



SOUTHERN PENINSULA TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC.

COMPETITION RULES.

1 LODGING OF PROPOSED TEAMS

1.1 Proposed teams must be lodged online via League manager <https://leaguemanager.tennis.com.au/> or Match centre <https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au/> or on any combination of the forms provided by the Association.

- (a) Team Nomination Sheet (Form 1)
- (b) Player Registration Sheet (Form 2)
- (c) New Player Registration Sheet (Form 3)
- (d) Club Information and Fees Sheet (Form 4)

Completed forms MUST be lodged with the Association no later than the date indicated.
ALL forms must be completed fully.

1.2 When entering a team all players must be listed 1-4 in order of ability. (No1 being your strongest player down to 4 being your weakest player).

1.3 Order of Merit

Players are encouraged to play following the order they are listed on the match centre scoresheets. Players can play up the order but can only play one position down.

Player 1 can only play in positions 1 or 2

Player 2 can play positions 1,2 or 3

Players 3 & 4 can play in all positions

A fill in player should play at a comparable position based on their ability.

For Finals Matches Order of merit is strictly enforced.

1.4

1.5 Teams are capped at 6 regular players. Any other players need to be added as reserves.

1.6 Team entry fees are due by the team lodgement date. 14-15 week seasons (2 terms) are \$40 per team and 8-9 week seasons (1 Term) are \$20 per team.

1.7 Teams lodged after the lodgement date are subject to a late entry fee of \$20 per team and will only be accepted where space allows.

2 REGISTRATIONS

2.1 All players must have completed the Tennis Victoria Competitive player profile.

2.2 To be registered, players must be a financial, honorary or life member of any Club affiliated with the Association.

3 TIEING OF PLAYERS

3.1 The Grading Committee may tie players on whose standards the grading of a team is based and grade all other players submitted for registration

3.2 Players will be tied to the section after playing six (6) matches in that section or higher, and cannot play down without a permit from the Grading Committee.

3.3 Emergency players may alternate between teams in the same section without restriction. The Grading Committee may tie up to half of the players to be permanent members of a team within a section, and they may not change teams within a section, without prior written approval from the Association. The players not tied may alternate without restriction during the season. The Grading Committee may, at any time re-tie players if it appears a club is attempting to gain an unfair advantage. A request for untieing of tied players MUST be made in writing to the Match Secretary.

3.4 A player not on a Clubs' registered player list, may play up to five (5) matches in the specific competition without restriction, before being tied by the Grading Committee. Should the player be judged to be playing in a section below their standard, the Grading Committee may, at its' discretion award the sets/games in the matches in which the player played, to the opposition team/s, by the maximum to nil

3.5 *Nominated players on whom a team is GRADED may be required to play a minimum of 50% of the competition. Should such players not meet this requirement without good and sufficient reason, the Club may be fined up to a maximum of \$20 or be prevented from playing such players in the finals series.

*(Note: nominated by the GC prior to season).

3.6 A tolerance may be allowed where a players' tying does not equate aptly. For instance – if a club has more than one team, and the grading between them is greater than 2 sections, a player from a higher team and not to be seen to be noticeably stronger than the player in the lower team may alternate and be subject to Rule 3.2. If it appears a team is seeking an unfair advantage over others by playing the player regularly, the players' tying may be reviewed at any time during the season. Sets and games the player plays may be forfeited.

4 SEASON

4.1 The SPTA will run 2 seasons Summer and Winter or an amended version as determined by the committee. The season dates will be as decided by the Grading Committee.

5 FIXTURES AND FEES.

5.1 Matches must be played on the courts as shown in the fixtures unless both captains agree to a change of venue. Undercover courts and indoor courts are not permitted to be used, except for finals matches authorised by the Committee

5.2 Matches shall be played under "Tennis Australia Rules" - "Rules of Tennis" booklet MUST be available for reference.

5.3 Fees for Night Competition shall be \$5 per player per night, payable to the HOST CLUB.

5.4 Official Fixtures and scoresheets are accessible from the matchcentre.tennis and leaguemanager.tennis websites.

6 TEAMS

6.1 Mens and Ladies Competition

Teams of four men or four ladies, using a minimum of one court. Suggested order of play:

1 & 2 play 1 & 2 and 3 & 4 play 3 & 4
1 & 3 play 1 & 3 and 2 & 4 play 2 & 4
1 & 4 play 1 & 4 and 2 & 3 play 2 & 3

playing six game sets, with a tiebreak at 6 - 6 in all sets.

6.2 Mixed Doubles Competition

Teams of two men and two ladies, using a minimum of one court. Suggested order of play:

Mens' Doubles.

Ladies' Doubles.

and four mixed sets as follows playing six game sets, with a tiebreak at 6 – 6 in all sets.

No1 man and lady play No1 man and lady,
No2 man and lady play No2 man and lady,
No1 man & No2 lady play No1 man & No2 lady,
No2 man & No1 lady play No2 man & No1 lady,

7 STARTING TIME

7.1 All matches are to commence at 7.30pm. The Host Clubs are required to have lights on (if necessary) in readiness for play by 7.15pm.

7.2 Teams unable to commence play at the required time will automatically lose the first set. Teams more than half an hour late shall forfeit the match. Both these penalties apply unless otherwise decided by the Committee.

7.3 The hit-up time MUST be limited to three (3) minutes after the scheduled starting time of the match

8 WASHOUTS – HOME AND AWAY MATCHES.

8.1 In the event of WET or INCLEMENT WEATHER the Home Club shall contact the Visiting Club before 6.30pm. If the Club Representatives fail to agree to a cancellation by phone, and one team fails to attend the courts, the non-attending team will have the maximum score to nil awarded against them

8.2 For all washouts where matches have commenced, or both teams have attended, the home team shall submit the completed score sheet via leaguemanager, (within 48 hours). Listed players will be recorded by the Match Secretary and can be used for qualifying purposes as stated in Rule 12. Sets and games played shall be computed for percentage.

8.3 For washouts agreed by PHONE – the Home team must submit a score sheet

8.4 Reserved

9 RESULTS

9.1 Matches are decided on sets, and then if required, the result is on games.

9.2 Clubs shall retain a copy of all score sheets of matches played during the season. **Scoresheets are to be downloaded and printed from Match Centre or Leaguemanager listing registered players in their playing order.**

9.3 The HOME team is responsible for submitting results of all matches within 48 hours of the completion of a match. Failure to submit scores results in maximum points to nil to the opposition team.

9.4 Teams not submitting scores within the time frame will be subject to a fine of \$20 in addition to losing match points

9.5 RESULTS OF FINALS MATCHES are to be submitted by the HOME team, by 12 noon the following day.

9.6 Reserved.

9.7 Matches not completed shall be abandoned and points shared, unless one team has an unbeatable lead. Any sets and games played shall be computed by the teams concerned for percentages

9.8 Wins count four points, ties and washouts two points. No points or scores are credited if a team fails to submit a copy.

10 FORFEITS

10.1 **Forfeiting team:** A team forfeiting a match MUST advise the opposing team by 6.45pm, incurring a Penalty of \$20 & a further \$20 fine if the opposing team attends the venue. These fines will increase by \$10, for every subsequent offense, for any team failing to comply.

10.2 Reserved

11 FINALS

11.1 The top four teams in each section shall play off under the Page system unless there are six teams in a section, whereby the team which finishes first on the ladder at the end of the season plays the winner of the Preliminary Final played between the teams who finish second and third on the premiership ladder at the end of the season. For short seasons of only 8-9 weeks / 1 term a single finals series of 1st vs 2nd will be used.

11.2 Teams equal on points shall be separated by percentage. Such percentage will be determined by: sets for divided by sets against, multiplied by 100 over 1. If percentage is then equal the same formula shall be used on games for and games against.

11.3 In the event of a tie, the SUPER TIEBREAK is employed. The format for play is set out on the scoresheet provided.

11.4 Finals shall be played on neutral courts, and where possible, a similar surface to the team finishing higher on the ladder, unless either captain requests to use the courts of the opposing team, or if available, another mutually agreed on venue. Requests for a specific/alternate venue must be forwarded with the results of the last home and away match. The HOST club shall provide a referee. Host-club facilities must be available by 7pm.

GRAND FINALS shall be played at a Central Venue. The Association will provide the required referees.

11.5 All Club courts shall be at the disposal of the Association for all finals. The referee is required to sign the score sheet on completion of finals matches.

11.6 In the event of wet/inclement weather during finals, the appointed wet weather contacts of the HOST CLUB shall reach a decision at 6.15pm. If the decision made is to suspend play for that night, the contacts for the teams involved shall be notified by 6.30pm. The decision reached by the rostered host club will be final. The HOST club is required to notify the Match Secretary of suspended matches according to arrangements advised for results.

11.7 In the event of wet/inclement weather during scheduled semi finals and/or preliminary finals, matches will be re-scheduled by the Association on the ensuing corresponding night, up to and including the "if required" date. Matches may be played earlier by mutual agreement and arrangement by the opposing teams. All finals matches, including Grand Finals unplayed on or before the "if required" date will be abandoned and the team which finished highest on the ladder at the end of the home and away matches, and has not yet been eliminated, or any team having won their way to the Grand Final, will be declared the premier team of the section.

11.8 Suitable pennants and trophies shall be presented to the premiers and runners-ups of each section.

12 QUALIFYING FOR THE FINALS

12.1 To qualify for the finals series a player will meet at least one of the following criteria:

12.2. Was registered for the original team submitted to the Association, regardless of the number of matches played. (Note: rule 3.5 does have an exception).

12.3 has played at least 3 of the scheduled (14/15) home and away matches with the club in the relevant competition in a lower graded team.

12.4 has played in 2 (two) matches with the club in the relevant competition, as an emergency during the season, where more than 50% of scheduled matches in 3 or more rounds have been declared "over the phone" washouts.

12.5 has played more than 50% of the scheduled (14/15) matches for a team which has failed to make the finals of its' section, Such player may substitute for an unavailable player representing the same club in the same section, provided the replacement player is considered by the Grading Committee to be not of a higher standard than the unavailable player.

12.6 will be not be playing lower than his/her grading or tieing allows, except where a permit has been granted by the Grading Committee.

12.7 If it is required for a *registered, eligible but unqualified player to be made qualified to play in a finals match, the Club must submit to the Grading Committee a WRITTEN list of at least three (3) AVAILABLE players, not considered noticeably stronger than the player to be replaced. The player being replaced must be advised to the Grading Committee, who will then make a decision on which player or players will be qualified. The Grading Committee has the right to either allow, disallow any or all of the players concerned to take part in the finals

*Note ... the player must be on the Clubs' current registered player list, or have played in the relevant competition for the Club during the season.

12A PUBLIC HOLIDAYS DURING FINALS

12a.1. Teams unable to field a team on a gazetted public holiday, i.e. Queen's Birthday Monday are permitted to delay play by up to 48 hours by mutual agreement. The teams must notify the host club and the Match Secretary prior to the scheduled date.

13 DUTIES OF REFEREES AT FINALS MATCHES

13.1 Make courts available at 7pm.

13.2 Ensure score sheets are filled in prior to the commencement of play.

13.3 Ensure correct tennis attire is worn by players.

13.4 In the event of late attendance by players the referee must refer to the guidelines issued to clubs for the finals series.

13.5 The referee is required to sign the score sheet on completion of any finals match.

14 SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS.

14.1 A substitute shall be allowed to take the place of any player who is prevented through illness, accidental disablement or any good and sufficient reason from taking part or continuing in a match, provided that such substitute shall not take the place of any player in a set which has already commenced.

14.2 However should a finals match be incomplete and be set down by the Grading Committee for completion on a subsequent date, a substitute, approved by that Committee may take the place of a team member from the point at which play was halted, provided such team member is unable to continue due to illness, accidental disablement or any good and sufficient reason.

15 PROTESTS

If any grounds for a protest arise, the match should or should not be played "under protest". Protests should be noted by endorsing the score sheet "PROTEST PENDING", and both captains must sign the endorsement. Full details of the protest must be emailed to the Match Secretary within 48 hours of the match and must be submitted through the PROTESTING CLUB. The club may be charged a fee of twenty dollars (\$20) at discretion of the Committee.

16 WITHDRAWAL OF TEAMS.

16.1 For teams withdrawn after the grading and before the season commences:- **PENALTY: fine of \$50**

16.2 For teams withdrawn after the season commences:- **PENALTY: fine of \$50**

17 PERMITS AND CLEARANCES.

All players are registered to the Association and therefore may play with any affiliated club as an emergency, providing their tying permits. A tolerance may be allowed where a players' tying does not equate exactly to the second club. If it appears a team is seeking an unfair advantage over others by playing the player regularly, the players' tying may be reviewed at any time during the season. Sets and games the player plays may be forfeited.

18 BALLS.

18.1 For all home and away matches, the home team shall provide two pairs of new balls of approved Tennis Australia standard per match.

18.2 Both teams shall provide two new balls for preliminary and semi finals matches.

18.3 SPTA will provide all balls for finals

19 ATTIRE & COURT ETIQUETTE

19.1 Regulation tennis attire must be worn at all matches. **This includes tennis appropriate footwear.**

19.2 Alcohol is not to be taken out on court at any time.

20. SUMMARY OF FINES.

Fine Description	Fee
Forfeit - notified before 6.45pm (1st)	\$20
Forfeit - opposition team attends venue	+\$20
2nd and subsequent Forfeits	+\$10 fines will increase by \$10 for every subsequent offense
Withdrawal of Teams - after the grading and before the season commences	\$50
Withdrawal of Teams - after the season commences	\$50
Non Entry of Scores	\$20 per offense + loss of match points