

AYC Finals Fillins Discussion

Summary & History of The Finals Arrangements

For a long period, approaching 70 years apparently, the AYC have been organising an interclub tennis pennant for the southern suburban tennis clubs.

The underlying intent has been to provide well organised and meaningful tennis where much effort has gone into trying to ensure that all players can compete on a fairly even basis.

During the peak of the roster in the mid to late 1990's the rules came under considerable pressure as the competitive nature of many participants came to the fore. The bulk of the current rules were developed at this time.

While the roster matches have generally had rules allowing them to be largely self-managed with a minimum of administrative overhead the finals have been subject to specific rules to ensure a high level of fairness is maintained.

The basic philosophy behind the current rules for finals replacements is that the more you play in a team the more you should be eligible to participate in the finals, this thinking led to the development of the half and the two thirds rules for fillins. In addition the need to play a number of matches to qualify was included to ensure that players didn't just appear for finals and had a good chance of being known to the opposition.

Much has changed in the last 20 years or so with smaller teams, non-club and non-gender teams, and significantly fewer people playing shorter rosters.

The range of participants currently include some with 40 to 50 years of pennant involvement and perhaps a more traditional sense of the pennant to those more recent players with perhaps only a few years of involvement and a sense of what is right for now.

With so much change it is important that the management of the pennant keeps pace with the requirements of those involved, players and Clubs alike.

The two broad questions below are put to anyone involved in the pennant as a starting point to providing input into improving our rules and processes for finals to the point where they are both well understood and the need for them is appreciated.

What Is Important ?

Is it important that those playing regularly in a team are eligible to play in the finals.

Is it important that, notwithstanding the above, teams don't improve as a result of a fillin player.

Is it important that fillin players are graded and known to the Committee

Is it important that fillin players have played in the current roster or season

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How Should It Be Managed ?

Should finals fillins require any approval process, if so

Should it be the Executive (President, Treasurer and Secretary) as is currently the case, small group can be responsive and consistent but may not have a broad enough view.

Should it be the Tournament Committee as is currently the case for appeals only, large group can be cumbersome to manage at short notice but may have a broader range of views and greater knowledge of players.

Should it be another group altogether.

Should we abandon the finals fillin approval process and just use the roster rules.

Should all players of the same grade be considered equal eliminating any need for any approval process where the grade is the same or lower.

Should players retain a current grade even when they are not active in the pennant.

Should a certain number of matches, say three or perhaps five, for a team guarantee approval, or perhaps remove the need for approval.

Should the team seeking the fillin be considered more favourably than the opposition.

Should teams be made aware that the opposition has a replacement player.

Where To From Here ?

Please take some time to discuss this one with your team mates, perhaps at a Club level if you feel that is appropriate and let us know what you think is the best way to deal with replacement players in finals.

Keep in mind that not only may you need a finals replacement at some time but you may need to face one in a future final.

When you are ready please forward your views to our email address. I will collate and summarise them for discussion at the AGM where we may be able to provide some direction for future Committees.

Thanks

Campbell Palfrey
SECRETARY

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My Summary

I have long been a supporter of the concept that the more you play in the roster the more you should be allowed to play in the finals, the half and two thirds rules support this thinking.

Having dealt with the requests, including a couple that the Tournament Committee managed, for the second roster of 20/21 I am inclined to revise that concept to something like;

The team that gets you to the finals should be the basis for the team that plays in the finals.

While we will still need fillins, the points value of the regular players may be more of a factor in determining who gets approved, rather than who may have been nominated, to ensure that the finals team is the equivalent of the roster team.

Campbell