

### 1. REGISTRATION

- 1.1 Player Registration** – All players must complete the Mt Prospect Tennis Association/Tennis Victoria registration form and be paid in full by Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of November (4<sup>th</sup> round).
- 1.2 Team Allocation** – The allocation of teams will be created by the Junior Sub-Committee prior to the commencement of the season. Any changes to this will require approval from the Junior Sub-Committee.
- 1.3 Named Players** – Each team has to nominate the strongest player as the ‘named player’, who cannot fill in for any other team in their Section, by the end of play on 18 November 2023 (Round 6), unless otherwise stated. The named player can fill in for a team in any other Section that they are eligible for, as long as it complies with Rule 2.8.
- 1.4 Fill-ins** – An unregistered player can fill in for teams for up to three matches. A player filling in for any team for four matches or more must be registered with the Association by 31 December 2023.
- 1.5 Compliance** – Failure to comply with Rule 1.1, 1.3, or 1.4 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.

### 2. GENERAL RULES – ALL SECTIONS

- 2.1 Governing Body** – Matches played in Junior Pennant Division shall be governed by the Rules and Constitution of the Mount Prospect & District Tennis Association (MPDTA) where they apply. If any rules are not covered under the above, ruling from the governing body, Tennis Victoria, will be sought.
- 2.2 Rule Clarification** – Any clarification of a rule must be directed to the Section Coordinator or a member of the Junior Sub-Committee.
- 2.3 Score Cards** – Names must be completed before the commencement of play. No alterations are to be made after the card is filled in. Sets can be played out of order, but only if both teams agree. If there can be no agreement reached, then matches must be played in order of the card.
- 2.4 Start of Play** – The Office will open at 9:00am and all matches shall commence before 9:30am. Play shall halt at 12:00noon. A team not having a pair to play at 9:30am shall lose one game for each 5 minutes late, and after fifteen minutes one set. Where matches are not commenced by 10:00am the offending team must forfeit the match.
  - 2.4.1 \*\* Special note for hard court draw:** - when teams are required to travel to district courts, the above rule does not apply. A team not having a pair to play by 9:45am shall lose one game for each 5 minutes late and after fifteen minutes one set. Where matches are not commenced by 10:15am the offending team must forfeit the match.

- 2.4.2** Please note, the club who has visiting teams are responsible for having an adult present by 9:15am for children arriving to play. That club is also responsible for the balls and scorecards. The money and scorecards must be returned to MPDTA at completion of play.
- 2.5 Finish of Play** – All matches must be completed by 12:00 noon. On the conclusion of all sets within a match, completed score cards and balls are to be returned to the Office immediately to allow other matches access to those courts, if required. Please check with the Office before taking the nets down in case other sections need to use the courts, or if they can remain up for senior tennis in the afternoon.
- 2.6 Weather Impact** – In the event of inclement weather (rain, heat etc) preventing the completion of matches, play must continue past 10am to constitute a match, with the scores at time on cancelation, determining the match result.
- 2.7 Nets** – First named teams are to put the net up and umpire the first set. Second named teams are to take down the net, when required to do so (see Rule 2.5). Any damage noted to nets or posts to be reported to the Results/Court Coordinator.
- 2.8 Premiership Points** – Matches will be won on games and then sets. One point shall be awarded for each set won and three points shall be awarded for the outright win.
- 2.9 Playing Different Sections** – Any player can fill-in in an older age section, for no more than three matches in any one team. If a player is age eligible but playing in an older grade, they may come back to their age section to fill-in as long as they HAVE NOT played four matches in the grade they are named in to play.
- 2.10 Fill-ins** – When teams are unable to field a full team, they can utilize:
- A registered member of a team who has the BYE (if one exists in that Age Section) but is not a named player under Rule 1.3.
  - A registered member of another team in the same age section, whose player is standing out that week, but is not a named player under Rule 1.3.
  - A registered member of a younger Section.
  - An unregistered player (see Rule 1.4)
- 2.10.1** In the event that a named player is the only player available to fill in, then the named player must play for their own team, and another team member can fill in for the team that is short.
- 2.10.2** Note that a registered player from another team can only play three matches as a fill-in for any one team.
- 2.11 Injury During Play** – If injury occurs during play, the injured player must cease play and forfeit the remaining games of that set. A substitute player, who is registered in that team, or in a team in a younger section, can take such players place in remaining un-started sets only.
- 2.12 Incomplete Sets** – If a player needs to leave early and cannot fulfill their commitment of playing out any of their 3 sets, then the team must forfeit those sets. In the event that a set has commenced and needs to be forfeited, the non-offending team receives the set and full games, and the offending team receives their games won only.
- 2.13 Gender** – Boys are not permitted to play in the Girls section. Girls can play in the Boys Section under special circumstances and requires permission from the Junior Sub-Committee.

- 2.14 Breach** - Breaching of Rules 1.4, 2.8, 2.10, 2.10.1, 2.13, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1 will result in each set for which the breach occurred, that the non-offending team be given full games and the set, and the offending team to receive 0 games. Any request for exception to these rules must be forwarded in writing to the Sub-Committee, outlining the extenuating circumstances that apply. The Junior Sub-Committees' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 2.15 Disputes** – All disputes must be directed to the Junior Director via the Team Manager. The Junior Sub-Committees' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

### **3. SPECIFIC SECTION RULES – 17 & UNDER PENNANT MIXED**

- 3.1 Eligibility** – Players must be 17 years old, or younger, as at 31 December 2023.
- 3.2 Teams** – Consists of boys and girls. Shall comprise of three players. In the interest of fair play, good will and development, teams are asked that available players play strongest to least strong.
- 3.3 Singles matches** – In a match where each team has a girl, the girls shall play their singles match against each other.
- 3.4 Tennis Balls** – Standard tennis balls will be used for all matches during the Home/Away rounds and Finals series.
- 3.5 Games/Sets/Matches** – Players will be expected to umpire themselves. Each match is a total of 6 sets – Doubles 1&2; 1&3; 2&3 and Singles 1; 2; 3.
- 3.5.1 Normal Match Play (Grass or Hard Courts):** Play first to 6 (normal deuce) and 5-all tie break.
- 3.5.2 Wet Weather Match Play (Hard Courts):** First to 6 games (sudden death deuce) and no tie break. "Sudden death deuce" involves the next point after deuce played to the forehand court and the winner of the point wins the game.
- 3.6 Finals** – Please also note all Rules listed under 9. FINALS. Any request for exception to these rules must be forwarded in writing to the Junior Sub-Committee one week prior to the date of play, outlining the extenuating circumstances that apply. The Junior Sub-Committees' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

### **4. SPECIFIC SECTION RULES – 14 & UNDER PENNANT MIXED**

- 4.1 Eligibility** – Players must be 14 years old, or younger, as at 31 December 2023.
- 4.2 Teams** – Consists of boys and girls. Shall comprise of three players. In the interest of fair play, good will and development, teams are asked that available players play strongest to least strong.
- 4.3 Tennis Balls** – Standard tennis balls will be used for all matches during the Home/Away rounds and Finals series.
- 4.4 Games/Sets/Matches** – Players will be expected to umpire themselves. Each match is a total of 6 sets – Doubles 1&2; 1&3; 2&3 and Singles 1; 2; 3.
- 4.4.1 Normal Match Play (Grass or Hard Courts):** Play first to 6 (normal deuce) and 5-all tie break.

**4.4.2 Wet Weather Match Play (Hard Courts):** Play first to 6 games (sudden death deuce) and no tie break. "Sudden death deuce" involves the next point after deuce played to the forehand court and the winner of the point wins the game.

**4.5 Finals** – Please also note all Rules listed under 9. FINALS. Any request for exception to these rules must be forwarded in writing to the Junior Sub-Committee one week prior to the date of play, outlining the extenuating circumstances that apply. The Junior Sub-Committees' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

## **5. SPECIFIC SECTION RULES – 12 & UNDER PENNANT MIXED**

**5.1 Eligibility** – Players must be 12 years old, or younger, as at 31 December 2023.

**5.2 Teams** – Consists of boys and girls section. Shall comprise of three players. In the interest of fair play, good will and development, teams are asked that available players play strongest to least strong.

**5.3 Tennis Balls** – Standard tennis balls will be used for all matches during the Home/Away rounds and Finals series.

**5.4 Games/Sets/Matches** – Players will be provided with an on-court duty parent for all matches to support players with scoring. Each match is a total of 6 sets – Doubles 1&2; 1&3; 2&3 and Singles 1; 2; 3.

**5.4.1 Normal Match Play (Grass or Hard Courts):** Play first to 6 (normal deuce) and 5-all tie break.

**5.4.2 Wet Weather Match Play (Hard Courts):** Play first to 6 games (sudden death deuce) and no tie break. "Sudden death deuce" involves the next point after deuce played to the forehand court and the winner of the point wins the game.

**5.5 Finals** – Please also note all Rules listed under 9. FINALS. Any request for exception to these rules must be forwarded in writing to the Junior Sub-Committee one week prior to the date of play, outlining the extenuating circumstances that apply. The Junior Sub-Committees' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

**5.6 Round Robin Series** – In the absence of a ladder in the girls section, and thus a Finals series, all players will play in a round robin competition on the weekend of the Semi-Finals.

## **6. SPECIFIC SECTION RULES – 10 & UNDER PENNANT MIXED**

**6.1 Eligibility** – Players must be 10 years old, or younger, as at 31 December 2023.

**6.2 Teams** – Consists of boys and girls section. Shall comprise of three players. In the interest of fair play, good will and development, teams are asked that available players play strongest to least strong.

**6.3 Tennis Balls** – Green dot medium compression tennis balls will be used for all Home/Away rounds and Finals series as per Tennis Victoria guidelines.

**6.4 Games/Sets/Matches** – Players will be provided with an on-court duty parent for all matches to support players with scoring. Each match is a total of 6 sets – Doubles 1&2; 1&3; 2&3 and Singles 1; 2; 3.

**6.4.1** Normal Match Play (Grass or Hard Courts): Play first to 4 (normal deuce) and no tie break.

**6.4.2** Wet Weather Match Play (Hard Courts): Play first to 4 games (sudden death deuce), and no tie break. "Sudden death deuce" involves the next point after deuce played to the forehand court and the winner of the point wins the game.

**6.5** **Finals** – Please also note all Rules listed under 9. FINALS. Any request for exception to these rules must be forwarded in writing to the Junior Sub-Committee one week prior to the date of play, outlining the extenuating circumstances that apply. The Junior Sub-Committees' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

**6.6** **Round Robin Series** – In the absence of a ladder in the girls section, and thus a Finals series, all players will play in a round robin competition on the weekend of the Semi-Finals.

## **7. SPECIFIC SECTION RULES – 11 & UNDER DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION**

**\*\* Subject to change - dependent upon on registrations.**

**7.1** **Eligibility** – Players must be 11 years old, or younger, as at 31 December 2023.

**7.2** **Teams** – Consists of a mixed gender. Due to a shortage of registrations in this section, the committee have made modifications to ensure members are still able to play at least three sets each. As a developmental competition, players are encouraged to rotate positions each week.

**7.3** **Tennis Balls** – Orange dot low compression tennis balls will be used in all Home/Away rounds as per Tennis Victoria guidelines.

**7.4** **Games/Sets/Matches** – Players will be provided with an on-court duty parent for all matches to teach players how to play the game. Match structure may vary week to week and depends on number of available players – Doubles match sheets have been created for various numbers – i.e. two teams of 4, 6 and 8 players.

**7.4.1** Normal Match Play (Grass or Hard Courts): Play first to 4 (sudden death deuce) and no tie break.

**7.4.2** Wet Weather Match Play (Hard Courts): Play best of 4 games (sudden death deuce). "Sudden death deuce" involves the next point after deuce played to the forehand court and the winner of the point wins the game.

**7.5** **Skill Development** – The purpose of this development competition is to teach players the rules and etiquette of the game, and to continue to develop skills. Modified rules include:

- Players are encouraged to serve overhead and can stand anywhere between service line and base line to achieve this.
- A score card is to be completed, however there will be no ladder kept for this competition.

**7.6** **Round Robin Series** – In the absence of a ladder, and thus a Finals series, all teams will play in a round robin competition on the weekend of the Semi-Finals.

## 8. FORFEIT

- 8.1 Negotiate Change of Date** – A team unable to field a team on game day due to school or other important commitments, can arrange with the opposing team’s agreement, to play this match prior to set date of match or apply Rule 8.2.
- 8.2 Ball Fees** – Any team forfeiting a match has to notify the Junior Director and the opposing team by 8.00 a.m. on the morning of play and is responsible for their team’s ball fees only. If a team fails to do this, they shall be responsible for both teams’ ball fees.

## 9. FINALS

- 9.1 Eligibility for Finals** – To be eligible to play finals, a player must:
- Be a MPDTA registered player by 31 December 2023.
  - Have played a minimum of four matches with that team during the Home & Away rounds.  
\*\* Exceptional circumstances permission may be granted by Junior Sub-Committee. Team Managers must request in writing to the Junior Director a week prior to match.
- 9.2 Weather Interference (Semi-Finals)** – In semi-final matches in all grades, should rain interfere and cause matches to be abandoned the teams finishing first and second in the Home/Away rounds will go into the grand-final. This will also apply if the match has commenced and is interfered by rain and a result has not been obtained.
- 9.3 Weather Interference (Grand Final)** – In finals matches in all grades, should rain interfere and cause matches to be abandoned after they have commenced, the following will apply: unless a result has been obtained, the team finishing highest on the ladder in the Home/Away rounds shall be declared the winner.
- 9.4 Weather Interference (Both Finals)** – If both semi-finals and grand-final are washed out the team finishing highest on the ladder at the end of the Home/Away rounds is declared the winner.
- 9.5 Drawn matches** – In the event that a match is a draw with the same amount of games and the same amount of sets, the match will be awarded to the team who finished highest on the ladder in the Home/Away rounds.
- 9.6 Score Cards** – Card must be completed before the commencement of play and agreed upon by both Team Managers. No alterations are to be made after the card is filled in. Sets can be played out of order, but only if both teams agree. If there can be no agreement reached, then matches must be played in order of the card. It is the Team Managers responsibility to agree on all scores entered.
- 9.7 Playing Best/All Players** – The decision whether to play all registered team players, or to conduct play-offs to determine the strongest players to represent the team, is at the discretion of the Team Manager. This needs to be communicated to all players and families by 16 December 2023.

**9.7.1 Playing Additional Numbers (Team of 3 with 4 players)** – For teams playing 4 players, the 4<sup>th</sup> player shares the number three position and plays the last doubles. For example:

| Players listed: | Play Doubles: | Play Singles: |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1               | 1&2           | 1             |
| 2               | 1&3a          | 2             |
| 3a              | 2&3b          | 3a            |
| 3b              |               |               |

**9.7.2 Playing Additional Numbers (Team of 4 with 5 players)** – For teams playing 5 players, the 5<sup>th</sup> player shares the number four position and plays the middle doubles. For example:

| Players listed: | Play Doubles: |        |        |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|--------|
| 1               | 1 & 2         | 1 & 3  | 1 & 4a |
| 2               | 3 & 4a        | 2 & 4b | 2 & 3  |
| 3               |               |        |        |
| 4a              |               |        |        |
| 4b              |               |        |        |

## 10. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

**10.1 Eligibility for Junior Championships** - A player must be:

- a. Age appropriate as per Rule 3.1, 4.1, 5.1 or 6.1
- b. Be a MPDTA registered and paid member by 31 December 2023.
- c. Played four matches within the Home and Away season.

**10.2 Count Back** – If two players are equal on sets and games, then a count back is to be done – the player who has lost the least amount of games overall, is the winner.

**10.3 Tennis Balls** – Sections 17&U, 14&U 12&U will use standard tennis balls, and 11&U will use green dot medium compression tennis balls in line with Tennis Victoria Tournament Rules.

## 11. UMPIRES

**11.1 Clarification of Rules** – Any queries are to be directed to the Section Coordinator. ‘How to Umpire Tennis’ information is also included in the Score Folders.

**11.2 Court Area** – Only the umpire and children playing are to be in the court area.

**11.3 Teaching Players to Score** – In the 10&U grades, the umpire is encouraged to teach the players to score themselves and may be required to assist with player court positions.

**11.4 Serving** – Under arm serving is allowed as there is no rule in tennis that bans it. Please note you cannot bounce the ball and then hit it. Note that all players are encouraged to persist with an overhead serve as part of their development.

**11.5 Foot Faults** – An umpire cannot take points off for foot faults at anytime – unless there is an additional line umpire to call foot faults.

**11.6 Penalties** – Umpires are able to apply the following penalties for behavior violations on court, as per the Tennis Victoria guidelines:

- 1st offence           Code Violation (like a warning)
- 2nd offence         Point Penalty
- 3rd offence         Match Default

**11.7 Request for Umpires (14&U and 17&U)** – In the event that players are unsure of a scoring process (eg: tie-break) or are in regular dispute, an independent umpire can be requested via the Section Coordinator. Players can request assistance from the Team Manager/Duty Parent. Parents are to remain away from the courts during play to encourage players to manage themselves.

## 12. WET WEATHER

**12.1 Cancellation** – The Committee Member who is elected as the ‘Wet Weather Caller’ will consult with the Junior Director in any decision to cancel competitions or tournaments. Announcements will be made on the MPTA Team App and the MPDTA Junior Division Facebook page, and a text message to all Team Managers, who have the responsibility to forward it on to players.

## 13. SPORTSPERSONSHIP

**13.1 Code of Conduct** – All players, families and spectators must abide by the Tennis Victoria Code of Conduct ([www.tennis.com](http://www.tennis.com)) and ‘Play by the Rules’ conditions set out by the Australian Sports Federation ([www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)). Any breach of these rules will be managed using the disciplinary policies set out by the governing bodies listed above, and may involve a warning, request to leave the premises, or banning of the player or family from any further competition (depending upon the severity and frequency of the breach).

**13.2 Tennis Etiquette** – Encourage court etiquette and good manners at all times. No bad language, don’t argue with your opponent, your partner or the umpire. No racquet abuse. The umpire’s decision is final. Players must shake hands at the end of the match and thank the umpire (if present). Any breach of this will be managed using the disciplinary policies set out by the governing bodies listed, and may involve a warning, request to leave the premises, or banning of the player or family from any further competition (depending upon the severity and frequency of the breach).

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