

**JUNIOR COMPETITION  
BY-LAWS AND MATCH REGULATIONS**

**Updated September 2020**

**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- 1.1 These By-Laws and Match Regulations once adopted shall not be repealed, or altered, nor added to without notice of motion given at least 21 calendar days before a meeting of the Macedon Ranges Tennis Association (MRTA) General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.
- 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 the Junior Competition the associated club/s:
  - (a) must be a current financial member/s of the MRTA, and
  - (b) must 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 Junior 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.

**2 COMPETITION/GRADING**

- 2.1 All associated clubs shall supply to the Junior 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 on the official team entry form provided on the MRTA website. Team entries which comprise players of differing club affiliation can be submitted as Combined Club Teams. All team entries must state whether the team is a Club Team or a Combined Club Team. Team entries for the following season are due on the last home and away game in the current season. The Junior Match and Permit Committee shall determine the home court location for each Combined Club Team, after consultation with the relevant club Junior Coordinators if required. The home court club will then be responsible for the administration of the Combined Club Team
- 2.2 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. Team registration fees for Combined Club Teams shall be paid by the nominating clubs at proportional rates. For Combined Club Teams, the penalty for late fees shall be paid by each constituent club in proportion to the number of players from that club registered in the team.

## MRTA – JUNIOR COMPETITION

- 2.3 The Junior Match and Permit Committee will grade teams in accordance with these Bylaws. The Junior Match and Permit Committee will use all information available to them when grading teams/players, including results from previous seasons.
- 2.4 In any section, except the top section, the teams playing in the previous grand final will be promoted to the next highest section unless unable to field a satisfactory team, or other circumstances make this inappropriate. In any section, except the bottom section, the two teams finishing lowest after home and away matches will be relegated to the next lowest section unless a club fails to field an appropriate team, or other circumstances make this inappropriate.
- 2.5 The Junior 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 Junior 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 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 Correct tennis attire (including footwear), consistent with the MRTA Dress Code, must be worn at all times during matches. Tennis attire should be able to retain/hold a tennis ball not in use, e.g. pockets in trousers/shorts, stretch undershorts with skirts/dresses or the addition of a ball holder. Non-observance may incur game penalties imposed by the Match and Permit Committee, as defined in the Dress Code.
- 2.9 The home team shall supply one pair of new balls and one pair of used balls in good condition per match. For D grade matches, these balls should be green dot low compression balls as recommended by Tennis Victoria.
- 2.10 Each club must provide at least one adult supervisor per team to supervise matches and to ensure that play is as continuous as practicable. For sections C1 and below, each team is to provide one adult umpire. For sections B3 and above, umpires are not required unless requested by any team member.
- 2.11 The Junior Match and Permit Committee may vary the level at which umpires are required to be provided as they see fit.

### **3 FORMAT – SUMMER & WINTER COMPETITION**

- 3.1 The default format of play shall be Format No. 5 for the two lowest sections and Format No. 4 for all other sections. Prior to the start of a season, the Junior Match and Permit Committee may select another format from the following list.

#### **Format No. 1 – Teams consist of two boys and two girls.**

Play shall be in the following order:

- 1st Boys Singles
- 1st Girls Singles
- 2nd Boys Singles
- 2nd Girls Singles
- Boys Doubles
- Girls Doubles

Updated: September 2020

MRTA – JUNIOR COMPETITION

1st Mixed Doubles  
2nd Mixed Doubles

**Format No. 2 – Teams consist of three boys and three girls.**

Play shall be in the following order:

1st Boys Doubles  
1st Girls Doubles  
2nd Boys Doubles  
2nd Girls Doubles  
3rd Boys Doubles  
3rd Girls Doubles  
1st Mixed Doubles  
2nd Mixed Doubles  
3rd Mixed Doubles

**Format No. 3 – Teams consist of two boys and two girls.**

Play shall be in the following order:

Boys Doubles  
Girls Doubles  
1st Mixed Doubles (1st boy and 1st girl)  
2nd Mixed Doubles (2nd boy and 2nd girl)  
3rd Mixed Doubles (1st boy and 2nd girl)  
4th Mixed Doubles (2nd boy and 1st girl)

**Format No. 4 – Teams consist of four players (any combination of boys and girls).**

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. 5 – Teams consist of four players (any combination of boys and girls).**

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)

Updated: September 2020

## MRTA – JUNIOR COMPETITION

### **Format No. 6 – Teams consist of six players (any combination of boys and girls).**

Play shall be in the following order:

1st Doubles (players 1 and 2)

2nd Doubles (players 4 and 5)

3rd Doubles (players 1 and 3)

4th Doubles (players 4 and 6)

5th Doubles (players 2 and 3)

6th Doubles (players 5 and 6)

7th Doubles (players 1 and 4)

8th Doubles (players 2 and 5)

9th Doubles (players 3 and 6)

### **Format No. 7 – Teams consist of three players (any combination of boys and girls).**

Play shall be in the following order:

1st Singles

1st Doubles (players 2 and 3)

2nd Singles

2nd Doubles (players 1 and 3)

3rd Singles

3rd Doubles (players 1 and 2)

- 3.2 Players in grades A and B must play in relative ranked order.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 Players playing in a position below their relative ranked order will be penalised by the loss of all games won by that player.

## **4 PLAYERS/ELIGIBILITY**

- 4.1 To be eligible to play in the Summer competition, players must be under 18 years of age on September 30<sup>th</sup> of the year the Summer competition starts.
- 4.2 To be eligible to play in the Winter competition, players must be under 18 years of age on April 30<sup>th</sup> of the year the Winter competition takes place.
- 4.3 No player shall play in any team competing in an event organised by the MRTA unless he or she is a financial member of an affiliated MRTA club, has the approval of the Junior Match and Permit Committee and is a registered player with Tennis Victoria.

Updated: September 2020

## MRTA – JUNIOR COMPETITION

- 4.4 No player shall play with any club unless he or she is a financial member of that club. Members of a Combined Club Team must be financial members of their nominating club. Similarly, no player shall play with a Combined Club Team unless he or she is a financial member of one of the constituent clubs for that Combined Club Team.
- 4.5 No player shall play with more than one club in the MRTA in the same season. Members of a Combined Club Team are eligible to play for their nominating club in the same section or above. Combined Club Team players must give first priority to playing for their Combined Club Team.
- 4.6 A player cannot play below the grading allocated by the Junior Match and Permit Committee.
- 4.7 If in need of an emergency player, teams may use any player from any team in their club from the same section or below. A Match and Permit Authority (M&P Authority) is not needed in this situation. Where clubs have more than one team in a particular section, refer to section 4.12 of the By-Laws regarding eligibility.
- 4.8 A Combined Club Team may use a player from any team in their section or below, from any of the constituent clubs, as an emergency player. Similarly, a Club Team may use a player from a Combined Club Team (for which their club is a constituent club) in their section or below, as an emergency player. An M&P Authority is not needed in these two situations. Notwithstanding the above, neither a Club Team or a Combined Club Team may use a member of the opposing team of the day, including members not playing on the day.
- 4.9 Teams may also use players from their club, or one of the constituent clubs in the case of Combined Club Teams, who are not registered to play for a team in that season as an emergency player. In this case, an M&P Authority must be obtained and recorded on the official score sheet as described in section 4.10 of these By-Laws. The M&P Authority then remains valid for the rest of the season. Any emergency player used must be a financial member of the applicable club in accordance with section 4.4 of these By-Laws. Teams failing to obtain an M&P authority for an unregistered player will be penalised in accordance with section 4.17 of these By-Laws.
- 4.10 Emergency players' names, usual club/section (if any) and M&P Authority details (name of Match and Permit Committee member granting the Authority) must be written on the official score sheet that is submitted to the Junior Results Coordinator. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of two premiership points being deducted from the offending team.
- 4.11 An emergency player must be eligible in accordance with sections 4.1 and 4.2 of these By-Laws, as applicable.
- 4.12 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. This By-Law applies to both Club Teams and Combined Club Teams.
- 4.13 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 points in that set.
- 4.14 For the purpose of these By-Laws, injury or illness is defined as any medical condition that renders the player unable to continue play.

Updated: September 2020

## MRTA – JUNIOR COMPETITION

- 4.15 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.
- 4.16 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.
- 4.17 Any team playing a player or players whose eligibility does not comply with these Bylaws shall be penalised by the forfeiture of all games and sets in which the ineligible player or players takes part.
- 4.18 To be eligible to play in Section D, players must be 12 years or under at the start of the season.
- 4.19 Upon an emergency player playing three games for any one team, the Junior Results Coordinator will notify the Match and Permit Committee. The club Junior Coordinator of that team will be advised of the player's grade suitability and ranking if required.

### **5 COMMENCEMENT/COMPLETION OF MATCHES**

- 5.1 All matches shall commence at 9.00am for the Summer and Winter competition. Matches may commence earlier by prior agreement of the two team managers.
- 5.2 Matches may be re-scheduled to play at any time prior to the scheduled time with the agreement of all members of both teams concerned.
- 5.3 At its discretion, prior to the commencement of a season, the Junior Match and Permit Committee may reschedule an entire section to a night session to alleviate court congestion. In this instance, matches are to commence at 6.00pm, or earlier by prior agreement of the team managers. No club is to be disadvantaged should the use of lights become necessary. The Junior Match and Permit Committee will give notice to all clubs of this change at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 5.4 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. Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation for not achieving this shall incur a \$25.00 fine at the discretion of the Junior Match and Permit Committee.
- 5.5 Where more than one court is available for playing a match, then the extra court capacity must be used. However, only two sets shall be played concurrently unless both captains agree to do otherwise.
- 5.6 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 20 minutes thereafter for each available court (up to and including two courts). Sets shall be forfeited in accordance with the order of play.
- 5.7 Unless team managers agree to continue the match, matches not completed by 12.30pm in the Saturday Morning competition shall be declared a draw unless one team is in an unbeatable position in which case that team will be declared the winner. If matches are

Updated: September 2020

## MRTA – JUNIOR COMPETITION

- discontinued, sets being played at 12.30pm shall be completed but no new sets shall be started. Points for any sets won before play is discontinued shall still be awarded in accordance with Bylaw 6.9. Premiership points will be awarded equally for any sets not completed or played
- 5.8 No umpire is required for sections A1 to B3. The team managers shall ensure that play is as continuous as practicable. A team member may request, and shall be provided with, an umpire should a problem arise.
- 5.9 Each team MUST provide a minimum of one umpire per match for C grade and D grade matches. Umpires are to be provided for sections C1 to D3, consisting of at least one central umpire per court. The umpires shall be adults associated with the teams playing the match. Players in C1 should be actively encouraged to self-score, 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 stand in the central umpires' position at all times. Failure of teams to provide an umpire will result in a loss of 2 points.

## **6 RESULTS**

- 6.1 Both captains shall complete the team sheet prior to the commencement of each match. Players shall play each set in the nominated order 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 Results shall be recorded on the official score sheet available on the MRTA website at [www.mrta.org.au](http://www.mrta.org.au). 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.
- 6.3 Any player whose name appears on a score sheet received by the Junior Results Coordinator will be deemed to have played in that match.
- 6.4 For sections B1 and lower, sets shall be first to six games with no advantage or tiebreaker.
- 6.5 When playing doubles in sections A3 and higher, sets shall be first to six games with no advantage or tie-breaker. When playing singles in sections A3 and higher, standard sets shall be played. That is, the first player(s) 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 12-point tie-breaker shall be played to determine the winner.
- 6.6 The team winning the greatest number of games in a match shall be the winner and shall receive two premiership points.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 In the event games and sets are equal, the match will be declared a draw and each team will receive one premiership point.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 The home teams are responsible for ensuring that score sheets are in the hands of the Junior Results Coordinator no later than the Wednesday following the match. Failure to

## MRTA – JUNIOR COMPETITION

do so will result in a penalty of two premiership points unless a reasonable excuse is received by the Junior Results Coordinator.

- 6.11 Home teams must lodge results electronically on the MRTA-approved results website no later than 8.00pm on the Sunday following the match, or earlier if requested by the Junior Match and Permit Committee. Failure to do so will result in an automatic penalty of two premiership points unless a reasonable excuse is received by the Junior Results Coordinator.
- 6.12 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.
- 6.13 In the event of an incomplete or incorrect score sheet being received by the Junior Results Coordinator, the home team will be penalised two premiership points for second and subsequent offences. For first offences, the Junior Match and Permit Committee will notify the team manager of the offending team by telephone or email and give them a sequence number for the offence. This sequence number shall be recorded by the Junior Match and Permit Committee as evidence that the team has been advised.
- 6.14 In the event of a match being abandoned, the home club must ensure the score sheet is received by the Junior Results Coordinator and that the result is lodged electronically by the due time.

### **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 6.9. 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

Updated: September 2020



## MRTA – JUNIOR COMPETITION

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.

### **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 as 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 in the match.
- 8.3 A fine shall be imposed on, and payable by, any Club Team or Combined Club Team forfeiting a match. For Combined Club Teams, the fine shall be paid by each constituent club in proportion to the number of players from that club that are registered in the team. 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 Junior Match and Permit Committee meeting convened to grade teams. For Combined Club Teams, the fine shall be paid by each constituent club in proportion to the number of players from that club that are registered in the team. All matches on the fixture applying to the team concerned, including those already played, will be deemed a bye and the ladder adjusted accordingly.

### **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 shall comprise Semi-Final, Preliminary Final and Grand Final matches as defined in Format A or Format B below. Format A will be used unless specified otherwise before the start of the season.

#### **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 Junior Match and Permit Committee shall have absolute discretion to determine the location of all finals. 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 Junior Match and Permit Committee. The Junior Match and Permit Committee shall take into consideration

Updated: September 2020

## MRTA – JUNIOR COMPETITION

- the playing of multiple finals at central venues and other considerations that may arise from time to time. Finals matches are to be umpired as per home and away matches, see 5.10 and 5.11.
- 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 in one 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 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.
- 9.8 In the event of a semi or preliminary final round match not being completed due to inclement weather, the match shall be recommenced from the last completed game. The recommenced match shall be rescheduled for some other time during the same weekend. Matches must recommence prior to 3pm on the Sunday. If the match cannot take place during the same weekend, due to inclement weather, then the team placed higher on the ladder at the end of the home and away season wins.
- 9.9 In the case of a grand final match not being completed due to inclement weather, the match shall be recommenced from the last completed game. The recommenced match shall be rescheduled for some other time during the same weekend. Matches must recommence prior to 3pm on the Sunday, unless alternate arrangements are put in place by the MRTA. If the match cannot take place during the same weekend, due to inclement weather, then the team named first on the grand final draw will be declared the winner. The MRTA Junior Sub Committee reserves the right to vary these arrangements to suit specific seasons issues. When alternative arrangements need to be made to accommodate finals, notification will be sent to the club Junior Co-Ordinators 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 Junior Match and Permit Committee advise otherwise.
- 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 12-point tie-breaker played by the last doubles/mixed doubles pairs as stated in the order of play.
- 9.9 In addition to other recognised responsibilities, finals players are expected to:
- Ensure courts are correctly cared for
  - Ensure facilities are not damaged and are left in at least as good a condition as they were found in
  - Abide by umpires' decisions
- 9.10 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 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

Updated: September 2020

## MRTA – JUNIOR COMPETITION

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 both the Match Supervisor and 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.

### **10 PROTESTS**

- 10.1 All disputes and protests shall be dealt with by the Junior 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 Junior Match and Permit Committee by 10.00am on the Wednesday following the match.
- 10.3 The President and Secretary of the protesting club must sign all protests.
- 10.4 Protests considered by the Junior Match and Permit Committee to be frivolous will incur a penalty of \$50.00.

Page