

NIGHT COMPETITION
BY-LAWS AND MATCH REGULATIONS

Revised: March 2019

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- 1.1 These By-Laws and Match Regulations once adopted shall not be repealed, or altered, nor added to without notice of motion given at least 21 calendar days before a meeting of the Macedon Ranges Tennis Association (MRTA) General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.
- 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 an affiliated association of Tennis Victoria. The order of precedence for the application of By-Laws and Match Regulations is MRTA then Tennis Victoria.
- 1.5 All clubs affiliated with the MRTA shall have public liability cover including, but not limited to, that which is provided by Tennis Victoria. All affiliation fees deemed payable by Tennis Victoria for such cover should be forwarded to Tennis Victoria by the due date nominated. Any club not forwarding such payment shall be suspended from all MRTA activities until payment is received.
- 1.6 All players competing in MRTA organised competitions agree to abide by the MRTA Code of Conduct. Non-observance shall incur penalties as deemed fit by the Night Match and Permit Committee within the guidelines provided in the MRTA Code of Conduct.

2 COMPETITION/GRADING

- 2.1 All associated clubs shall supply to the Night 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. Each team shall nominate the home court location for their team.
- 2.2 Each person listed as an emergency player for a club, if agreed to by the player, will be listed on a Central Emergency List which then allows them to fill in for any of the MRTA affiliated clubs. The emergency players will be graded pre-season and can only play in either the section to which they have been graded or a higher section.
- 2.3 At the commencement of each new season the MRTA will send an invoice to each club for the total amount of team registration fees owing for that particular season as specified by the MRTA. Clubs not paying these fees prior to the commencement of the finals 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 that are still outstanding, and club teams will not be permitted to play finals. Team registration fees for Combined Club Teams shall be paid by all of the nominating clubs at proportional rates.

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- 2.4 The Night Match and Permit Committee will grade teams in accordance with these By-Laws. The Night Match and Permit Committee will use all information available to them when grading teams/players, including results from previous seasons.
- 2.5 In any section, except the top section, the team winning the previous season 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 team 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.
- 2.6 The Night 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 Night 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.
- 2.7 Only courts that have been approved by the MRTA shall be used in competition.
- 2.8 When submitting teams, clubs shall allow a minimum of 1.5 courts per team for home matches.
- 2.9 Correct tennis attire (including footwear), consistent with the MRTA Dress Code, must be worn at all times during matches. Non-observance may incur game penalties imposed by the Night Match and Permit Committee.
- 2.10 The home team shall supply four (4) new first grade tennis balls of a type endorsed by Tennis Australia for competition play.

3 FORMAT

- 3.1 Teams shall consist of four players (any combination of men or women). All matches shall comprise six (6) sets.

Play shall be in the following order:

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

4 PLAYERS/ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 No player shall play in any team competing in an event organised by the MRTA unless he or she has the approval of the Night Match and Permit Committee and is a registered player with Tennis Victoria.
- 4.2 All players, whether registered team players or emergency players, must be financial members of clubs affiliated with the MRTA.
- 4.3 No player shall play with more than one club in the MRTA in the same season unless they are on the Central Emergency List. Players on the Central Emergency List must give priority to playing for their own club.

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- 4.4 A player cannot play below the grading allocated by the Night Match and Permit Committee, unless they are granted special approval by the Night Match and Permit Committee.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 If a player, upon sustaining an injury during a set, is unable to continue play within 15 minutes of sustaining the injury, then the opposing team shall be deemed to have won all remaining points and games in that set.
- 4.8 For the purpose of these By-Laws, injury is defined as any condition that renders the player unable to continue play. Injured players must be noted on the score sheet.
- 4.9 In the event that a player sustains an injury, 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.
- 4.11 Any team playing a player or players whose eligibility does not comply with these By-Laws shall be penalised by the loss of all games in every set in which the ineligible player or players takes part.

5 COMMENCEMENT/COMPLETION OF MATCHES

- 5.1 Matches will be played on the nights nominated by the Night Match and Permit Committee.
- 5.2 All matches are to commence at 7.30pm.
- 5.3 The home club is to ensure that the venue is open and courts are ready for play 15 minutes prior to the advertised starting time for the match. Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation for not achieving this shall incur a \$25.00 fine at the discretion of the Night Match and Permit Committee.
- 5.4 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 half hour thereafter for each available court (up to and including two courts). Sets shall be forfeited in accordance with the order of play.
- 5.5 No team shall be compelled to continue playing after 10.30pm, except to finish sets already started. New sets can only be started after 10.30pm if both team captains agree to complete the match. 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.

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Premiership points for any sets won before play is discontinued shall still be awarded in accordance with By-Law 6.8. Premiership points will be shared equally for sets not completed.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 Both team captains shall list the names of team members on the score sheet prior to the commencement of each match. A player 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. 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 M&P Committee will be deemed to have played in that match.
- 6.4 Sets are won by the team first reaching six games, whether or not they have a two game advantage. If a set gets to five games all, a standard 12 point tie-breaker shall be played to decide the winner.
- 6.5 The team winning the greatest number of games in a match shall be the winner and shall receive four (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 four (4) premiership points.
- 6.7 In the event that games and sets are equal, the match will be declared a draw and each team will receive two (2) premiership point.
- 6.8 In addition to the premiership points awarded for a win or draw, one (1) premiership point will be awarded to each team for each set won by that team.
- 6.9 Winning teams are responsible for ensuring that score sheets are in the hands of the person nominated on the score sheet by the end of the fourth day following the match. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of two (2) premiership points unless a reasonable excuse is received by the M&P Committee.
- 6.10 Winning teams must lodge results via email or SMS with the person nominated on the score sheet no later than 6.00pm on the Sunday following the match. Failure to do so will result in an automatic penalty of two premiership points unless a reasonable excuse is received by the person nominated on the score sheet.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 In the event of an incorrect or incomplete score sheet being submitted to the person nominated on the score sheet, the home team will be penalised two premiership points for second and subsequent offences. For first offences, the Night Match and Permit Committee will notify the captain 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 Night Match and Permit Committee as evidence that the team has been advised.

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- 6.13 In the event of a match being a draw or abandoned, the home club must ensure the score sheet is received by the person nominated on the score sheet 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, 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 mutual agreement of both team captains.
- 7.2 On days declared as Total Fire Ban in the local region of Victoria, all matches are to be cancelled and no tennis is to be played.
- 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 Notwithstanding, the Night Match and Permit Committee can unilaterally cancel all play on any given day due to rain, heat, fire or other extreme circumstances as they see fit.

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. The fine is \$20.00.
- 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 Night 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 final round which shall comprise Semi-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.

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Format A

- 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

Format B

- 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

The Night Match and Permit Committee may introduce other finals formats provided the format has been notified to participating clubs prior to the commencement of the season.

- 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 Night Match and Permit Committee shall have absolute discretion to determine the location of all finals round matches. The Night Match and Permit Committee shall take into consideration the benefits of playing multiple finals at central venues and other considerations that may arise from time to time.
- 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 player on the Central Emergency List, with any team, shall not be eligible to play in a finals 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 a season, unless they are on the Central Emergency List. 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 round match is to provide one pair of new balls for each match. The balls must be as specified in By-Law 2.10.
- 9.8 In the event of a semi-final or preliminary-final match not being completed due to inclement weather or Total Fire Ban, the team finishing higher on the ladder at the end of the home and away season will progress to the next round of the finals. These finals matches shall not be rescheduled to a later date.
- 9.9 In the event of a grand final match not being completed due to inclement weather or Total Fire Ban, the match shall be recommenced from the last completed game. The recommenced match shall be played on the same day the following week. The location of the recommenced match shall remain the same unless the Night Match and Permit Committee advise otherwise.

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- 9.10 In a finals match, in the event that at the end of play teams are equal on both games and sets, then the match shall be decided by the playing of a super tiebreaker. Each team captain shall select any two (2) of their players to play the deciding super tiebreaker.
- 9.11 In addition to other recognised responsibilities, finals round players are to ensure that courts are correctly cared for and facilities are not damaged and are left in at least as good a condition as they are found in.

10 PROTESTS

- 10.1 All disputes and protests shall be dealt with by the Night Match and Permit Committee, at a special meeting which shall be called for that purpose.
- 10.2 All protests must be submitted in writing or via email and must be received by the Night Match and Permit Committee by 10.00am on the Monday following the match.
- 10.3 The President and Secretary of the protesting club must sign all protests.
- 10.4 Protests considered by the Night Match and Permit Committee to be frivolous may incur a penalty of \$50.00.