purpose of these By-Laws, injury or illness is defined as any condition that renders the player unable to continue play.



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- 4.9 In the event that a player sustains an injury or illness, an emergency player may be used in subsequent sets. An emergency player may only be used if that player is eligible under these By-Laws.
- 4.10 Once the determination has been made that an emergency player is required, the emergency player must be available to play within 45 minutes unless both captains agree otherwise. Where possible, play of sets shall continue in the order shown on the score sheet until the arrival of the emergency player. If necessary, sets may be played out of order to minimise the delay caused by waiting for the emergency player.



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5 COMMENCEMENT/COMPLETION OF MATCHES

5.1 All matches shall commence at the stated time:

Junior Friday Night – 6.00pm

Junior Saturday Morning – 9.00am

Open Mixed Saturday Afternoon – 1.30pm

Wednesday Night Women's – 7.30pm

Thursday Night Open – 7.30pm

Matches may commence earlier by prior agreement of the two teams.

5.2 The home club is to ensure that the venue is open, and courts are ready for play at least 15 minutes prior to the advertised starting time for the match. Opening of the venue should include courts, clubrooms, access to toilets and access to first aid facilities.

5.3 Where a team is unable or unwilling to commence play 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, sets shall be forfeited in the following manner. One set shall be forfeited initially for each available court (up to and including two courts) and then one set shall be forfeited for every 30 minutes thereafter for each available court (up to and including two courts). Sets shall be forfeited in accordance with the order of play.

5.4 No team shall be compelled to continue after the designated finish time, except to complete sets already started. No sets are to be started after the designated finish time. If play is discontinued the match shall be declared a draw unless one team is in an unbeatable position in which case that team will be declared the winner. Points for any sets won before play is discontinued shall still be awarded in accordance with Bylaw 6.8. Premiership points will be awarded equally for any sets not completed or played.

Finish times for each competition are:

Junior Friday Night – 10.00pm

Junior Saturday Morning – 12.30pm

Open Mixed Saturday Afternoon – 5.00pm

Wednesday Night Women's – 10.30pm

Thursday Night Open – 10.30pm



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6 RESULTS

- 6.1 Both captains shall list the names of team members on the score sheet prior to the commencement of each match. Players shall play each set in the nominated order based on the competition format and in accordance with the order of play on the score sheet. Notwithstanding this, sets may be played out of order with the agreement of both captains.
- 6.2 All results must be recorded into the Match Centre system, preferably on match day or by 6pm on the following day. Paper score sheets are available on the MRTA website where required. The results on the score sheet must show particulars of each set played including names of each player and must be signed by both captains. Junior matches must complete an official paper scoresheet and email to mrta_tennisscores@umpire.com by 6pm on the Sunday following the match. Failure to adhere to this bylaw, in any part, will result in an automatic penalty of 2 premiership points.
- 6.3 Any player whose name appears on a score sheet received by the relevant Results Coordinator will be deemed to have played in that match.
- 6.4 Sets shall be won by:
- JUNIOR sections B1 and lower; all sets shall be first to six games with no advantage or tiebreaker.
- JUNIOR doubles in sections A3 and higher; sets shall be first to six games with no advantage or tie-breaker.
- JUNIOR singles in sections A3 and higher; shall be the first player to reach six games with a two-game advantage or, if that does not occur, seven games with a two-game advantage, shall be the winner. If a set reaches six games all, a standard tie-breaker (first to 7 points with a 2 point advantage) shall be played to determine the winner.
- SATURDAY OPEN all sets shall be first to seven games with a two-game advantage. If a set reaches six games all a standard tie-breaker (first to 7 points with a 2 point advantage) shall be played to determine the winner.
- WEDNESDAY NIGHT WOMEN’S all sets shall be first to six games with no advantage or tiebreaker.
- THURSDAY NIGHT OPEN all sets shall be first to six games with no advantage. If a set reaches five games all a standard tie-breaker (first to 7 points with a 2 point advantage) shall be played to determine the winner.
- 6.5 The team winning the greatest number of games in a match shall be the winner and shall receive two premiership points. (Thursday night teams will receive 4 premiership points)
- 6.6 In the event of the games being equal, the team winning the greatest number of sets shall be the winner and receive two premiership points. (Thursday night teams will receive 4 premiership points)

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- 6.7 In the event games and sets are equal, the match will be declared a draw, and each team will receive one premiership point. (Thursday night teams will receive 2 premiership points each)
- 6.8 In addition to the premiership points awarded for a win or draw, one premiership point shall be awarded to each team for each set won by that team.
- 6.9 The **HOME** team is responsible for entering the match results. Failure to do so will result in an automatic penalty of two premiership points unless a reasonable excuse is received by the relevant Results Coordinator.
- The **AWAY** is responsible for reviewing and approving (or raising a dispute if necessary) the scores in Match Centre before the next scheduled match.
- 6.10 If results are not lodged, or errors in the lodged results are not identified, within a period of one week following the match, the currently published version of the premiership ladder will stand as correct.
- 6.11 In the event of an incomplete or incorrect score sheet being received by the relevant Results Coordinator, the home team will be penalised two premiership points for second and subsequent offences. For first offences, the relevant Match and Permit Committee will notify the offending team by email.
- 6.12 In the event of a match being abandoned or not played, the **HOME** club must ensure the score is entered by the due time.



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7 INCLEMENT WEATHER – RAIN, HEAT, FIRE

- 7.1 In the event of inclement weather, teams must attend the courts where matches are scheduled, unless prior agreement between both team managers has been reached. Matches are to be abandoned if no play is possible by one hour after the scheduled start time. Matches may be abandoned prior to this time by the agreement of both team managers.
- 7.2 Due to the greater distances required for some teams to attend matches, readily available resources such as the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecast and radar should be used to better manage unnecessary travel, especially when extreme weather events are forecast and known prior to the match. Other recognised Government agencies such as State Emergency Service (SES) warnings and Country Fire Authority (CFA) warnings may be utilised.
- 7.3 If a match is not played owing to rain, heat or fire, the match shall be declared a draw and all available premiership points for the match shall be shared equally between the two teams. If a match is started but then discontinued owing to rain, heat or fire, the match shall be declared a draw unless one team is in an unbeatable position in which case that team shall be declared the winner. Premiership points for any sets won before play is discontinued shall still be awarded in accordance with By-Law 6.8. Premiership points for sets not completed when a match is discontinued shall be shared equally by the two teams.
- 7.4 On days of extreme heat, the managers of each team shall measure the temperature in the centre of the court out of direct sunlight. Should the temperature be 34 degrees Celsius or higher, no play shall take place. If a match is commenced and there is a perception of an increase in temperature during the match, the temperature may be remeasured prior to the commencement of a new set. Should the temperature now be 34 degrees Celsius or higher, play is to cease. Play can be halted at any time by agreement of the team managers. In the event of a Total Fire Ban being declared in the Central Fire District of Victoria, there will be no matches played and all points will be shared equally between the teams.
- 7.5 Notwithstanding, the relevant Match and Permit Committee can unilaterally cancel all play on any given day due to rain, heat, fire or other extreme circumstances as they seem fit.



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8 FORFEITS

- 8.1 In the event of a team not having the required number of players to form a full team, then the team shall forfeit such sets that the absent players would have participated in.
- 8.2 In the event of a match forfeit, the team receiving the forfeit shall be deemed to have won all games/sets in the match.
- 8.3 A fine shall be imposed on, and payable by, any Club Team or Combined Club Team forfeiting a match. A fine of \$20 shall be imposed for each forfeited match.
- 8.4 A fine of \$100.00 shall be imposed on, and payable by, any Club Team or Combined Club Team withdrawing from the competition after grading has been finalised at the relevant Match and Permit Committee meeting convened to grade teams. All matches on the fixture applying to the team concerned, including those already played, will be deemed a bye and the ladder adjusted accordingly.



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9 FINALS

- 9.1 At the end of the home and away matches, the four teams leading on premiership points shall enter the finals round which will be, Format A or Format B, as determined by the relevant Match and Permit Committee before the season commences. wa

Format A

First Semi-Final - 3rd team vs 4th team

Second Semi-Final - 1st team vs 2nd team

Preliminary Final - loser Second Semi-Final vs winner First Semi-Final

Grand Final - winner Second Semi-Final vs winner Preliminary Final

Format B

First Semi-Final – 1st team vs 4th team

Second Semi-Final – 2nd team vs 3rd team

Grand Final - winner First Semi-Final vs winner Second Semi-Final

- 9.2 In the event of teams being equal on premiership points at the end of the home and away matches, the premiership ladder, and therefore the teams that will play in the finals round, shall be decided on percentage. Percentage is defined as the ratio of games won to games lost multiplied by 100.
- 9.3 The relevant Match and Permit Committee shall have absolute discretion to determine the location of all finals matches. Where possible, Semi and Preliminary finals matches will be scheduled to play at the home venue of the team that finished higher on the ladder. The venue for Grand final matches shall continue to be determined by the relevant Match and Permit Committee. The relevant Match and Permit Committee shall take into consideration the playing of multiple finals at central venues and other considerations that may arise from time to time. **JUNIOR** Finals matches are to be umpired as per home and away matches, see 2.9.
- 9.4 A player who has not played in at least three home and away matches with their club or, in the case of a Combined Club Team their constituent club, shall not be eligible to play in a final round match. Matches played for a Combined Club Team count as having been played for the relevant constituent club.
- 9.5 A player may only play finals round matches for one team per season. This rule shall not apply if a player is required to play in a finals match in a higher grade than the one in which he or she normally plays.
- 9.6 An emergency or CEL player may be used so long as that player satisfies the normal player eligibility rules.
- 9.7 Each team playing in a finals match is to provide one pair of new balls for the match.



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- 9.8 In the event of a semi or preliminary final round match not being completed due to inclement weather or TFB, the match shall be recommenced from the last completed game. The recommenced match shall be rescheduled for some other time but must recommence prior to 5pm on the Sunday of the same week. If the match still cannot take place due to inclement weather or TFB, then the team placed higher on the ladder at the end of the home and away season wins. In the event of a rescheduled finals match, emergency player/s or substitute player/s are permitted as long as they are eligible, and they are allowed to complete any incomplete sets.
- 9.9 In the case of a grand final match not being completed due to inclement weather or TFB, the match shall be recommenced from the last completed game. The recommenced match shall be rescheduled for some other time but must recommence prior to 5pm on the Sunday of the same week, unless alternate arrangements are put in place by the MRTA. If the match cannot take place during the same week, due to inclement weather or TFB, then the team named first on the grand final draw will be declared the winner. The MRTA Match and Permit Committees reserve the right to vary these arrangements to suit specific season/s issues. When alternative arrangements need to be made to accommodate finals, notification will be sent to each clubs relevant Co-Ordinator prior to the matches being played. These alternate arrangements will become the rules of play for the specific finals' series. The location of the recommenced match shall remain the same unless the relevant Match and Permit Committee advise otherwise. In the event of a rescheduled finals match, emergency player/s or substitute player/s are permitted if they are eligible, and they are allowed to complete any incomplete sets.
- 9.10 In a finals match, if at the end of play teams are equal on both games and sets, then the match shall be decided by a standard tie-breaker set (first to 7 points with a two point advantage). The Captains or Team Managers of the JUNIOR, WEDNESDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S and THURSDAY OPEN teams shall select any two of their players to play the deciding tie-breaker set. The SATURDAY OPEN Captain shall choose one Man and one Woman to play the deciding tie-breaker set.
- 9.11 **JUNIOR COMPETITION** - Teams competing in finals matches may choose to substitute one player (in the case of 5 player teams) or two players (in the case of 6 player teams), etc. in either (or both) of the last two doubles sets listed on the scoresheet with other team members who have not yet played that day. Players being substituted into the match must meet normal eligibility rules and be permanent members of the team, having been registered with the team. Substitute players must play in the position number of the player they are replacing. At the start of play, the names of possible substitute players must be listed on the back of the official scoresheet as player 5 and player 6, etc. (as appropriate). If the Team Manager chooses to make a substitution in line with this Clause, they must inform the opposing Team Manager before the substitution is made. This Clause in no way restricts a team from replacing a player due to injury at any point in a finals match.



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10 PROTESTS

- 10.1 All disputes and protests shall be dealt with by the Relevant Match and Permit Committee, at a special meeting which shall be called for that purpose.
- 10.2 All protests must be submitted in writing and must be in the hands of the relevant Match and Permit Committee within 4 days of the match being played.
- 10.3 The President and Secretary of the protesting club must sign all protests.

Protests considered by the relevant Match and Permit Committee to be frivolous will incur a penalty of \$50.00.

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