

# THE BAROSSA & LIGHT TENNIS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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## **1. Registration**

- 1.1 All Clubs are to affiliate with The Barossa & Light Tennis Association and pay the prescribed fee, set at the Annual General Meeting, to the Association Treasurer by the 31<sup>st</sup> December each year. The Association Secretary is to send invoices by the 31<sup>st</sup> October Each Year.
- 1.2 All Clubs are to affiliate with Tennis S.A. and pay the prescribed club affiliation fee by the relevant due date.
- 1.3 All Players are to ensure they have a Tennis Australia Online Account.
- 1.4 All Clubs are to ensure that all their members, of any Team Squad, have a Tennis Australia Account.
- 1.5 Any Player may have their registration cancelled, whereupon they may become eligible for a fresh registration subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

## **2. Courts**

- 2.1 Courts must be clearly and properly lined.
- 2.2 A center net measuring stick must be supplied that is 914mm high(+/- 10 mm).
- 2.3 A minimum of 2 courts shall be provided for any Competition Match.
- 2.4 Clubs shall endeavor to provide a center strap for each court.
- 2.5 Clubs must ensure that courts and facilities are ready for play at least 15 minutes prior to the stated commencement time of a match.
- 2.6 Lights for night tennis are the responsibility of the host club and the home team. They must be in working order prior to the stated commencement time of a match.
- 2.7 All Club courts used for Association matches must be made available for finals matches.
- 2.8 All Club courts used for Association matches must be made available for Association Tournaments and Inter-Association matches.

## **3. Equipment**

- 3.1 Balls used must be as approved by the Executive Committee. Brand of Tennis Balls.
- 3.2 The number of balls required for each division shall be decided at the AGM each year.
- 3.3 The type of ball required for each division shall be decided at the AGM each year.
- 3.4 The home club are to provide equipment to remove water from the court surface in times of wet weather.

## **4. Teams**

### **4.1 Nominations**

- 4.1.1 All team nominations are to be submitted via MATCH CENTER or LEAGUE MANAGER.
- 4.1.2 All team nominations are to be submitted to the association on or before 28th of September each year.

**4.1.3** All clubs are to attend an Open and Junior nomination meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday after 28<sup>th</sup> September each year.

**4.1.4** All competition directors are to finalize and publish all programs on or before the 12<sup>th</sup> October each year.

## **4.2 Team Grading**

**4.2.1** Teams may be promoted or relegated at the discretion of the executive.

**4.2.2** Each Division shall have an even number of teams with a minimum of six (6) except in the lowest Division. The Association Executive has the discretion to alter this rule.

**4.2.3** When arranging the draw, power shall be given to the Executive Committee to place teams nominated in divisions as required to allow for an even number of teams in each Division.

## **4.3 Team Members**

**4.3.1** A Fifth Player may be used in all Senior Competitions, including finals. A Player must play a minimum of 2 sets to be deemed a qualifying match in regards to finals.

**4.3.2** A Fifth player must be named on the MATCH CENTER scorecard and the opposing captain notified before play begins.

**4.3.3** A Fifth & Sixth Player may be used in all Junior Competitions, including finals. A player must play a minimum of 1 set to be deemed a qualifying match in regards to finals.

**4.3.4** All players must be entered in MATCH CENTER or LEAGUE MANAGER.

## **4.4 Order of Merit**

**4.4.1** Order of merit means that players are ranked in order of their ability in relation to the other players from their club who are playing in the same competition. Order of merit rules are to apply after round 4 of any competition.

**4.4.2** Order of merit shall be determined primarily, but not solely, by the players' recorded Match Center Player Rating. Teams may obtain an order of merit exemption by contacting a member of the Association Executive.

**4.4.3** Clubs deemed to have players playing out of order of merit will be required to provide a written explanation to relevant competition director.

### **4.4.4 Single Set matches**

- Players shall play in order of merit.
- Player Match Center single rating will be used to determine the order of merit.

### **4.4.5 Doubles matches**

- Any pairing of players may be used to form a doubles combination.
- The highest rated player must contest the top doubles. JTL/FTL.
- The highest rated player must contest the top reverse doubles. FTL.
- The highest rated male player must contest the top doubles. MTL/WTL.
- The highest rated male player must contest the top reverse doubles. MTL/WTL.
- The highest rated female player must contest the top doubles. MTL/WTL.
- The highest rated female player must contest the top reverse doubles. MTL/WTL.

**4.4.6 Mixed Doubles Matches MTL/WTL.**

Men are to play in their order of merit. Women can play out of order of merit.

If a fifth man is playing, they are to be put into the team line up according to order of merit.

**4.4.7** Clubs having 2 or more teams in one division, the clubs shall endeavor to make the teams of equal strength. JTL/FTL Only.

**4.4.8** Clubs having 2 or more teams in one division, players must maintain their identity with a particular team after the 4<sup>th</sup> match unless prior approval of the executive has been granted.

**4.4.9** During all finals matches, players must maintain their position according to the order of merit entered in their first final.

**4.4.10** When a player returns from absence, the team must be filled in order of ranking from the previous match played by the returning player unless prior approval of the executive has been granted.

**4.4.11** A regular player from a higher Division cannot play in a lower Division when the players' team, for any reason has no match, except with the consent of the Executive Committee.

**4.4.12** Players from the Division above or below filling a position within the team must maintain their identity with that team after playing 4 matches for that team.

**4.4.13** When a Club enters more than one team in the same Division, players must maintain their identity with a particular team after the 4<sup>th</sup> match unless prior approval of the Executive has been granted.

**4.4.14** If any Club has reason for dispute, the Secretary of that Club can approach the Secretary of the Association to verify that dispute through the records before the dispute is officially lodged.

**4.5 Order of Play**

**4.5.1** JTL matches will commence with singles and conclude with doubles.

**4.5.2** MTL & WTL matches will commence with doubles, followed by reverse doubles and conclude with mixed doubles.

**4.5.3** FTL matches will commence with doubles, followed by singles and conclude with reverse doubles

**4.6 Alteration to the Order of Merit**

**4.6.1** After the first four minor round matches a player cannot be raised more than one relative position per week nor dropped more than one relative position per week.

**4.6.2** During finals, all players must play in order of merit as per approved final team listings and the "one relative position per week" rule does not apply.

## **4.7 Bye**

- 4.7.1** A bye does **NOT** qualify a as played programmed match.
- 4.7.2** A team having a bye is **NOT** required to submit a scoresheet.
- 4.7.3** A team having a bye must not play any player in a division lower than where that player has played 4 or more matches, unless otherwise allowed by the Executive Committee.

## **4.8 Match/Set Forfeit**

- 4.8.1** The first 2 sets of any match, as determined by the order of play, shall commence no later than 30 minutes after the start time of any match, failure will result in the set/sets being forfeit.
- 4.8.2** Any player that cannot commence a set, as determined by the order of play, prior to 60 minutes after the start of a match will result in all their sets of that match being forfeit.
- 4.8.3** In the event of a team forfeiting a match in the minor round, the opposing team shall be credited with the highest number of points, sets and games, which it could possibly have won if the match had been played.
- 4.8.4** In the event of any set or sets having to be forfeited due to unforeseen non-attendance, absence, late arrival, illness or injury, the sets forfeited shall be those that the forfeiting player would have played.
- 4.8.5** A team forfeiting a match must not play any player in a division lower than where the player has played 4 or more matches, unless otherwise allowed by the Executive Committee.
- 4.8.6** For Association responses to forfeit, refer to Section **11. Forfeits.**

## **4.9 Finals Eligibility**

- 4.9.1** STL - Finals eligibility will be determined by the BLG.
- 4.9.2** FTL - A player shall qualify to play in finals matches if that player has played Four (4) programmed matches (including matches not concluded) for a team in the competition in which the player wishes to play finals.
- 4.9.3** WTL - A player shall qualify to play in finals matches if that player has played Four (4) programmed matches (including matches not concluded) for a team in the competition in which the player wishes to play finals.
- 4.9.4** MTL - A player shall qualify to play in finals matches if that player has played Four (4) programmed matches (including matches not concluded) for a team in the competition in which the player wishes to play finals.
- 4.9.5** JTL - A player shall qualify to play in finals matches if that player has played Four (4) programmed matches (including matches not concluded) for a Club in the competition in which the player wishes to play finals.
- 4.9.6** Any player that has played Four (4) matches in the JTL shall qualify to play FTL, MTL, WTL finals matches, for any team associated with their club.
- 4.9.7** Juniors shall be allowed to play as many senior games as they like without being ineligible for junior finals.

**4.9.8** A player shall not be permitted to play in finals matches in a division lower than the division in which that player has played the majority of matches.

**4.9.9** A player shall not be permitted to play in finals matches in a division lower than the division in which that player has played 7 matches.

**4.9.10** Any player who has played in a finals round match in a higher competition/division shall not be allowed to play in a finals round match in a lower competition/division unless that player acted only as a reserve for the higher competition/division.

**4.9.11** Fifth and Sixth Players must meet all eligibility criteria.

#### **4.10 Team lists for finals**

**4.10.1** The highest ranked player in the team or segment of the team, must have a player rating that is no more than 2 points higher than any other player.

**4.10.2** The second ranked player in the team or segment of the team, must have a player rating that is no more than 2 points higher than all other remaining players.

**4.10.3** All other team rankings are at the discretion of the team captain.

**4.10.4** Any league that contests singles will use the T.A. singles player rating.

**4.10.5** Any league that does not contest singles will use the doubles player rating.

**4.10.6** Player positions shall remain unchanged throughout the finals.

#### **4.11 Withdrawal of teams.**

**4.11.1** After the programme has been finalised, Clubs shall only withdraw teams from their lowest division upwards, unless the executive committee accepts an alternative arrangement.

## **5. Conduct Of Matches**

### **5.1 General Conduct**

**5.1.1** All matches shall be conducted under the rules of tennis as determined by the International Tennis Federation. (ITF)

**5.1.2** All matches shall be conducted according to the document -

Matches Played without a Chair Umpire, as adopted by Tennis Australia.

<https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Rules-for-matches-without-chair-umpire-2013-latest.pdf>

**5.1.3**

### **5.2 Match Times**

**5.2.1** STL Matches to start at 1:00 P.M. Saturday

**5.2.2** MTL, WTL, FTL Matches to start at 7:00 P.M.

**5.2.3** JTL Matches to start at 8:30 A.M. Saturday

### **5.3 Warm Up**

**5.3.1** A maximum of three (3) minute warm-up is allowed in all competitions.

## **5.4 Late Arrival**

**5.4.1** Players must be present and ready to play by the scheduled starting times.

**5.4.2** Any claim on set forfeit has to be logged in the comments section of the Match result.

**5.4.3** Open Tennis - If a set (singles or doubles) cannot commence within 15 minutes of the allocated court being available because of player unavailability, that set shall become forfeit. Within Reason.

## **5.5 Non-Attendance**

**5.5.1** In the event of any set or sets having to be forfeited due to unforeseen non-attendance, absence, late arrival, illness or injury, the sets forfeited shall be those that the forfeiting player would have played.

## **5.6 Match Formats**

### **5.6.1 Junior Tennis League (JTL).**

Teams to comprise 4 to 6 players, with no gender requirements.

All matches to include 4 singles and 2 doubles matches.

All singles matches are to commence before doubles matches commence.

#### **The Lowest Division of JTL Shall:**

Play sets first to four games no Tiebreak.

No advantage games throughout the set (Sudden Death Games).

Play with Orange, Low compression tennis balls.

#### **The Second Lowest Division of JTL Shall:**

Play sets first to Six games no Tiebreak.

No advantage games throughout the set (Sudden Death Games).

Play with Orange, Low compression tennis balls.

#### **The Highest 2 divisions of JTL Shall:**

Play Tiebreak set at 6 games all.

Advantage games throughout the set (Deuce Games).

Play with Yellow, Normal compression tennis balls.

#### **All Subsequent Divisions of JTL Shall:**

Play sets first to Six games no Tiebreak.

Advantage games throughout the set (Deuce Games).

Play with Green, Low compression tennis balls.

### **5.6.2 Monday Tennis League (MTL).**

Teams to comprise up to minimum 4 men and 4 women.

All matches to include 4 x mens, 4 x womens, and 4 mixed doubles sets.

All sets to play a tie break at 6 games all.

### **5.6.3 Wednesday Tennis League (WTL).**

Teams to comprise a minimum 4 men and 4 women.



All matches to include 4 x mens, 4 x womens, and 4 mixed doubles sets.

All sets to play a tie break at 6 games all.

**5.6.4 Friday Tennis League (FTL).**

Teams to comprise 4 to 6 players, with no gender requirements.

All matches to include 4 x doubles and 4 x singles sets

All sets to play a tie break at 6 games all.

**5.6.5 Senior Tennis League (STL).** All STL formats are at the discretion of the BLG combined committee.

**5.7 Tiebreaks**

**5.7.1** Tiebreaks shall be a standard 12 point tiebreak (first to 7 points with a margin of 2).

**5.8 Toss**

**5.8.1** The choice of ends and the right to be server or receiver in the first game shall be decided by a toss. The player winning the toss may choose, or require the opponent to choose:

- a. To be the server or receiver, in which case the other player shall choose the end, or
- b. The end, in which case the other player shall choose to be the server or receiver.

## **5.9 Umpires**

An umpire must be provided whenever requested by a player. That umpire will be selected by mutual agreement of both captains.

## **5.10 Clothing**

Appropriate tennis attire shall be worn.

## **5.11 Tea**

The home team must provide afternoon tea for STL matches.

# **6. Premiership Points**

## **6.1 Determining the winning team**

The team scoring the most amount of sets shall be the winner of the match.

If the sets are equal, then the team with the greater amount of games will be the winner of the match.

If both sets and games are equal, the match shall be drawn.

A winner can be determined in an unfinished match only if that team is in an unbeatable position.

## **6.2 Allocation of points for decided matches**

2 points for the winning team, 1 point for any set won allocated to both teams.

## **6.3 Allocation of points for undecided matches**

1 point and an equal split of sets for any match that cannot conclude with a winning team.

This includes matches affected by heat or wet weather.

## **6.4 Allocation of points for forfeited matches**

The team receiving the forfeit shall receive 2 points plus all possible set points

## **6.5 Allocation of points for team in a bye**

Teams that have a bye will receive 1 point and half of the available set points.

## **6.6 Allocation of points affected by program change**

If a team is regraded, their table points will carry over to any division they are placed in.

## **6.7 Premiership Table**

The premiership table will be sorted by premiership points followed by set percentage.

# **7. Premiership Awards**

**7.1 JTL** – Teams that win a grand final will be presented with a winners' medal and a grade pennant.

**7.2 MTL** – Teams that win a grand final will be presented with a grade pennant.

**7.3 WTL** – Teams that win a grand final will be presented with a grade pennant.

**7.4 FTL** – Teams that win a grand final will be presented with a winners' medal and a grade pennant.

## 8. Finals

- 8.1 At the conclusion of the minor round of matches, a finals round shall be played.
- 8.2 **JTL** – All Divisions will play will play a 2 round finals format.
  - 1 to play 4 with the winner entering the grand final.
  - 2 to play 3 with the winner entering the grand final.
- 8.3 **MTL** - All Divisions will play will play a 2 round finals format.
  - 1 to play 4 with the winner entering the grand final.
  - 2 to play 3 with the winner entering the grand final.
- 8.4 **WTL** - All Divisions will play will play a 2 round finals format.
  - 1 to play 4 with the winner entering the grand final.
  - 2 to play 3 with the winner entering the grand final.
- 8.5 **FTL** - All Divisions will play will play a 2 round finals format.
  - 1 to play 4 with the winner entering the grand final.
  - 2 to play 3 with the winner entering the grand final.
- 8.6 The manner of playing finals rounds may be varied at a meeting of delegates, should circumstances warrant such an alteration.
- 8.7.a If a tied match occurs during any final, MTL/WTL, the first doubles matches are to play a standard 12point tiebreak, where each tiebreak counts as a set. If still tied then total tiebreak points are to decide the match. Repeat process if still tied.
- 8.7.b If a tied match occurs during any final, JTL/FTL, the singles matches are to play a standard 12point tiebreak, where each tiebreak counts as a set. If still tied then total tiebreak points are to decide the match. Repeat process if still tied.
- 8.8 The major round of matches shall be played on neutral courts unless mutually agreed otherwise by the competing teams, with the executive committee having the choice of courts available.
- 8.9 The major round of matches shall be played in such order that the Senior Saturday Grand Final shall conclude the season.
- 8.10 The opposing Clubs shall each be responsible for the provision of new balls, with the number of new balls being decided at the delegates meeting.
- 8.11 A referee will be appointed by the Executive to attend all finals venues. (Night Tennis, only if requested by any competing team).
- 8.12 A player shall not be permitted to play in finals matches in a division lower than the division in which that player has played the majority of matches.

## 9. Online Scoring

- 9.1 The association is to generate all online scoresheets through Match Center.
- 9.2 Each team shall, prior to the commencement of the match, enter their team lineup in the Match Center match scorecard.
- 9.3 The Association is responsible for training club secretaries in the use of all online portals used by Tennis Australia. Any Queries on their use must be resolved before the season commences each year.
- 9.4 Match scorecard are to be completed for every round, including byes or weather-related cancellations. The scorecards determine finals eligibility.

## **10. Transfers**

- 10.1** Players may play for any team within a competition until they complete 4 matches with a particular team, at which time they will not be permitted to play for a different team in the competition.

## **11. Forfeits**

- 11.1** If an opposition player disputes the application of a forfeit, their sets must be played and the dispute details forwarded to the Association Secretary within 96 hours of the match.
- 11.2** The Association Executive shall endeavor to respond within 96 hours of receiving the dispute.
- 11.3** Any team that forfeits 4 complete matches can apply to be removed from their competition.

## **12. Disputes**

- 12.1** All disputes MUST be recorded in the comments section of the Match Center match report, no dispute may be entered after 96 hours of the scheduled match time.

## **13. Matches not concluded or Temporarily Suspended**

- 13.1** In the event of a cessation by consent of both captains, a decided but unfinished match shall be deemed to have been completed.
- 13.2** The executive committee shall have the power to abandon or cancel any or all Association matches because of inclement weather.
- 13.3** Matches affected by high temperature will follow the Association heat policy as stated in the appendix.
- 13.4** Matches affected by wet weather may be abandoned by mutual consent of the captains no earlier than 1 hour before the commencement time of a match.
- 13.5** Matches affected by wet weather may be abandoned by either team after a lost time of play of 1 hour after the commencement time of the match.
- 13.6** No player can be forced to play on wet and/or slippery courts.
- 13.7** No player can be forced to play if lightning is of concern.
- 13.8** A match can be suspended if lightning is a concern for players.
- 13.9** A finals match that is abandoned due to high temperature or inclement weather will **NOT** be replayed. The team with the higher ladder position after the minor round will be deemed the winners.

## **14. Junior Tennis Leagues**

- 14.1** Juniors Shall be 17 years and under as at the 1<sup>st</sup> October preceding the Competition start.
- 14.2** Each team shall consist of 4 to 6 players, as a result a player may play singles, doubles or both in 1 match.
- 14.3** Each team shall provide adult supervision, any Junior team not having an adult supervisor shall forfeit the match.
- 14.4** At the conclusion of the minor round of matches, a finals round shall be played.

## **15. Monday/Wednesday Tennis Leagues**

- 15.1** Monday and Wednesday Night Tennis competitions shall be recognized as separate competitions thus allowing players to take part in both competitions.
- 15.2** Light money fees for night tennis shall be paid to the host clubs throughout the season, including all finals.
- 15.3** Each team shall consist of a minimum of 4 men and a minimum of 4 women.
- 15.4** Players must maintain their identity with a particular team when they have played 4 matches for that team.
- 15.5** At the conclusion of the minor round of matches, a finals round shall be played.

## **16. Friday Tennis Leagues**

- 16.1** Light money fees for night tennis shall be paid to the host clubs throughout the season, including all finals.
- 16.2** Each team shall consist of 4 to 6 players regardless of gender.
- 16.3** Players must maintain their identity with a particular team when they have played 4 matches for that team.
- 16.4** At the conclusion of the minor round of matches, a finals round shall be played.

## **17. Misconduct**

- 17.1** Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of Officials and the rights of Opponents, Spectators and others.
- 17.2** Senior team Captains, Junior Supervisors and members of the executive and any person appointed by the Executive shall have the power to report unsportsmanlike behaviour.

## **18. Penalties**

- 18.1** Any penalties shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association)

## **19. Glossary**

- 19.1** Association – shall mean the Barossa & Light Tennis Association
- 19.2** Executive Committee – shall include the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association.
- 19.3** Senior – shall have no age restriction.
- 19.4** Junior – shall be 17 years old by the 1st October preceding the start of a JTL season.
- 19.5** Senior – shall have no age restriction.
- 19.6** Match – shall mean any programmed round match.
- 19.7** Match not concluded – shall mean any match that has not concluded in a result, this includes all matches affected by heat, inclement weather or that are cancelled by the Association for any reason, and any programmed byes.
- 19.8** One relative position per week – shall mean one position where the players named are the same as those named from the previous week.
- 19.9** T.A. - Tennis Australia

## 20. Appendix

### 20.1 BLTA Heat policy

- A. The WBGT SUN column for Nuriootpa on the Bureau of Meteorology website will be the primary reference used to determine if our heat policy will be enacted.
- B. The WBGT SUN column for Roseworthy on the Bureau of Meteorology website will be the backup reference used to determine if our heat policy will be enacted in the event that the Nuriootpa Temperature is unavailable.
- C. When WBGT SUN temperature reaches 26.0 any set that has not commenced shall proceed from a starting score of 2-2
- D. When WBGT SUN temperature reaches 30.0 all matches shall cease immediately.
- E. Night Tennis Matches may delay the start of a match until 8pm by mutual consent of the team captains. If the match is delayed then the first round of sets are to begin at 2-2.

**[CLICK HERE TO VIEW WBGT SUN NURIOOPTA](http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDS65004.shtml#notes)**

<http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDS65004.shtml#notes>