

3 Men / 1 Lady For Division 2

The X Format has been around for several years, initiated as a means to deal with left over players.

This original concept has, in recent years, taken on a life of it's own with up to twelve teams playing across X1 and X2.

It has been my concern for some time that few ladies are really suited, or attracted, to the X Format and that while the best tennis continues to be available to men in the X Format few, if any, will be attracted back to a mixed team.

While the current roster has seen a small increase in numbers it has seen a decline in teams in Division 2. It would be a great pity if ladies of this standard are lost to the pennant.

As an alternative way of dealing with excess male players I have been wondering if it wouldn't be better to offer Division Two in a 3 man / 1 lady format where the lady was always on line 4.

The benefits of this could potentially be

- Line 1 man plays all men's sets same as the X Format

- All of the ladies sets are proper mixed doubles

- Only one lady of Div 2 standard is required to submit a Div 2 team

There are a number of 6.0 / 6.5 recently active ladies not playing in the current roster that may be tempted back to a format that provided consistently stronger tennis.

The possible negative consequences of this may be

- A loss of players from the X Divisions requiring a form of combining or non Club teams

- There would be no benefit to Clubs with suitable men but no similar ladies.

I understand that it may not suit everybody, and that it would change the balance of numbers required, but given our two rosters per season it could be something we promote for one of them.

Happy to receive any feedback

Campbell Palfrey