

Metro Masters Tennis Association Inc (A0041176X)

By-Laws

Conditions of Play to commence Autumn Season 2015

(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 **two 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 only play two 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 an emergency player has significantly strengthened the team, that player's sets shall be forfeited and the match result amended accordingly. However, in pre-finals matches there shall be no restriction on the standard of emergency players in **Section 1**.
- 3.4 **Unless approved by the Grading Panel no emergencies except in Section 1 can play if they have not already participated in the Metro Masters Tennis Association competition in prior years. If permission is sought to play an emergency player for Section 2 and below, four days notice either verbally or in writing must 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 approval by the Grading Panel. Any emergency player who has not been approved shall have their sets forfeited and the match result amended accordingly.**
- 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).
- 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 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 Grading Panel 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 Grading Panel 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 where left off in an unfinished finals match.
- 4.5 A drawn final shall be decided by the playing of a tiebreaker by the last four players to finish a set in the match. Players shall toss for choice of serve and end.
- 4.6 Each home team shall provide two pairs of new balls. In finals matches each team shall provide one pair of new balls. All balls must be of a type approved by Tennis Victoria.
- 4.7 One copy of the result **sheet** is to be provided by the home team. At the conclusion of the match both captains must sign the result **sheet**. The captain of the winning team shall be responsible for forwarding the result **sheet** to the Record Secretary. For a drawn match, a washout, a heat-out, or any incomplete match *where a result has not been achieved*, the home captain shall be responsible for submitting **the result sheet**. However, where washouts or heatouts are organised by telephone, the visiting captain must submit a separate **result sheet** to ensure that his **team player's names** are recorded for finals qualification purposes.
- 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 **result sheets** must reach the Record Secretary's home by the Tuesday following the day of play. Failure to do so will result in a loss of two points for the team responsible for submitting the **sheet**. If the **result sheet** is not received within seven days of the responsible captain being notified that it is missing, then any remaining points will also be forfeited.
- 4.10 Any **result sheets** received after the allocated times shall not be used to record the responsible team's players names for finals qualification purposes.
- 4.11 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.

5 FINALS PLAY

- 5.1 Apart from Grand Finals, which are played at the **courts** chosen by the Committee, all 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 shall be decided by the toss of a coin. If any of the four players for each team cannot play on the alternative date, then a qualified player can be used as a substitute.

- 5.4 Any Grand Finals matches unfinished owing to inclement weather will be played on the following Thursday on courts chosen 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 substitute qualified 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 Secretary in writing within four days of the match concerned or within four days of being advised of any matter affecting the team or club.

10 PROMOTIONS AND RELEGATIONS

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

11 RULES - TENNIS VICTORIA

- 11.1 All play in this Association is subject to the **Tennis Victoria** Rules of Play plus the above rules and guidelines.
- 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.

January 24, 2015

Note changes in by-laws are in bold red and are to apply for and from the Autumn, 2015 Season as approved at the AGM on the 19th November, 2014.