

RIVERSIDE TENNIS ASSOCIATION Inc.

THE ASSOCIATION:

1. (a) The association office bearers shall consist of a President, one Vice President, one Secretary/Treasurer (see 1. (b) and one Score Secretary, not necessarily delegates, who shall be elected at each Annual Meeting.
1. (b) Every Club within the Association, in alphabetical order, shall supply a Secretary/Treasurer for the Association for two years on a rotational basis.
1. (c) Every club within the Association, in alphabetical order, shall supply a President for the Association for two years on a rotational basis.
1. (d) The Secretary/Treasurer and President shall rotate alternately each two years, for two year terms.
2. The Office Bearers together with two other members elected at the General Meeting shall compose an Executive which shall have powers to attend any urgent business between meetings of the Association.
3. At the Annual Meeting and other meetings of the Association, each club shall be represented by two delegates. Six delegates shall form a Quorum.
4. The President shall have a casting vote and also a deliberative vote if representing his club as a delegate.
5. Any club may call a meeting of the Executive by request to the Association Secretary, of which seven days notice in writing shall be given.
6. Other clubs may be admitted to the Association, at an Annual Meeting, or special meeting, if the majority of delegates consent.
7. (a) The rules may be altered at the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Secretary having been given 21 days notice. A two-thirds majority shall be required.
7. (b) Extraordinary rules alteration shall be allowed at the discretion of the Executive.
8. A grading committee consisting of one member from each club shall be formed to arrange grading of teams. Such grading is to be to the benefit of the Association.

THE LAWS:

9. The laws of the game of tennis approved by Tennis Australia shall be adopted by the Association.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

10. Junior players to be 16 years of age or under on the 1st October. Exemptions to be approved by the grading committee.
11. All players must be registered with the Score Secretary prior to competing in 1st home and away match and thereafter registered in place provided on score sheet. Juniors to supply date of birth.
12. Where there are two or more teams from the same club and in the same grade, they may play players in either team for the whole season, except in the finals, where a player must play with the team that he or she has played the most number of matches. To qualify for finals, a player must have played the majority of his recorded matches in that grade or lower.
13. Any player playing six or more games in a higher grade cannot then play in a lower grade for the rest of that season. In exceptional circumstances a written application may be made to the Executive for variation of this rule.
14. (a) No player shall be allowed to play in two matches in the same round, excluding juniors who may also play seniors in the same round.
- 14 (b) Junior players may play seniors with one other club providing they have not played seniors with their home club.
- 14 (c) Any junior player playing six or more games in another association is ineligible to play in junior finals.
- 15 (a) To be able to represent a club in finals a player must be registered in at least 4 or more home and away matches for that club.
- 15 (b) A player must play in at least 2 home and away matches to be eligible to play in Association Tournaments.
15. (c) A team may use a registered player from another club to fill-in. The player can only fill-in at the same section or higher. The player can only fill-in for no more than 3 matches for that club. The fill-in players name and registered club name must be written on score sheet.
16. (a) In the event of a match being abandoned due to adverse weather, then players in attendance will be eligible for recording on that day, provided that score sheets are completed and forwarded to the Score Secretary as in rule 27.
16. (b) In the event of a forfeit being recorded, players of the team receiving the forfeit will be eligible for recording that day provided they do not play in any other match and also provided the captain of the team receiving the forfeit forwards the Score sheet in accordance with rule 27.

CONDUCT OF MATCHES:

17. (a) Senior teams shall consist of three or more ladies and three or more men. In Section 1 and Section 2 a lady may play as a man without penalty and the opposing team has the right to select which lady plays as a man. In the event of a team not having sufficient players, that team shall forfeit all sets in which those players would have participated.
17. (b) Singles Section; Teams to consist of 3 players (Men and/or Ladies) though teams can consist of a maximum of 4 players (men and/or ladies). Number 1 and 2 play singles "best of 2 sets" rubbers. Number 3 plays doubles "best of 2 sets" rubbers with 1 and 2. Playing format to be: 1v1, 2v2, 1&3 v 2&3.
17. (c) When a player is injured during play, a qualified replacement player may be used in the remaining rubbers/sets in which the injured player would have been involved. The rubber/set in which the injury was sustained would be forfeited. Injured player would need to be replaced within one hour of injury.
17. (d) In Section 3, teams must consist of mixed sexes, subject to Grading Committee approval.
17. (e) Junior teams shall consist of a least 4/6 boys and/or girls for home and away matches and finals.
17. (f) A Junior boy (Junior as defined in Riverside Tennis Association rules) may play as a lady in a senior team in the event that the team is short of players.
18. (a) Senior singles matches shall consist of two 6 game rubbers with a tie-breaker at 6 all. If a decider third rubber is required, it shall consist of a super tie-breaker being the first to win 10 points provided they lead by a margin of two points. Senior Section 1 matches shall consist of 8 game sets (first team to 8 games) with a tie-breaker at 7 all. Senior Section 2 matches shall consist of 6 game sets (first team to 6 games) with a tie-breaker at 6 all. This applies to all home and away matches and finals.
18. (b) Section 1 Juniors to play first to six game sets-tie breaker at five all. In finals, in the event of a draw, each team shall nominate two players to play a tie breaker. Section 2 Juniors to play first to six game sets – sudden death no tie breaker. In finals, in the event of a draw, each team shall nominate two players to play first to six game set – sudden death no tie breaker. A 10 minute break may be taken if requested.
19. (a) Senior section matches shall start at 12.30 pm, or by mutual agreement between teams. If play is not commenced by 12.30 pm, the offending team may be required to forfeit the first set. Juniors to start at 9.00 am. SHARP.
19. (b) In the event of play not commencing before 9.30 am/1.00 pm due to adverse weather, either team may abandon play without penalty.
20. Senior teams forfeits must be notified by 9.00 am on the morning of the match. Junior team forfeits must be notified by 9.00 pm on Friday evening preceding the match.
21. Senior matches shall consist of three mens doubles, three ladies doubles and three mixed doubles and listed in that order on score sheet. Junior matches shall consist of six/nine doubles according to score sheet.
22. The home teams shall provide two pair of new balls. Juniors may use two pair of good used balls. Also, the home team shall provide morning/afternoon tea.
23. Prior to the match the captains shall exchange complete lists of players in respective positions including mixed doubles.
24. Captains shall toss at the start of play, the winner having the choice of service or end in the first and third mens sets, second ladies and first and third mixed sets.
25. (a) On days when the weather is in doubt, all teams should arrive at the courts as usual, unless the opposing captains agree to abandon play.
25. b) On days of extreme heat, teams must arrive at the courts and
 - (i) attempt to play, or
 - (ii) mutually agree to abandon, in which case they share the points equally, or
 - (iii) if mutual agreement cannot be reached, the team not wishing to play must forfeit.

SCORING:

26. (a) Points shall be allocated to each match - one point for each set and two points for the team scoring the most games. Matches shall be decided on games, however, in the event of games being drawn, the teams winning the most sets shall be declared the match winner.
26. (b) In the singles section the singles sets and doubles rubbers are considered to be equal.
26. (c) In finals if teams are equal on rubbers, sets and games. Then each team captain will select 2 players to play a super tie breaker in doubles to determine the winners.
27. Score sheets must be emailed to the Score Secretary by both the winning and losing teams by the time specified on the score sheet. Failure to do so will incur loss of all Premiership Points earned in that match by the offending team. Incomplete score sheets will incur a one point penalty to the offending team.
28. (a) In the event of rain or other unforeseen circumstances preventing matches from being completed or played, teams will receive points for decided sets and share equally all remaining points for the match.
28. (b) Home Teams are to Email Score Secretary for days where there is no play.
28. (c) Outcomes and results for wet day matches must be emailed to the Score Secretary by both teams by the specified time as noted in the score book. Same penalties will apply as in rule 27.
28. (d) For wet day matches teams only need to send in score sheets if they wish to register players.

FINALS:

29. The teams playing in the finals are to fax a list of players who are eligible to play in the finals (rule 15a), to the Score Secretary before the first finals.
30. The page system shall be used for the finals: 3v4 & 1v2 on the first Saturday, loser of 1v2 and winner of 3v4 on the second Saturday, and the winner of 1v2 versus winner of the second Saturday on the third Saturday.
31. (a) All finals shall be played on dates and at venues decided upon at end of season meeting.
31. (b) Finals tennis court allocation is to be decided by the Riverside Tennis Association at the end of season meeting conducted on the 1st Monday after conclusion of Home and Away matches.
31. (c) Balls shall be supplied by the Association for the finals matches.
32. (a) Two courts shall be made available for all finals.
32. (b) Opposing teams shall mutually arrange for competent umpires to officiate in Junior finals. In the event of no mutual agreement, the Executive Committee shall make the arrangements.
32. (c) Senior teams are to make their own arrangements for neutral umpires and/or scorers to officiate if requested by either team. In the event of a team requesting umpires, the opposition must abide by that request.
33. If it is agreed by opposing captains and neutral umpires in finals that weather conditions are unfavourable for play, or when the match is unfinished, it shall be completed on the Sunday of that weekend, weather permitting, unless an unalterable decision has previously been reached.

TRANSFER:

34. In the event of a player wishing to transfer during the season having previously secured a clearance from his former club, he shall make application to the Association for permission to transfer. Provided that should a club not grant clearance the Association shall have power to allow transfer without a clearance if the majority of the delegates are satisfied that the club has no valid reason for refusing one.
35. Interpretation of rules, questions, disputes and matters not covered by these by-laws may be determined by the Executive Committee.
36. The executive committee may decide to apply a penalty and/or fine to a club and/or player for not adhering to the by laws.

QUICK REFERENCE: Rule numbers pertaining only to Juniors:

Rules 11, 14a, 17b, 18b, 19b, 25a, 25b, 32b.

Other items under Section Headings.

TIE BREAK:

In Juniors Section 1 a tie break will be played if the score reaches 5 all.

A pair who first wins seven points shall win the game and the set, provided they lead by a margin of two points. If the score reaches six points all the game shall be extended until this two point margin has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the Tie-break game (eg. 1,2,3 etc).

The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter each player shall serve in his turn for two points until the winners of the game and set have been decided.

Players will change ends after every sixth point.

NOTE: Players will serve from both ends, e.g. in a match Rafter and Draper versus Woodforde and Woodbridge the serving order has been Rafter, Woodforde, Draper and Woodbridge. At five games all Rafter will serve one point, Woodforde two points, Draper two points, Woodbridge two points, Rafter two points, etc. until a result has been achieved.

From the first point each service shall be delivered alternatively from the right and left courts, beginning from the right court.

NOTE: The first server serves only one point from the right court. Even points are served from the left court.

