

NORTH-WESTERN SUBURBS TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC.

THURSDAY NIGHT - RULES OF COMPETITION

Commencement of play/forfeit: Matches will commence at 7.30pm sharp, in all divisions, so be early! If play has not begun by 7.30pm, the opposition may claim the first set and then the second set by 8.00pm. If no set has commenced by 8.30pm the whole match can be claimed as a forfeit. If any team has a problem regarding availability of any players, please liaise with the opposing Team Captain as soon as possible.

Termination of play:

Round matches:- Play must cease at all centres at 10.30pm, unless agreed upon by both teams.

Semi-finals & Finals:- Matches must continue whilst lights are available to reach a conclusion; (of an outright win by seven (7) games, or more.

If both games and sets are drawn; tie-breaker(s) must be played as set out below, under; **Semi-finals & Finals:** If the lights turn off and play cannot continue, the match will be resumed the following week, (at a time decided by the Competition Committee; where possible before 7.30pm but commencing no earlier than 7.00pm.)

Sets for each match:

All matches shall consist of six (6) sets, with tie-breakers at five (5) all. **Tie-break games** are to be standard '12-point tie-breakers' – that is, the first to 7 points with a 2-point advantage.

Toss & sequence of sets: Before commencement of a match the teams should toss; the winner can decide to either take the first serve, or have the put on.

Singles Divisions:- 2 sets of doubles are to be played & 4 singles sets (each player plays 1 set against each member of the opposition team).

Mixed Divisions:- The set sequence for Mixed divisions shall be:

1	Mixed Doubles	Team 1 pair A v Team 2 pair A
2	Mixed Doubles	Team 1 pair B v Team 2 pair B
3	Mens Doubles	
4	Ladies Doubles	
5	Mixed Doubles	Team 1 pair A v Team 2 pair B
6	Mixed Doubles	Team 1 pair B v Team 2 pair A

Match Points:

Round matches:-

- The match shall be decided on games
- One (1) point is awarded for each set won
- Four match (4) points will also be awarded to the team winning on games.
- If games are equal the match points will be split between both teams.
- If a match has not been completed nor conceded
 - half (½) a point is awarded to each team for each unfinished set
 - if Team A leads by one (1) game more than total number of games Team B could hypothetically win for unfinished games, then the match points are awarded to Team A, otherwise the match points are split between both teams.
- Ten (10) points in total will be awarded for each match.

Semi-finals & Finals:- See as set out below under, **Semi-finals & Finals:**

Match tennis balls:

Round Matches:- The home team is to provide a tin of three new Tennis Australia sanctioned balls (cans that have a 'Tennis Australia Approved' symbol on them) for each match.

Semifinals & Finals:- the first named team as advised in the results sheets shall provide a tin of three new sanctioned balls. The second mentioned team shall pay half the cost for the balls supplied.

Match Result Cards: The correctly completed match result card, signed by both captains must be placed in the letter boxes provided at either Meadowbank Park or Ryde Tennis Centre (aka Olympic Park) by the winning team captain. Match result cards from all other centres, or private courts should also be delivered as stated to either Meadowbank Park or Ryde Tennis Centre; or can be phoned or emailed to one of the Competition Secretaries and the card posted to North-West Tennis PO BOX 282 WEST RYDE NSW 1685. *To meet our publishing schedule results must be received by Monday morning 9:00am.*

Draw, wash out, or forfeit:- In any of these events the home team is to ensure that a match result card is completed and delivered as stated above.

Supper: Must be provided by the home team in the Mixed divisions. It is not mandatory for Singles teams to provide supper.

Conduct: All players must be fair and honest and follow the Tennis Australia Code of Conduct at all times.

Tennis Attire: Please refer to Competition Rule No. 31. (Please, no black soled footwear on any plexi-paved surfaces.)

Protests, Disputes. Discipline & Appeals: Please refer to Competition Rule No. 28.

Registration/Affiliation Fees & Court Hire Fees: See schedule provided to each Team Captain at the commencement of the competition as to the method of payment. Please ensure the time frame is adhered to.

Wet weather: In the case of inclement weather, **Captains only** contact the court complex/manager, or owner (court telephone numbers are on the reverse of your competition draw), for the condition of the court – captains can then inform their team. If the court is deemed playable, then play shall commence, unless mutually agreed by both team captains to abandon play. Match result card is to be completed and delivered as stated earlier under Match Result Cards.

Semifinals, Finals & Playoffs: in all divisions, the four (4) teams leading in the points score (any teams on equal points shall have ranking determined by a count back of total games won against games lost throughout the competition [or in the second round only, in the case of split divisions]), shall in order of points ranking, play Semifinals in the sequence: 1st v 4th & 2nd v 3rd.
The winners of these two (2) matches shall then play the Finals.

- The match shall be decided on games; if they are equal then the match shall be decided on sets.
- If both games and sets are equal :
 - two tie-break games must be played
 - Singles shall play singles match combinations – best player of each team player A v player A, and player B v player B.
 - Mixed Divisions shall play a mens and a ladies doubles.
 - The team that served first in the match shall serve first in the initial tie-breaker, the opposing team serving first in the second tie-breaker.
 - The winning team is the one with the most aggregate points from the two tie-breakers.
- If at the end of these two tie-breakers the aggregate points are equal
 - another tie-breaker will be played
 - Singles shall play a doubles game
 - The Mixed Teams shall play a mixed pair of the teams choice - either pair 'A' or Pair 'B' as played in the earlier sets.
 - The team serving first in the initial tie-breaker shall serve first in the third tiebreaker.
 - The winner of the third tie-breaker shall determine the match.

Play-Offs: In addition to the normal scheduled semis and finals, teams that did not qualify for the semis or finals will compete in play-off matches, on courts designated by the Competition Secretary, on the same nights.

- In 4 team divisions, the teams that do not make the finals play a match on the finals night.
- In 8-team divisions, the split divisions effectively become 2 separate 4-team divisions – play-offs as above.
- In 6-team divisions, the 5th & 6th ranked teams play a match on the semis night. On finals night, the winner of that match plays the highest ranked team that lost a semi, and the lower ranked team that lost a semi plays the team that lost the 5th v 6th play-off.

Qualification for Semi-finals & Finals: To qualify to play in these events, each person must be registered, by having paid a Registration Fee as well as current annual Affiliation Fee and have played at least two (2) matches during the competition. **Please check and confirm with the Competition Secretary.** This may include a match which was washed out, during the competition. A team may also use a player from a team that did not qualify for the semis in the same, or lower division, if a regular player is not available, subject to the above qualification requirements. Any player registered in a team that made the Semi Finals cannot play for a team other than their own in Semi Finals and Finals. The team must also have paid its court hire fees. Singles teams must be represented by at least one of their registered players, Mixed Doubles - two of their registered players, otherwise the team must forfeit the match.

Winners: Winners of the lower division competitions may be promoted to the next highest division when possible, at the discretion of the competition secretary.

Match Tennis Balls:- are to be provided as stated previously in these rules.

Supper:- Some supper should be provided by both teams in the Mixed Divisions; team captains should liaise in this regard. It is not mandatory for Singles Division teams to provide supper.

ENQUIRIES:- Competition Secretary – Stephen Donsworth 0417 674 303, stephendonsworth@yahoo.com.au

(Amended 20/05/2013)

NORTH-WESTERN SUBURBS TENNIS ASSOCIATION.
COMPETITION RULES - JULY 2010.

1. RULES: The rules for play shall be those "Rules of Tennis" adopted by Tennis New South Wales as per the handbook of that organisation. The interpretation of these Competition Rules shall devolve upon the Executive Committee which shall have the power to adjudicate upon any matter not specifically covered by these Rules.

2. MEMBERS: Persons must register in order to take part in any competition conducted by the Association. This is completed by the payment of a Registration Fee as determined by the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

3. COMPETITIONS: The number and type of competitions conducted each year, the starting dates for the competitions, the closing dates for entries, the days of play and the composition of teams shall be as determined by the Executive Committee. Teams affiliate with the Association by the payment of an Affiliation Fee as determined at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

4. NUMBER AND TYPE OF SETS: The format, order, and length of sets to be played in any competition shall be determined by the Executive Committee and detailed on the relevant Fixture Sheet for that competition.

5. GRADING OF TEAMS: Teams entering competitions will be graded by the Grading and Selection Committee. Information provided on the Entry Form is used to grade players and teams. In any case where wrong information is given the player and/or team concerned shall be liable to be suspended, fined or otherwise dealt with by the Executive Committee.

6. TEAM CAPTAINS: Each Affiliated Team will appoint from its Registered Members, a Team Captain whose name, address and telephone number shall be notified to the appropriate Competition Secretary. All notices and correspondence etc. from the Association shall be forwarded to the Team Captain. Team Captains shall be held liable for any infringement of the Association's rules by their team.

7. MATCH STARTING TIMES: Match starting times shall be detailed on the relevant Fixture Sheet for each competition. If a team does not have a set ready for play at the nominated starting time, then the first set shall be forfeited by the team in default. Should a set not be available thirty (30) minutes later then the second set shall also be forfeited. If sixty (60) minutes after the official starting time a set is still not available then the whole match shall be forfeited.

8. WET WEATHER: In the case of wet weather, when there is some possibility of play, captains may agree to commence the match at a later time but not later than one (1) hour of the official starting time. The decision as to whether a court is fit for play rests with the owner/manager of the court. The decision of the owner/manager cannot be sought by the captains before one (1) hour of the official match starting time. Once a match has commenced the agreement of both captains is required before the match can be abandoned for safety reasons, if the court owner/manager is unavailable.

9. REGISTRATION: The Association's official Entry Form should be completed with correct details of individual player. Affiliation and Registration fees should accompany the lodgement of the entry into the relevant competition. The Executive Committee shall have the right of refusing the registration of any player without giving specific reasons for doing so.

10. RESERVES: Teams may register reserve players upon payment of the appropriate registration fee. Acceptance of the reserve registration in a particular grade is subject to the approval of the Grading and Selection Committee. If this approval is not sought before the match and the grading of the reserve player is subsequently not approved, then the sets played by the reserve player will be forfeited and the result of the match altered accordingly. Players Included in a match who are not eligible for any other reason will also result in loss of points. If both opposing teams are found to have made any breach in this respect no points will be awarded to either team. (For reserves for Semi Finals and Finals see Rule 24.)

11. RESERVE POOL: Players may register in the reserve pool on payment of the registration fee for any current competition. Once graded, a reserve pool player may play for any team in that grade or a higher grade.

12. ONE PLAYER/ONE TEAM: Subject to Rule 11 hereof, no player shall be registered with more than one team for any given competition.

13. BALLS: The home team is to supply new tennis balls for each home match, the number of which will be specked on the Fixture Sheet for each competition, and the type of which has been approved by Tennis Australia. Approval by Tennis Australia is indicated by a triangular approval symbol on the ball container. In the event of new balls not being available the team in default shall be regarded as not having a set ready to commence the match and Rule 7 hereof will apply. For Semi Finals and Finals matches; the Competition Secretary will specify which team is to provide the balls - the cost to be shared by both teams.

14. TOSS: The Team Captains shall toss and the winner shall have the right of service, or the putting on of the first set, except where a set format of play is specked on the relevant Fixture Sheet. The service and the putting on of sets shall then alternate subject to Rule 4 where the Fixture Sheet for a competition may set down the order of play. The winner of the toss in a Semi Final or Final becomes the 'Home' team and also has the choice of service or put on.

15. CONTINUITY OF PLAY: There shall be continuity of play in all matches except in cases of inclement weather. Sets called for and not available will be forfeited. Not more than three (3) minutes, including hit up if all players have had a previous set in the match, shall elapse between the conclusion of any set and the commencement of the next set.

16. UNPLAYED OR UNCOMPLETED MATCHES: In matches which do not commence or are not completed because of inclement weather, points will be shared if a result is not determined. In Semi Final and Final matches, the match will be completed on a court and date determined by the Competition Secretary. Where this occurs teams may field a 'substitute' to complete the match if required but this must be in accordance with Rule 24.

17. FAILING LIGHT: In daytime competitions unless both captains agree to cease play earlier due to failing light, then play shall cease at fifteen (15) minutes after sunset time, when the game in progress must be completed. Official sunset times will be published on the Fixture Sheet of competitions where this applies. In the event of no official sunset time being available then the switching on of the nearest street light will be an indication that the match should cease at the end of the game

being played. Artificial light shall not be used to complete matches except in the case of Semi Finals and Finals.

18. MATCH RESULTS: Official result cards or sheets, signed by both captains and giving full details of the match, must be forwarded to reach the Competition Secretary by 8.00p.m two (2) days after the match. A verbal or telephoned result is sufficient in the short term however the official result card or sheet must follow. It is the responsibility of the winning team or a team claiming a forfeit to notify and/or forward the official result. For convenience, results may be placed in letter boxes at some court complexes. In the case of a draw, washout or unfinished match, it is the responsibility of the 'home' team to forward the result. Should a result not be received by the nominated time, then the winning team shall not be awarded any points. Once the 'NO RESULT' is published on the Association's website the losing team may claim the points it gained from the match by notifying the Competition Secretary within one (1) week of the publication date on the website.

19. FORFEITURE OF MATCHES: Should a team forfeit a match or entirely fail to meet its obligation without sufficient cause, the opposing team shall be awarded the maximum points, provided at least one (1) other match in the same grade is played and a winning result recorded. If no other match is played, the maximum points will be shared. If the team in default fails to furnish a satisfactory explanation to the Competition Secretary it may be banned from further competition play. If a team withdrawn or is withdrawn from a competition before the completion of the first round, the points awarded for matches played prior to the point of withdrawal will be cancelled.

20. POINTS: Points awarded for matches will be as determined by the Executive Committee and as published on the competition Fixture Sheet. No points will be awarded for a bye.

21. SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS DURING A MATCH: in the event of a player becoming injured or incapacitated during the progress of a match, he/she may NOT be replaced by another player in the set in progress which must be forfeited, however a substitute player may play any remaining sets in the match but this must be in accordance with Rules 10 and 11 hereof. The substitute player cannot then be replaced later in the match.

22. SEMI FINALISTS AND FINALISTS: Teams to play Semi Finals and Finals in each competition shall be as determined by the Executive Committee and published on the relevant competition Fixture Sheet. Should two or more teams have equal points, the team to play in the Semi Final or Final, as the case may be, shall be decided on average of the games won as against the total games played, and if those are equal, on sets won as against total sets played.

23. SEMI FINALS AND FINALS: All Semi Finals and Finals will be played on neutral courts as determined by the Competition Secretary on dates shown on the relevant competition Fixture Sheet. In the event of an incomplete Semi Final or Final, Rule 16 hereof applies. Play shall not be scheduled on Holiday Weekends unless the mutual consent of both team captains involved is forthcoming. The format of Semi Finals and Finals, the method of declaring the winner and any other rules relevant to a particular competition shall be published on the Association's website or on the relevant competition Fixture Sheet.

24. RESERVES FOR SEMI FINALS AND FINALS: Reserves for Semi Finals and Finals may:
(a) be a pool player or reserve who has played at least two (2) matches during the competition rounds in that grade or a lower grade,

(b) be a player from a team that did not qualify for Semi Finals in that grade or a lower grade. Any player registered in a team that made the Semi Finals cannot play for a team other than their own in Semi Finals and Finals.

25. USE OF COURTS: The association shall have the right to use the court of any affiliated team for Semi Final and Final matches. Court hire fees should therefore be paid for these matches whether the team is playing a Semi Final or Final, or not.

26. UMPIRING: The use of umpires shall be at the discretion of both Team Captains. If no agreement is reached regarding umpiring then the home team shall umpire the first set and umpiring shall then alternate. Only one (1) person (being the umpire) shall be in, at, or near the umpire's chair whilst play is in progress.

27. POSTPONEMENT: The only circumstances under which matches can be deferred is in the interests of the Association and by the authority of the Executive Committee.

28. PROTESTS, DISPUTES, DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS: All protests, disputes and appeals must be lodged in writing (accompanied by any evidence) to the appropriate Secretary within seven (7) days of the match concerned. The Association shall have the power to discipline any Registered Member (Player) whose conduct in any event conducted by the Association contravenes any section of the Tennis Australia 'Code of Conduct'.

29. TROPHIES: The members of the winning team in each grade of a competition and tournament event, shall receive a trophy or voucher, the number and nature of which will be determined by the Executive Committee.

30. TOURNAMENTS: Tournaments may be conducted for Registered Members (Players), by the Association under conditions set down by the Executive Committee. These conditions shall be determined by the Executive Committee before the Tournament and printed on the relevant Tournament Entry Form.

31. TENNIS ATTIRE: Every competitive player shall dress and present himself/herself for play in clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire. Coloured recognised tennis garments and footwear may be worn. Specific non tennis articles such as sweat shirts, dress shirts, tee shirts (men's shirts must have a collar), bermuda shorts, jogging shorts, football shorts, board shorts and walk shorts shall NOT be worn by any player while competing in a match. White, skin coloured or matching (in colour) cycle shorts may be worn under tennis attire. Suitable footwear for tennis matches shall be worn and be free of heels, bars, treads and colours which are normally considered Injurious to court surfaces. Track Suits (Jackets and/or Pants) may be worn when extreme weather conditions prevail.