



SENIOR DIVISION

Saturday Senior Pennant Rules [Season 2023-24]

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Governing Body** – Matches played in Senior Pennant Division shall be governed by the Rules and Constitution of the Mount Prospect Tennis Association (MPTA) where they apply. If any rules are not covered under the above, ruling from the governing body, Tennis Victoria, will be sought. The Senior Sub-committee reserve the right to confer with the MPTA Executive Committee over all matters.
- 1.2 Player Association Membership** – Season membership fees are set by the MPTA Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting held each year. Players who are listed on the official team entry registration must become a financial member of the Association by no later than 31 December of each season.
- 1.3 Fill-in or “Pool” Players** – An unregistered player can fill in for any grade/team(s) for up to 14 sets each season. A player filling in for any grade/team(s) for 15 sets or more within a season must become a registered financial member of the Association.
- 1.4 Dress** – Regulation tennis attire must be worn by participating players in matches. Regulation tennis footwear of flat rubber soles are to be worn to protect grass courts.
- 1.5 Balls** – The Association will provide all balls to be used in all matches as per MPTA Executive recommendations.
- 1.6 Referee** – The Senior Director and/or impartial delegated Senior Sub Committee member reserves the right to appoint a referee to officiate any set or match in the home and away or final series to maintain the integrity of tennis within the Association.
- 1.7 Disputes and Protests** – All teams referring disputes or protests to the Senior Division, shall forward in writing all particulars of the dispute/protest, to the Senior Director by no later than 8.00pm on the Tuesday after the match. The Senior Sub-Committee will deliberate the evidence presented of both teams concerned and shall give a decision by no later than the following Friday. The Senior Sub-Committees’ decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered in to.

2. SENIOR PENNANT COMPETITION

- 2.1 Integrity & Sustainability** – Where possible, the Saturday Senior Pennant Division will offer three grades of senior pennant competition to enable pathways for young and emerging players to maximize their playing potential, and to provide longevity of older players to remain competitive and engaged with the game of tennis. Any changes to rules, teams or grades will be done in the best interests of the sustainability of the Association as a whole and the integrity of all the competitions it provides, as directed by the MPTA Executive Committee.
- 2.2 Gender** – Men are not permitted to play in the Ladies section. Ladies can play in the Men’s Section under special circumstances. Any request for exception must be forwarded in writing to the Senior Sub-Committee five (5) days prior to the date of play, outlining the extenuating circumstances that apply. The Senior Sub-Committees’ decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered in to.
- 2.3 Weekly Team Ball Fees** – Are set each season by the Senior Sub-Committee under direction of the MPTA Executive Committee. These fees are to be paid weekly to the office by no later than 1:00pm. Balls and/or scorecard will be only be distributed on payment. Failure to comply will result in enforcement of Rule 2.4.

- 2.4 Commencement/Conclusion of Play** – All matches must commence by 1.00pm and conclude by 6.30pm. Teams are permitted a maximum of 15 minutes for a ‘warm-up’ prior to each set. A team not having a pair to commence play at 1:15pm shall lose one game for each 5 minutes late or delayed, and after fifteen minutes (ie: 1:30pm) forfeit the set. Where no sets have commenced play by 1.30pm, the offending team must forfeit the match, resulting in enforcement of Rule 2.5.
- 2.5 Forfeits** – Any team which forfeits a match shall be fined the teams’ ball fees for that day, provided that they notify the Senior Director/Senior Sub-Committee no later than 9.00am on the day of the match. A team failing to do this shall be fined the ball fees of both teams.
- 2.6 Wet Weather/Heat Committee** – The Senior Director/Senior Sub Committee may co-opt any other member of the Association to form a weather committee who shall have the power to cancel the days’ matches, with all team captains notified by text message by no later than 12:30pm. The Tennis Australia Extreme Heat Policy will be followed by all competitions within the Association.
- 2.7 Termination of Play** – In the event of rain or other circumstances preventing the completion of matches, play must continue past 3.00pm to constitute a match. If matches are cancelled after 3.00pm, the scores at the time will determine the match result. Any sets not played/completed will not get any points allocated.
- 2.8 Disruption of Finals Series** – In the event that matches cannot commence due to extreme heat, wet weather or other circumstances during the final series, the alternative arrangements will be made by the Senior Sub-Committee:
- First option will be to arrange an alternate venue
 - If option one is unavailable or untenable, option two will be that matches will be played on the following day
 - In the event that option one and two are unavailable or untenable, the third option will be that the team who finished highest on the ladder in the home and away season, will be awarded the premiership title.

3. TEAMS, GRADES & GRADING

- 3.1 Team Registration** – Each team shall forward to the Senior Director, the names and contact details of the team players, by the advertised date, via the official team entry sheet (see website). This will be considered the players “home team”.
- 3.2 Team Grading** – The Senior Sub-Committee reserve the right to re-grade teams based on strength of team and/or grade they have submitted to play, prior to the season commencing.
- 3.3 Team Matches** – Each match consists of three men’s doubles sets, three ladies doubles set, and three mixed doubles sets. Each team must provide a minimum of three (3) and maximum of (4) men; and minimum of (3) and maximum of four (4) ladies for each match. Format of pairs as per Rule 5.4 & 5.5.
- 3.4 Combining of Grades** – In the event that there are insufficient team entries for a grade at the beginning of a season, that grade will be combined into the next grade (higher or lower), at the discretion of the Senior Sub-Committee, depending on strength of teams and/or grade.
- 3.5 Splitting of Grades** – In the event that a grade has nine teams or more, the Senior Sub-Committee reserve the right to split that grade post-Christmas to form two sub-grades based on ladder standing and/or team results after Round 10. Post-Christmas, a revised draw will be played for these sub-grades for the remaining rounds, resulting in a main and reserve grade finals series.

4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 Game Day Play** – A player may only play in one team in one afternoon match in any week.
- 4.2 “Named” Players** – Teams shall name, with the approval of the Senior Sub-Committee, their best two men and two ladies – “named players” – and such players then cannot interchange between teams, in the same or lower grades. “Named” players can fill in for another team in a higher grade for no more than four (4) matches without prior approval of the Senior Sub-Committee.
- 4.3 “Listed” Players** – The other remaining players, recorded on the official team sheet, are known as “listed players” and may fill in with any other team in the same grade, or for higher or lower grades for no more than four (4) matches without prior approval from the Senior Sub-Committee.
- 4.4 “Pool” Players** – Any person not named on an official team entry sheet, is deemed a “pool” player, and may fill in for any team in any grade. Once that player has played 14 sets within the Senior Pennant competition in any grade/team, they must become a financial member of the Association (see Rule 1.3). Once a “pool” player has played 15 sets with the one team, that team becomes their “home” team for the remainder of the season.
- 4.5 Ladies: Exception to Rule 4.2 and 4.3** - Due to lack of numbers, any female player listed on a team registration can fill in for an opposing team in the same or higher grade for up to 14 sets without prior approval from the Senior Sub-Committee.
- 4.6 Finals** – All players (“named”, “listed” and “pool”) must play 15 sets within regular season rounds, with their “home” team during that season, and comply with Rules 3.1, 4.2, 4.3 & 4.4 to be eligible to play finals. Any request for exception to these rules must be forwarded in writing to the Senior Sub-Committee seven (7) days prior to the date of play, outlining the extenuating circumstances that apply. The Senior Sub-Committees’ decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered in to.
- 4.7 Breach** – Failure to comply with Rules 4.1 – 4.6 will result in the offending team losing the sets of the offending player. The offending player will receive no games and the non-offending team receive the set and full games.

5. MATCH RULES

- 5.1 Format of Sets** – Matches shall consist of nine (9) sets: three men’s doubles, three ladies’ doubles, and three mixed doubles, and all sets are to be played as Rule 2.4. Teams must nominate to the opposition team by 1:00pm if they are playing a 3 or 4 player combination for each gender, as per Rule 5.4 and 5.5.
- 5.2 Games in Sets** – An 8-game set shall be played with a tie break at 7 games all. The Senior Director/Senior Sub Committee has the right to reduce the number of games in sets, in special circumstances (ie: weather, availability of courts).
- 5.3 Player positions** – For the men’s doubles and ladies’ doubles sets, players are allocated positions 1 – 4 and are to play in those positions for the days play. Mixed doubles can be played in any pairing, in any order.
- 5.4 Format of Pairs (3 player combination)** – Players are nominated as positions 1, 2 & 3. Men’s/Ladies doubles 1 & 2; 1 & 3; and 2 & 3. All three players can play mixed doubles in any order.
- 5.5 Format of Pairs (4 player combination)** – Players are nominated as positions 1, 2, 3 & 4. Men’s/Ladies doubles 1 & 2; 1 & 3; and 2 & 4. Player positions 1, 3 & 4 can play mixed doubles in any order.
- 5.6 Order of Sets** – Captains may change the order of sets, by mutual agreement. Results of matches shall be decided on games but in the event of a draw, the match shall be decided on sets.

- 5.7 Score Cards** – The captain is responsible for completing names of players and pairings on the scorecard. Scorecard for men’s and ladies’ doubles must be completed prior to the commencement of the days play. Names of mixed doubles pairs must be completed prior to commencement of the mixed doubles sets, the captain of the winning team must return the score card, with the full names of players, scores for each set, final match result, and signed by both team captains, to the office on completion of the match.
- 5.8 Absent or injured players** – If after a players’ name has been added to the scorecard, and that player is absent or has been incapacitated by injury or illness during a set, then that set will be forfeited. The captain will have the right to substitute another registered player, of similar ability. The two captains shall decide by mutual consent where the substitute player shall be placed. Failing agreement, the opposing Captain shall have the final say in placing of the substituted player.
- 5.9 Premiership Points** – Premiership points for home and away matches shall be awarded as follows – 1 point for every set won and three points for winning the match. In a forfeit, all points are allotted to the team receiving the forfeit – 12 points.
- 5.10 Breach** – Failure to comply with Rules 5.1 – 5.8 will result in the offending team losing the sets of the offending player/team. The offending player/team will receive no games and the non-offending team receive the set and full gam



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