

Metro Masters Tennis Association Inc (A0041176X)

By-Laws

Conditions of Play to commence **Autumn Season 2019**

(PLEASE DESTROY ANY PREVIOUS BY-LAWS TO AVOID CONFUSION)

1 ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 The minimum age for players in this competition is 50 years, though players who will reach this age during the current season will be eligible to play. Any sets played by an ineligible player shall be forfeited.

2 COMPETITION PLAY

- 2.1 Matches shall be played on Thursday afternoons, starting at 1.00pm. Two courts are to be provided, and four players shall make a team.
- 2.2 There will be two Competition Seasons each calendar year, and these will be:
- | | | |
|-------|---------------|---------------------|
| 2.2.1 | Autumn Season | February to June. |
| 2.2.2 | Spring Season | August to December. |
- 2.3 The Grading Panel shall recommend to the General Committee the number of sections and the number of teams playing in each section.
- 2.4 Any of the first two sets not commenced because of the unavailability of one or more players by thirty minutes after the starting time shall be forfeited.
- 2.5 Any player not in attendance by 2.00pm cannot participate in the match and sets that they would have played in are forfeited.

3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Teams must nominate at least five players who are expected to play regularly. Once a season has commenced i.e. from the date of the first round of matches, a player nominated in a registered team shall be eligible to play **four** matches in any other team entered by the same club in the same section.
- 3.2 Nominated players can play up to four matches in another team in the same section or a higher section, except where the club has two teams in the same section where they can play **four** matches for the other team (Paragraph 3.1). Any player having played five or more matches with one team is not eligible to play with any other team in the same or a lower section.
- 3.3 An emergency player shall be of no more than the equivalent standard of the section he is to play in. Where the Grading Panel determines that the emergency player has significantly strengthened the team, that player's sets shall be forfeited and the match result amended accordingly. If a player has played in that section in previous seasons or that team if they are playing in a lower section no action should be taken. By-Law 3.2 is breached when a player has played more than four games in another team in the same section **or in a higher section.**
- 3.4 Unless approval is sought from the Record Secretary no emergencies can play if they have not already participated in the Metro Masters Tennis Association competition in prior years except in Section 1. If permission is sought to play an emergency player for Section 2 and below, four days notice either verbally or in writing should be given to the Record Secretary. The player's name, date of birth and full details of playing records must be submitted to the Record Secretary for his approval. Where it is considered necessary the player's performance together with any other details will be reviewed by the Grading Panel. Any emergency player who has not been approved shall be subjected to By-Law 3.3 and may have their sets forfeited, and the match result amended accordingly or restricted to play for other teams and clubs in a higher section.
- 3.5 An emergency player i.e. a player not nominated in a registered team, shall be identified on the result sheet with the letter (E). If he plays for another team in the same section or from another lower section team he should also be identified on the result sheet with the letter (E), and in the comments section the club and section he plays in.
- 3.6 An emergency player who has played five matches in a team shall be deemed to be a member of that team.

- 3.7** To qualify for any finals match a **nominated** player must have played in the team playing in the finals for at least five matches in the pre-finals matches. A player qualified to play in the finals matches of one team is not eligible to play in any other team in the same or lower section except as provided for in Paragraph 3.8.
- 3.8** If due to unforeseen circumstances, events such as death, injury, and illness, a team is unable to field four qualified players for a finals match, that team may seek approval from the Record Secretary to play a qualified player from any other team in a lower section providing that team is not participating in the final series. If the club has teams in a lower section it can seek approval to play a qualified player from the lower section team providing that player has not participated in the finals series for the lower section team. If due to unforeseen circumstances a lowest section team is unable to field four qualified for a finals match, that team may seek approval from the Record Secretary to play a qualified player from any other team in the same section provided that that team is not participating in the final series.

4 DETERMINATION OF MATCHES

- 4.1** Matches shall be decided on sets won. In the event of sets being equal, then the team that has won the higher number of games shall be the winner. If the number of sets is equal and the number of games is equal, then the match is tied.
- 4.2** Sets are concluded when one pair has won eight games: a tiebreaker shall be played at seven all.
- 4.3** One point is awarded for each set won, and four points are awarded for winning the match. Points are shared for sets not completed or not started because of inclement weather. Two points are awarded to each team for a tied match.
- 4.4** Play shall continue from the last point played in any unfinished match.
- 4.5** A drawn final shall be decided by the playing of a seven point tiebreaker by the last four players to finish the final set in the match. Players shall toss or spin a racquet with the winner of the toss electing to serve, receive, choose an end, or require the opponents to make one of the choices. Choosing to serve or receive gives the other team the choice of end. Choosing an end gives the other team the opportunity to serve or receive. (Rule of Tennis –9-).
- 4.6** Each home team shall provide two pairs of new tennis balls. In finals matches the choice of balls shall be decided by a coin toss. If other arrangements are made they should be agreed by both captains.
- 4.7** A designated person of the winning team shall be responsible for entering the results into TROLS by 6.00pm Friday. For a drawn match, a wash-out, a heat-out, or any other incomplete match *where a result has not been achieved*, the captains of both the home and away teams or their designated persons shall be responsible for entering the results into TROLS by 6.00pm Friday following the match together with the details of their respective teams.
- However, where wash-outs or heat-outs are organised by telephone, each designated person from both clubs can enter their club's details. Failure to do this will mean that match will not be used to determine number of matches played to qualify for the finals.
- 4.8** All result sheets shall show the Christian and Surnames of players and scores reached, if any. All players listed shall be deemed for qualifying purposes to have played in the match.
- 4.9** All results must be entered in TROLS# by the due date i.e. Friday 6.00pm following the match. The copy of the result sheet should be kept by the winning captain for a short period in case of any protests. If the result is not entered in TROLS by 6.00pm Friday following the match the Record Secretary must be notified in writing within two days to avoid the loss of two points by the team responsible. If the result or advice to the Record Secretary is not received within seven days of the match the remaining points will also be forfeited.
- 4.10** A team that receives a forfeit from the team it is due to play will receive ten match points, and it will be deemed to have won the match by 48 games to its opposition's 18 games.

5 FINALS PLAY

- 5.1** Apart from Grand Finals, which are played at the courts chosen by the Committee, all other Finals shall be arranged to be played on the home courts of the teams finishing higher on the ladders.

- 5.2** Finals matches will be played on the days nominated in the relevant fixture. In the event that a semi and/or preliminary final match cannot be played or completed owing to inclement weather opposing captains must make every effort to complete the match prior to the next Thursday.
- 5.3** If an alternative date and time prior to the next Thursday cannot be agreed upon, the unfinished semi-final and/or preliminary final will be awarded to the team finishing higher on the ladder providing that they have made every attempt to play the unfinished match, and not used this By-Law to avoid finishing the match.
- 5.4** Any unfinished Grand Final matches will be played at a time and place determined by the General Committee. In the event of any rescheduled Grand Final match not being finished owing to inclement weather, then the winner of the match will be the team that finished higher on the ladder at the completion of the Home/Away matches.

6 SUBSTITUTES

- 6.1** Where in any match a player is prevented through illness, accidental disablement or any other good and sufficient reason from commencing a set then after notifying the opposing team captain a suitable eligible substitute player may commence that set in place of the player prevented from competing. If a player cannot continue playing in a set, the opposition will win the set by eight games to the number of games already won by the pair unable to complete the set.
- 6.2** The substitute must be ready to play within 30 minutes of notification being given to the opposing captain.
- 6.3** A player once replaced cannot take any further part in the match.
- 6.4** If a team is short of only one player, a match can be played having only as many sets as can be played by the available players.

7 INCLEMENT WEATHER

- 7.1** When the temperature reaches 32° Celsius either captain can call for play to be terminated. Unfinished sets and sets not started will be drawn.
- 7.2** Also any player can cease play when the same temperature is reached. The set he is then playing in and his remaining sets will be drawn.
- 7.3** If the temperature later drops to below 32° Celsius, play can then proceed if all parties are willing.
- 7.4** When the weather forecast of the evening of the Wednesday immediately prior to the playing of matches states that the temperature will be 35° Celsius or higher on the day of play, then the Committee has the authority to cancel all matches to be played on the day of play.
- 7.5** The home team can cancel or call off play if the courts are unfit to play on.

8 PLAY DELAYED

- 8.1** If it is not possible to commence play by 2.00pm, then the match shall be abandoned
- 8.2** If it is not possible to complete a match by 5.00pm, then play shall cease and competition points allocated on the basis of results to that stage with any remaining points to be shared unless one team is in an unbeatable position and, thus, will receive winning match points. Any game in progress at 5.00pm shall be completed

9 PROTESTS

- 9.1** Protests on any matter must be lodged with the Record Secretary in writing within seven days of the match concerned or within seven days of becoming aware of any matter affecting the team and/or the club. Any matter requiring the attention of the Record Secretary will be resolved by the Grading Panel or the General Committee depending on the circumstances involved

10 PROMOTIONS AND RELEGATIONS

- 10.1** Promotions, if any, and relegations, if any, will be determined by the Grading Panel.

11 RULES - TENNIS AUSTRALIA

- 11.1** All play in this Association is subject to the Tennis Australia Rules of Play plus the above By-Laws.

- 11.2** When these rules and guidelines are applied or when a situation arises where these rules and guidelines do not provide guidance, then it is expected that good sportsmanship will prevail.

TROLS (Tennis Results On-Line System) is a web-site designed to host a match result system (on-line result entry, and ladders with match details) found at <http://trols.org.au/>

April 5, 2020

Note changes in by-laws are in bold red and are to apply for and from the Autumn, 2019 Season as approved at the AGM on the 23rd October, 2018.