



Great Southern Tennis Association Regulations

1 Governing Body Affiliation, Rules & Guidelines

All GSTA fixtures shall be conducted in compliance with current rules and guidelines set forth by relevant governing bodies for the sport of tennis as stipulated within following subsections. Any breach of such rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. This may entail informal warnings, formal warnings and forfeiture of rubbers/fixtures, premiership point deductions, fines, suspension, exclusion from tennis venues and report/referral to SA Police.

1.1 Governing Body Affiliation

- (a). Each year the GSTA shall affiliate with Tennis SA, the governing body of tennis in South Australia, and as such the association is aligned with the policies and guidelines of this organisation and those of its parent body Tennis Australia.
- (b). All member Clubs will affiliate with Tennis SA each year and will register all club members (including regular players, Reserve Players, Hot-Shots participants, volunteers, coaches, committee members and life members) via the Tennis Australia approved online registration portal such that they become insured.

1.2 Rules of Tennis

All GSTA matches shall be conducted in accordance with the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) most recently published *Rules of Tennis*. Points of deviation from such ITF rules shall only be permitted if specifically stated within these by-laws.

1.3 Code of Behaviour and Etiquette

- (a). All GSTA fixtures and constituent matches shall adhere to Tennis Australia's guidelines for *Etiquette and Matches Played without a Chair Umpire*.
- (b). Players, parents, coaches and spectators must not smoke, nor carry or consume alcohol or illicit drugs, during GSTA convened activities.
- (c). It is the duty of clubs to report any conduct unbecoming to the sport of tennis, especially standard code of behaviour violations such as physical or verbal abuse, unsportsmanlike conduct, audible obscenities or offensive or obscene gestures. This applies not only to players but to parents, coaches and spectators.
- (d). All matches shall be played in accordance with the behavioural standards outlined in Part II: Expected Behaviours of the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play (the Code)
- (e). Any alleged breaches of the Code should be reported by filling out and lodging the Tennis SA Competition Code of Behaviour Report by COB Tuesday following the match in which the incident took place.
- (f). The executive may meet on a weekly basis to consider any alleged breaches of the Code. They will consider any reports/complaints, then determine, with regard to all the material provided to it, if a breach of the Code or the Competition Rules has occurred and consider appropriate penalties in accordance with clause 18 of these Rules.
- (g). Team Captains and Team Managers are responsible for:
 - (a) Educating all players in their team on their responsibilities under Tennis Australia's National Policies (particularly the Code and Disciplinary Policy) and
 - (b) Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship.

1.4 Safeguarding Children

The GSTA supports and promotes Tennis Australia's *Safeguarding Children Guidelines (SCG)*. Clubs are required to adopt and comply with the SCG to ensure a child-safe environment at

all venues. Tennis Australia provides related *Safeguarding Children Resources* that equip club administrators, parents and guardians with the tools needed to achieve this goal.

2 Provision of Courts and Equipment

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure their courts and facilities are safe and that mandatory items of equipment are provided. Opposition clubs should advise both the relevant host club and the GSTA in writing of any safety concerns or failure to provide compulsory equipment. The GSTA may impose fines or penalties to clubs not fulfilling their responsibilities.

2.1 Courts

- (a). Clubs shall provide at least two courts per fixture unless exempted by the GSTA.
- (b). Teams participating in matches at PETC shall play all rubbers on the same surface (ie: all on hardcourt or all on synthetic grass), unless mutually agreed upon by players/captains/team managers.
- (c). Clubs shall avail their courts to host both Minor Round fixtures and Major Round fixtures regardless of whether their own teams are scheduled to play such fixtures.
- (d). Facilities shall be open and ready for use at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled start time of Minor Round fixtures and at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled start time of Major Round fixtures.

2.2 Nets

- (a). It is permissible to use a doubles net & net-post configuration for singles matches. Thus, there is no requirement to use a separate singles net and post configuration nor “singles sticks” for singles matches as directed within the *ITF rules of tennis*.
- (b). Specifications for net posts within the *ITF rules for tennis* may be regarded as guidelines only.
- (c). Nets must be in good condition and have lower corners tethered to net posts.
- (d). Functional and correctly fitted centre net-straps are compulsory on all utilised courts for every Minor and Major Round fixture.
- (e). All clubs must provide at least one measuring stick to facilitate verification of correct net height which is 91.4 cm (3 feet) at the centre.

2.3 Wet Weather Equipment

- (a). To enable matches to resume promptly after any rain interruption, Clubs shall provide at least one squeegee or yard broom for every two hardcourts.
- (b). Squeegees and brooms must be maintained in good condition such that they work effectively when used.

2.4 Health & Safety Items

- (a). Clubs must have a first aid kit on hand that is suitably equipped (i.e., to cater for cuts, grazes, sprains, strains and dislocations).
- (b). The first aid kit needs to be recognisable, be stored in a location that is immediately identifiable (signed), easily accessible and unlocked.
- (c). Each fixture venue must avail players a free supply of drinking water.
- (d). Each fixture venue must provide free access to sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30.

3 Fixture Program

- (a). The authoritative reference for GSTA fixtures shall be the online instance available via one of Tennis Australia's web based interfaces ('League Manager' or 'Match Centre'). The online fixture program always takes precedence over any distributed hard-copy instance of the program.
- (b). The date, time and venue for all Minor Round fixtures shall be available prior to the first round of the season. Details of each Major Round fixture shall be set on a round by round basis in accordance with prior results.
- (c). By default, junior competition fixtures will be scheduled to commence on Saturdays at 8:30am, open-age competition fixtures will be scheduled to commence on Saturdays at 1:00pm, and night fixtures will be scheduled to commence on Fridays at 7:00pm.
- (d). The programmed date, time and venue of any unplayed Minor Round fixture may be altered during the season by the Match Recorder (Tennis SA) in response to team inclusion/withdrawal, special events, or venue unavailability. Affected teams will be notified of such alterations to previously scheduled fixtures.
- (e). Teams scheduled to participate in a Minor Round fixture are permitted to negotiate an alternative time and/or date and/or venue provided ALL of the following items are respected and adhered to:
 - (i) The fixture shall start no earlier than 4:00pm on the Wednesday prior to the programmed date/time for the fixture and no later than 2:00pm on the Sunday following the programmed date/time of the fixture.
 - (ii) No fixture may start earlier than 8:00am on any given day nor commence later than 7:30pm. If lights are not available at the venue, then the start time must be chosen so as to ensure availability of sufficient hours of daylight to play the fixture (this will depend on the number of rubbers comprising the fixture and number of courts allocated).
 - (iii) Any negotiated change shall be finalised at least 36 hours prior to newly arranged starting time.
 - (iv) The team that requested the change must inform the Match Recorder by electronic mail (mitchell.reilly@tennis.com.au) prior to the newly arranged starting time to provide them opportunity to edit the online details of the fixture.
 - (v) Teams must not attempt to enter results until after the fixture's official (as reported online) scheduled start date/time has passed. Attempts to submit results of a fixture prior to its designated start time may lead to incomplete record capture.
 - (vi) No team is obliged to accept a request from the opposition team to vary a fixture's scheduled time/date/venue. However, teams are encouraged to be as accommodating as possible to avoid unnecessary forfeits and maintain goodwill between clubs.

4 Afternoon Tea

Home teams of the open-age competition shall cater their minor round fixtures by providing afternoon tea. Major round open-age fixtures shall be catered via a pooled afternoon tea with both teams of the fixture contributing.

5 Fees

5.1 Registration Fees

- (a). Each member Club shall pay registration fees for each team they enter in GSTA competitions.
- (b). Such fees shall be reviewed and set each year at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c). Registration fees for teams participating in GSTA competitions are set primarily in accordance with standard team size. The team registration fees for a season shall be:

Open-age Seniors Division Teams:	\$90 per team (\$20 back to GSTA)
Open-age Doubles Leagues:	\$90 per team (\$20 back to GSTA)
Junior Competition (Yellow Ball, Green Ball):	\$55 per team (\$15 back to GSTA)
Junior Competition (Orange Ball):	\$35 per team (\$10 back to GSTA)
- (d). Invoices for team registration fees will be issued to clubs by Tennis SA in early November and must be paid in full within one calendar month from the date of issue.
- (e). A team's participation in the Major Round shall only be permitted if all of their Club's registration fees have been paid in full.

6 Awards, Shields & Trophies

6.1 Perpetual Shields

- (a). A perpetual shield is presented to each premiership team. The GSTA shall organise and fund engraving of nameplates for such premiership shields.
- (b). Brian Lienert Shields are presented to clubs with the best average performance across all of their teams fielded in GSTA competitions. Tennis SA shall organise and fund engraving of the two Brian Lienert perpetual shields prior to their presentation at the AGM.
- (c). When a team is presented with a perpetual shield, their club becomes its custodian and is thus responsible for its safekeeping until returned to the GSTA.
- (d). Clubs shall return all perpetual shields to the GSTA Secretary prior to commencement of the Major Round.
- (e). Clubs shall bear the cost of replacement or repair to any perpetual shield that is lost or damaged whilst in their possession.

6.2 Medallions & Pennants

- (a). Tennis SA to cover all costs associated with medallions and pennants.
- (b). Each premiership team shall be awarded a single pennant for their club to keep as a record of their achievement.
- (c). Medallions shall be awarded to each premiership team intended for distribution to team members. The number of medallions allocated to each team is equivalent to the standard team size. The GSTA/TSA is under no obligation to provide additional medallions to cater for extra players but may do so at its discretion.

6.3 Junior Sportsperson Awards

- (a). A Best Junior Sportsperson medal will be provided from Tennis SA to each Club, which will be awarded to the Best Junior Sportsperson within their Club.

6.4 Junior Excellence Awards

For a Junior player to be considered for the Junior Excellence Award there are certain criteria that need to be met, including:

- (a). The player must have played at least 75% of matches of the Minor Rounds for any one GSTA affiliated junior team
- (b). The player shall uphold the player code of conduct and have no breaches confirmed in the GSTA leagues or Tennis SA tournaments for the current season.
- (c). The player shall have participated in at least 2 Junior Development Tournaments or higher administered by Tennis SA and shall have participated in the GSTA Junior Tournament. Only if the player is unavailable for the GSTA Junior Tournament due to a commitment to a Tennis SA tournament shall he / she still be considered for this award.
- (d). Other desirable characteristics of nominees will include the contribution to junior tennis development in the association, the selection and participation in the GSTA Inter Association Team, selection and participation in the district Foundation Cup Team, participation in the Country Carnival, selection in a state level squad, team or Tennis SA high performance pathway, participation in GSTA Open-age Premiership or Doubles League, participation in competitions outside of the GSTA

6.5 Most Consistent Trophies

- (a). Tennis SA to cover all costs associated with trophies.
- (b). A trophy shall be awarded to the 'most consistent' male and female in each division of the open-age competition. A trophy shall be awarded to the 'most consistent' player in each division of the junior competition.
- (c). The 'most consistent' player in a division shall be the player that wins the most rubbers (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) played in that particular division only during the Minor Round. A player's rubber wins attained in multiple divisions will not be summed.
- (d). If two or more players share the most rubber wins within a division, then the most consistent player shall be that person with the best winning percentage (i.e., rubbers won divided by rubbers played). In divisions where the fixture format includes singles rubbers, the winning percentage calculation shall only consider singles rubbers played. If winning percentage cannot differentiate between multiple players, then each such player shall receive a trophy.

6.6 Brian Lienert Shields: Calculation & Club Size Categorisation

The Brian Lienert Shields are presented to clubs at the GSTA AGM post completion of the season. These memorial shields aim to acknowledge those clubs who achieved consistently strong performance across all of their teams fielded in both the open-age and junior competitions. The calculation process and categorisation of clubs is detailed in following items.

- a) Two Brian Lienert Shields are awarded: one for "large" clubs, another for "small" clubs. The number of teams fielded by a club is the primary determinant as to whether it is categorised as a large or small club. The minimum number of teams required to be considered a "large" club may vary from season to season so as to most effectively provide a numerically even split between clubs (i.e., to have a similar number of large and small clubs). If a reasonably even split cannot be obtained based purely on the number of teams fielded by clubs, then number of players fielded by a club may be used. For example, a club fielding five junior teams of 4 players and just one open-age team of 8 players (total of 28 players) may be regarded as a small club whereas another club fielding just 2 junior teams of 4 players but 4 open-age teams of 8 (total of 40 players) may be regarded as a large club despite the fact that both clubs field a total of 6 teams.