



**Great Southern Tennis Association
Senior Rules**

1 Competitions

1.1.1 Senior Division 1

- (a). **Match Team Structure:** Four players arranged in order of merit, irrespective of gender. (i.e., teams can be mixed or single gender).
- (b). **Fixture Format:** Team members shall play one doubles rubber and one singles rubber such that the fixture comprises 6 rubbers in total.
- (c). **Rubber Formats:**
 - (i) Doubles rubbers shall be the best of three sets. The first two sets shall be 6-game sets with a 7-point tie-break played at six games all. At one set all a third and deciding set shall take the form of a 10-point "super" tie-break. The point score of a super tie-break shall be recorded on the scoresheet but it is to be counted as a one-game set in the overall fixture score.
 - (ii) Singles rubbers comprise one 9-game set with a 7-point tie-break played at eight games all.

1.1.2 Senior Division 2

- (a). **Match Team Structure:** Four players arranged in order of merit irrespective of gender (i.e., teams can be mixed or single gender).
- (a). **Fixture Format:** Team members shall play one singles rubber and two doubles rubbers such that the fixture comprises 8 rubbers in total.
- (b). **Rubber Formats:** Each rubber comprises one 6-game set with a 7-point tie-break played at six games all.

1.1.3 Doubles

- (a). **Match Team Structure:** Four players arranged in order of merit irrespective of gender (i.e., teams can be mixed or single gender).
- (b). **Fixture Format:** Team members shall play three doubles rubbers such that the fixture comprises 6 rubbers in total.
- (c). **Rubber Formats:** Each rubber comprises one 9-game set with a 7-point tie-break played at eight games all.

1.2 Competition Format

The competition format shall comprise of a Minor Round followed by a Major Round adhering to the McIntyre Final Four play-off system.

1.3 Balls

- (a). Only [Tennis Australia approved balls](#) may be used.
- (b). The minimum number of new balls provided per fixture shall be equivalent to the standard team size playing the fixture (i.e., 4 balls for fixtures with teams of four players).
- (c). Home teams shall provide balls for all Minor Round fixtures.
- (d). Tennis SA shall provide all balls for Major Round fixtures.

2 Player Restrictions

2.1 Competition, Club & Team Participation

- (a). A junior may play for one Club in the junior competition and play for a different Club in the open-age competition.
- (b). No player shall play for more than one club in any one series unless with a written clearance from that club and the written approval of Tennis SA. No clearance will be approved after four programmed matches, however exceptions will be considered by the GSTA on a case-by-case basis.
- (c). A player can only play one fixture per competition per round.
- (d). A player from a team having a bye shall not play for another team in a lower division of the same competition in the same round.
- (e). If a club has more than one team in a division, a player may play four matches before being bound to a team. If a club has more than one team in the same standard division (e.g. A doubles and Division 1), a player may play four matches before being bound to a team, and may not play in another team of the same standard.
- (f). Member Clubs which are also members of another tennis association may utilise their players that normally participate within competitions of the other association as Reserve Players within the GSTA provided they honour order of merit within their club.

2.2 Extra Players

- (a). Teams participating in Senior Division 1 & 2 may use two extra players for Minor and Major Round Fixtures.
- (b). Teams participating in the doubles competitions may use four extra players for Minor and Major Round Fixtures.

2.3 Order of Merit

- (a). Clubs shall allocate players to their teams and the rubbers of each fixture in order of merit (i.e., level of tennis proficiency).
- (b). Clubs should ensure their team squads appearing within League Manager have players listed in order of merit. PENALTY: Loss of all sets played by offending player.
- (c). Clubs shall be afforded the first three rounds to establish their order of merit. A teams order of merit is irrespective of player age and includes regular players, reserve Players and extra players.
- (d). From the fourth to the penultimate Minor Round, no player shall move more than one relative place in their club's order of merit between each consecutive round played by that player.
- (e). All clubs shall update their Order of Merit on League Manager and notify Tennis SA if they would like any changes made to their Order of Merit no later than 9am on Tuesday following the second to last match for the season. All players not qualified for finals should be changed to Reserve Players. Any changes required will be communicated with the relevant clubs no later than the Thursday following. Teams must then play in the approved singles and doubles order of merit and all orders of merit shall not be alterable for the remainder of the season. Penalty for playing sets out of order– forfeiture of those sets to love.
- (f). It is a team's responsibility to report to the Match Recorder any suspected order of merit breach by an opposing team. This report may take the form of a fixture dispute.

2.4 Player Movement Between Competitions and Divisions

- (a). During the Minor Round a player may move between the Junior Yellow Ball Competition and Open-age Seniors Divisions in accordance with player availability and changes to the Club's order of merit.
- (b). During the Minor Round a player may move between divisions within Open-age leagues in accordance with player availability and changes to the Club's order of merit.
- (c). A player moving down from a higher senior division may attract a penalty unless the player is returning to their normal Division after having played as a Reserve Player.
 - a) Senior Division 1 shall be considered the same standard as Open Doubles A.
 - b) Senior Division 2 shall be considered the same standard as Open Doubles B.
- (d). During the Minor Rounds, a Senior team may source a Reserve Player from any lower team in the Club, provided the Club's order of merit is adhered to. This provision does not override 2.1 (e), meaning a player may still play up to four matches with different teams within the same standard before being bound to a specific team.

2.5 Rubber Participation Limitations

- (a). In Seniors Division 1 fixtures, if the player of the top singles rubber also plays a doubles rubber, then they shall play in the top doubles rubber.

3 Fixture Procedure

3.1 Scorecards & Player Allocation

- (a). Teams must print a scorecard via 'League Manager' or 'Match Centre' for each fixture they participate in and present this scorecard at the venue with their player names (first name and surname) allocated to all rubbers, before the commencement of play.
- (b). Names on scorecards and player allocations for each rubber shall only be adjusted prior to play commencement. A team has the right to not commence play until the opposing team has allocated players to every rubber of the fixture.
- (c). Scorecards should be crosschecked and signed by each team captain at fixture completion. If a scorecard discrepancy cannot be amended through mutual agreement, then a note to that effect should be written on each scorecard and signed accordingly. A scorecard that is not countersigned will be inadmissible for dispute resolution.
- (d). Teams must retain all copies of their fixture scorecards for the entire duration of the season and supply them within 48 hours if requested by the Match Recorder or Executive.

3.2 Starting Time & Warm Up

The expectation is that players must be present and ready to play prior to the fixture's scheduled starting time. The GSTA may elect to impose fines or penalties to teams found to be not observing the need to be punctual.

A warm-up hit is permitted prior to commencement of each rubber of a fixture provided it does not exceed 5 minutes in duration.

3.3 Rubber Order

- (a). For Minor Round fixtures there is no set order of play for rubbers (i.e., doubles need not precede singles). Despite the fixture scorecard providing a guide, teams may negotiate the most efficient order in which rubbers are played according to court and player availability.

- (b). For major round fixtures rubbers shall be played in the same match type (i.e., doubles, singles) order as listed on the fixture scorecard.

3.4 Late Arrival or Non-Attendance

Unless the opposing captain/manager consents to the expected late arrival of a player, the following rules shall be applied in the case of a player arriving late or not at all.

- (a). Rubbers of the fixture which can be played with those players available shall be played regardless of order (i.e., play what can be played).
- (b). If a court is available and no further rubbers of the fixture can be played without the missing player, and at least 15 minutes has elapsed since the scheduled fixture start time, then that missing player shall forfeit the rubber that is ready to be played for which they are required.
- (c). If a player in the open-age competition is not present at the fixture venue within 90 minutes of the scheduled starting time, then they shall forfeit all of their un-played rubbers.

3.5 Court Adjudicators

- (a). A court adjudicator must be provided whenever requested by a player regardless of whether or not the rubber has already commenced. The court adjudicator shall be selected by mutual agreement of both captains.

4 Forfeits

4.1 Rubber Forfeits

- (a). Clubs should endeavour to fill teams from their top division down such that if it is necessary to forfeit rubbers, they commence from the Club's lowest ranked rubber within any competition.
- (b). If a team intends to forfeit any rubbers of a fixture, then they must forfeit those of the lowest position in the team.
- (c). If play has already commenced and a forfeit becomes necessary due to a player arriving too late, failing to arrive, becoming sick or suffering injury, then the rubber(s) forfeited shall be those allocated to the forfeiting player on the scorecard when the fixture commenced.
- (d). A player that forfeits a Minor Round rubber will not be considered as having participated in that rubber for the purpose of major round qualification
- (e). A player forfeiting all their rubbers of a Minor Round fixture will not be considered to have participated in that fixture for the purpose of assessing major round eligibility.
- (f). No rubber of a Major Round fixture shall be forfeited for frivolous reason such as the fixture result already being determined.

4.2 Fixture Forfeits

- (a). Forfeiting a fixture is to be regarded as a last resort that is only enacted once other avenues have been exhausted (e.g., engaging Reserve Players or promotion of players up through the club's ranks). If sufficient players cannot be secured for a Minor Round fixture, teams should attempt to negotiate an alternative date, time or venue as outlined in 6(e), in preference to forfeiting the fixture. For Major Round fixtures, teams may submit a request to the Match Recorder to negotiate rescheduling on their behalf. Major Round fixtures should not be forfeited for any meagre reasons and therefore forfeiting fixtures throughout the Major Round could incur a fine.

- (b). In the event of a team electing to forfeit a fixture they shall notify the opposing team Captain/Manager by phone by 8:00pm of the day prior to the scheduled fixture. If the team Captain/Manager cannot be contacted by phone, then the opposition club's Coordinator or Secretary is to be phoned.
- (c). Late notification to the opposing team of intent to forfeit a fixture may incur a fine. Failure to provide at least 2 hours' notice to opposing team of intent to forfeit a fixture shall incur a \$40 fine.
- (d). Teams associated with a fixture forfeit are still required to fulfil their obligations with results entry. Players listed in the team receiving the forfeit shall not play in any other team within the same competition in the same round.

5 Weather Implications

5.1 Inclement Weather

- (b). All players should attend and remain at the scheduled venue before an election to abandon the fixture due to inclement weather is made. If a team does not have a full contingent of players present when a decision is made to abandon the fixture, then the un-played rubbers of such absent players shall be forfeited rather than abandoned.
- (c). Team captains/managers may mutually agree to abandon a fixture due to inclement weather provided the time is later than half an hour after the scheduled starting time. A team departing a venue before this half hour has elapsed shall forfeit the fixture.
- (d). If only one team captain desires to abandon a fixture due to inclement weather, all players must remain at the venue awaiting an improvement in conditions permitting commencement or resumption of play. For Minor Round fixtures, if the time exceeds the scheduled starting time by two hours for open-age competition fixtures, and conditions are still unplayable, then the fixture may be abandoned by either team captain/manager. For Major Round fixtures, if the time exceeds the scheduled starting time by three hours for open-age competition fixtures, and conditions are still unplayable, then the fixture may be abandoned by either team captain.

5.2 Heat Policy

If the temperature for Victor Harbor is forecast to be 36 degrees or more for the duration of play on Saturday, as listed by the Bureau of Meteorology at 6pm the night before, all senior matches will be cancelled. Inclement weather updates will be provided at [Tennis SA – Inclement Weather Update](#).

5.3 Fires & Emergency Services Duties

- (a). No team shall be penalised in the event of any player being called upon to attend an incident in their role as an emergency services volunteer or because of requirement to evacuate a venue due to fire or other emergency. Affected rubbers shall be considered abandoned and players allocated to such rubbers will receive credit for the purpose of major round qualification.
- (b). Teams shall complete all rubbers unaffected by player absence due to emergency services duties. In the event of requirement to evacuate a venue due to an emergency, all incomplete or un-played rubbers shall be abandoned as a safety-first policy must prevail.
- (c). If a fixture is affected by an emergency, either the entire fixture or affected rubbers must be marked accordingly when entering results. A fixture comment must also be supplied to describe the emergency and thus the reason for related incomplete or un-played rubbers.

- (d). Whenever a fixture is affected by players needing to attend an incident in their role as an emergency services volunteer or evacuation of the venue, a separate written explanation from the volunteer's team or home team respectively, must be forwarded to the Match Recorder within 24 hours such that the fixture can be processed appropriately and/or rescheduled.

5.4 Point Allocation for Abandoned/Incomplete Matches

In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather or darkness the following will occur:

- (a). If no rubbers are complete, the match will be considered "unplayed" for purposes of ladder calculation only with the premiership ladder determined using a points ratio (i.e. average points per matches played);
- (b). If at least one rubber is complete and neither team is in an unbeatable position, both teams will receive 2 premiership points, plus one point for each rubber won, and the unplayed or unfinished sets will be deemed split between each team.
- (c). If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and given 4 premiership points, plus one point for each rubber won, and the unplayed or unfinished rubbers will be deemed split between each team.
- (d). In the event no matches are played in a competition round, no forfeit can be claimed.

The premiership ladder will be calculated using points ratio (average points per matches played)

6 Scorecards & Results Entry

6.1 Results Entry

- (a). A member of each team is required to EITHER enter results OR confirm/dispute them via 'League Manager' or 'Match Centre' by 6:00pm Sunday the week of the fixture.
- (i) If a team fails to confirm/dispute results entered by the other team within the permitted time period, they relinquish all right to dispute such results which will be accepted as entered and become the official record for the fixture.
- (ii) If neither team enters results within the permitted time period BOTH teams will be penalised four premiership points each.
- (iii) For every unspecified player entered with a match result, two premiership points will be deducted from their team. If a profile is provided by the Thursday following the match, the penalty will be overturned.
- (iv) An unspecified player in a fixture result will not be retrospectively credited to the actual player for the purpose of major round qualification.
- (v) For Major Round fixtures in which the result was determined via tie-break playoff, the winning team name and associated tie-break scores shall be entered into the fixture comments.

7 Scoring

7.1 Determination of Winning Team

Matches shall be decided by rubbers, where rubbers are even, by sets and where sets are even, by games. If both teams have won the same number of rubbers, sets and games then the result shall be deemed a draw.

7.2 Byes

- (a). A bye does not qualify as a playable fixture and as such no premiership points are associated.
- (b). In divisions that contain a bye, some teams may be allocated more byes than others and consequently play less rounds. Despite having less opportunity to accrue premiership points, such teams are not disadvantaged as ranking within respective premiership tables is based on each team's "points ratio".

7.3 Determination of Team Rankings

- (a). Relative position of teams within a division shall be derived from the total number of premiership points (i.e., those accrued minus any deducted due to penalties) of each team.
- (b). In divisions that do not contain a bye, ranking shall be based on the total number of premiership points of each team whereby the team with the most premiership points are deemed the first ranked team.
- (c). In divisions that contain a bye, ranking shall be based on "points ratio", (the total number of premiership points divided by the number of fixtures played).
- (d). If multiple teams have the same number of premiership points and fixtures played, then the team having the greater number of wins shall be ranked higher. If the number of wins are also equal, the team having won the greater number of rubbers shall be ranked higher. If the rubber wins are also equal, the team having won the greater number of sets shall be ranked higher. If the sets won are also equal, the team having won the greater number of games shall be ranked higher.

8 Major Round (Finals)

8.1 Format

The Major Round shall adhere to the McIntyre Final Four play-off system which comprises three rounds: Semi-finals, Preliminary Final and Grand Final. The four fixtures of the Major Round shall be played as seen below.

Round	Fixture	Name	Team 1		Team 2
1	A	Qualifying Semi-Final	Rank 1	v	Rank 2
	B	Elimination Semi-Final	Rank 3	v	Rank 4
2	C	Preliminary Final	Loser A	v	Winner B
3	D	Grand Final	Winner A	v	Winner C

8.2 Venues

- (a). Semi-final fixtures will be scheduled at the home courts of the highest ranked team unless precluded by venue capacity.
- (b). The Match Recorder (Tennis SA) together with the President shall select neutral fixture venues for the Preliminary Finals and Grand Finals.
- (c). At least two courts shall be allocated to open-age competition Major Round fixtures.
- (d). The Executive shall provide a venue supervisor for each Grand Final venue.

8.3 Player Eligibility

- (a). A player shall be considered to have “participated” in a Fixture provided they, or their team, has not forfeited the Fixture. Thus, participated fixtures include those completed, retired, abandoned, and those for which a forfeit was received. If the match is cancelled by Tennis SA due to inclement weather, then this will not count towards qualification.
- (b). To qualify to play Major Round fixtures for a team, a player must have participated in four matches.
- (c). A player shall not be permitted to play in Major Round fixtures in a Division lower than that in which they *participated* in the majority (or equal number) of Minor Round fixtures.
- (d). A player who has played in a Major Round fixture in a higher division shall not be permitted to play in a subsequent Major Round fixture in a lower division unless such a player acted only as a Reserve Player (not an Extra Player) for the higher division.
- (e). A player shall only be able to play a Major Round fixture in the team in which they have played the majority of Minor round fixtures (including if the club has more than one team in a particular division), unless they are acting as a Reserve Player (not an Extra Player) for a team in a higher, not same standard division.
- (f). In the event that a team has not been able to qualify a full team (minimum amount) of players for the Major Rounds, the team shall be filled by players from a lower division, who have qualified for Major Rounds.

8.4 Cancelled or Abandoned Finals Fixtures

- (a). If a Semi-final fixture or Preliminary Final fixture is cancelled or abandoned, then the team having the higher premiership table ranking at completion of the Minor Round shall be declared the winner.
- (b). If a Grand Final fixture is cancelled or abandoned, then the fixture shall be scheduled to be replayed the following weekend. If this Grand Final replay is also cancelled or abandoned, then the team which won the Qualifying Semi-final shall be declared the winner.

8.5 Drawn Finals Fixtures

- (a). If a Major Round fixture is drawn, then the winning team shall be determined through tie-break playoff. Each doubles pairing listed on the scorecard shall play a 7-point tie-break game.
- (b). The team winning the greatest number of playoff tie-breaks shall be declared the fixture win. If both teams win a playoff-tiebreak, then the total points won shall be summed and the winner will be the team with the greatest total number of points. If both teams have equal points won, then all playoff tie-breaks shall be replayed. This process shall repeat until a clear winner is determined at completion of an individual playoff round.

9 Fines & Penalties

- (a). Breach of a by-law can incur a fine and/or penalty
- (b). Clubs will be issued invoices by the GSTA Treasurer for any fines due. Fines shall be paid at the discretion of the GSTA within one calendar month, or late calendar fees apply.
- (c). Penalties may take the form of premiership point deductions, forfeiture of rubbers or fixtures, and suspension of players or teams.
- (d). Breach of a by-law which has a stipulated fine and/or penalty shall incur such fine and/or penalty accordingly.

- (e). If there is breach of a by-law for which there is no stipulated fine and/or penalty, then an appropriate fine/penalty may be unanimously decided by the Office Bearers or determined by the Executive. Office Bearers shall only determine appropriate fine/penalty provided Office Bearers first unanimously agree that the significance of the breach does not warrant referral to the Executive.

10 Fixture Disputes, Interpretation & Appeals

10.1 Match Disputes

- (a). All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to the match recorder (mitchell.reilly@tennis.com.au) by 9:00pm Sunday following the match and the referral must contain a precise statement of the issue(s) in dispute and the relevant facts giving rise to the dispute. The statement will be sent to the other party by the match recorder.
- (b). Please be aware that all teams are responsible for following the rules and regulations stated. It is the teams and club's responsibility to dispute a ruling if they believe they have been unduly affected by the result of a rule breach. Penalties will only take place after a dispute has been made and proven true. If teams are to break the rules the opposition has the right to dispute the result.
- (c). Tennis SA must, within two days of the date of request for such adjudication by any party, request any response to the dispute from the other party.
- (d). Tennis SA and GSTA has the power to adjudicate any dispute referred to it for determination in any way in its absolute discretion but subject to the principles of natural justice, these rules and regulations and any Policy (if relevant)

10.2 Interpretation of the rules

- (a). Any question arising from or in connection with the interpretation or construction of these rules shall be determined by Tennis SA and GSTA in its absolute discretion.

10.3 Appeals

- (a). A party may appeal a determination made by Tennis SA and GSTA pursuant to Rule 14.2 (c), by providing written notice to Tennis SA within three working days of the determination. The written notice of appeal must contain a precise statement as to the basis and nature of the appeal. If the determination is appealable Tennis SA may refer the matter to Tennis Australia. Tennis Australia will have the final determination on any appeal against a Tennis and GSTA determination.