Great Southern Tennis Association Incorporated By-laws



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Preface

These by-laws were adopted by the Great Southern Tennis Association at a Special General Meeting held on Monday 10th of September 2018.

Amendments to the by-laws were accepted by the Great Southern Tennis Association at a Regrading Meeting held on Monday 2nd of November 2020.

By-law revision table for amendments in Version 2.0:

4.3(a) - adjust ball types used for junior Green Ball & 6 (i.e., green & orange respectively rather than just green for div-6)

4.5 - add an extra item regarding requirement for clubs to be Covid-19 compliant.

5.4 (b) & (d) changes in regard to use of extra players for Major Round fixtures as per directive passed at the AGM. New wording will be as follows:

5.4(b). Teams participating in the open-age competition may use one extra player per gender for Major Round fixtures provided each such player has met all other eligibility criteria (12.3) and played for that team in the majority of their Minor Round fixtures within the open-age competition.

5.4(d). Teams participating the junior Competition may use up to two extra players for Major Round fixtures provided each such player has met all other eligibility criteria (12.3) and has played for that team in the majority of their Minor Round fixtures within the junior competition.

7.7 - The requirement for the home team to provide afternoon tea for Open-age fixtures will be suspended for the season and indefinitely while Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

By-law revision table for amendments in Version 3.0:

3.2 League Definitions

Defining the leagues as Premiership, Pathways and Doubles Leagues and setting out requirements as per the new Open-age format

3.2.1 Premiership League team structure, fixture format and rubber formats

3.2.2 Pathways League team structure, fixture format and rubber formats

3.3 Junior Competition

Defining the Junior competitions as Yellow ball, Green ball and Orange ball and setting out requirements for each league team structure, fixture format and rubber formats

3.3.1 Yellow Ball team structure, fixture format and rubber formats

3.3.2 Green Ball team structure, fixture format and rubber formats

3.3.3 Orange Ball team structure, fixture format and rubber formats

3.4 Competition Format wording to include Orange Ball competition format, explaining that this competition shall comprise no Major Rounds.

4.3 Balls – wording changes regarding the number of balls new balls required for Open-age and junior competition.

5.1 Junior Age Restrictions and Provisions have been changed and more clearly defined

5.6 Player movements between competition, leagues and divisions – some wording changes to include the new format structures

7.6 Umpires – additions

(a) In the Junior Yellow Ball competition, rubbers comprising Major Round fixtures shall not be required to have an umpire on court unless players participating request so or both team managers agree otherwise.

(b) In the Junior Green Ball competitions, all rubbers comprising Major Round fixtures will have an umpire on court

(c) Umpires for all Major Round fixtures both Open-age and Junior competition will be provided by the GSTA.

7.7 Afternoon Tea – to include original section should no COVID restrictions apply

8.2 Fixture Forfeits – addition

(a) Major Round fixtures should not be forfeited for any meagre reasons and therefore forfeiting fixtures throughout the Major Round could incur a fine.

12.3 Player eligibility – word changes to include reference to the new competitions, leagues and structures

(c) To qualify to play Major Round fixtures for a team, a player shall have *participated* in four times the maximum number of Rubbers it is possible for a member of that team to play per fixture, for their Club, during the Minor Round. Thus, to qualify for Major Round participation in an Open-age Premiership League, Doubles League or Junior Yellow and Green Ball competition fixture, a player would need to have participated in 8 rubbers for their club whereas for an Open-age Pathways League team a player would need to have participated in 12 rubbers for their club. As Junior Orange Ball competition will not comprise of Major Round competition, players will need have participated in any 2 fixtures during a 6-week season to be considered for a participation award.

13.1 Registration Fees to include the wording for the new league teams

15.3 Junior Sports Award

(c) Two Junior Sportsperson Awards are presented: one for the player participating in Junior Yellow Ball competition that receives the most nominations, another for the player participating in Junior Green Ball competition that receives the most nominations.

15.4 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

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1 Definitions

The following terms shall convey meanings as defined below. Such meanings shall apply regardless of capitalisation applied to constituent words of the term within the document text.

Division	A group of teams within a class of competition whereby the group is differentiated from others accordingly to player proficiency, player age, and/ or the format of Matches comprising constituent Fixtures.
Round	A set of Fixtures which result in each team still participating within a Division having played, excluding those that have a bye.
Minor Round	The total set of Fixtures comprising the regular season played to determine an ordered ranking on a premiership table.
Major Round	The series of Fixtures played at the conclusion of the Minor Round to deter- mine the winner of the overall competition (i.e., the finals).
Match	A contest between two players (singles match) or two pairs of players (doubles match) comprising one or more sets of tennis.
Rubber	One or more sets of tennis of a prescribed format played to determine the winner of a Match.
Fixture	A scheduled contest between two teams played at a venue on a particular day.
ITF	International Tennis Federation (see http://www.itftennis.com).
GSTA	Great Southern Tennis Association Incorporated (ABN 36 482 684 144).
In Writing	A hard-copy letter or electronic mail.
Club	Any member club of the Great Southern Tennis Association.
Council	The governing body of the GSTA having a composition as stipulated in the GSTA Constitution (i.e., Office Bearers plus additional Club delegates such that each member Club has two delegates entitled to vote on the Council).
Office Bearers	Those officers elected by the Council at the Annual General Meeting to under- take specific duties as determined by the Council. The Office Bearers of the GSTA consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Recorder and Junior Coordinator.
Executive	A body vested with the general management of the GSTA consisting of the Office Bearers plus one delegate from each Club not represented by the Office Bearers.
McIntyre Final Four	A Major Round play-off system used to determine the overall winner of a competition from amongst the four highest ranked teams of the Minor Round. The system gives advantage to teams qualifying higher and comprises three rounds: Semi-finals, Preliminary Final and Grand Final.
Standard Team	A team comprised of the minimum number of players required to populate the prescribed structure of a team (i.e., excludes “extra” players).
Extra Player	A team member who plays less than the maximum number of rubbers a single player is entitled to take part in within any one fixture such that the total number of players from that team participating in the fixture exceeds the Standard Team size.
Reserve Player	A player that is not a regular member (i.e., “base player”) of the team in which they are playing (i.e., they usually play in another team or not at all).

2 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, forfeiture of rubbers/fixtures, premiership point deductions, fines, suspension, exclusion from tennis venues and report/referral to SA Police.

2.1 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 polices 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.

2.2 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.

2.3 Appropriate 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 must be played in accordance with Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour for Weekly Competitions.

(e). All Code of Behaviour reports must be sent to Darren Sahb at Tennis SA (dsahb@tennis.com.au) by Monday midday following the match in which the incident took place.

(f). Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.

(g). Team Managers are responsible for:
(a) Educating all players in their team on their responsibilities in the Tennis Australia National Policies (particularly the Code of Behaviour and Disciplinary Policy); and
(b) Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship

2.4 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.

3 Competitions

3.1 Open-age Competition

The Open-age competition places no minimum nor maximum age restriction on participating players. However, as the competition is primarily intended for adult participants, any juniors fielded in this competition should possess an appropriate level of proficiency and maturity.

3.2 League Definition

Premiership League Open competitive inter-team tennis for highest standard players, organised into divisions by standards of play and number of teams.
Pathways League Inclusive, values based competitive inter-team tennis for open age groups, including players of lower standards of play, organised into divisions by standards of play and number of teams.
Doubles League Doubles match inter-team competitions, organised into divisions by standards of play and number of teams.

3.2.1 Premiership League

(a). **Proposed Team Structure:** Three men and three women

(b). **Match Team Structure:** Two men and two women

(c). **Fixture Format:** Team members shall play one same gender doubles rubber and one same gender singles rubber such that the fixture comprises 6 rubbers in total.

(d). 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) Men’s singles rubbers comprise one 9-game set with a 7-point tie-break played at eight games all.

(iii) Women’s singles rubbers comprise one 6-game set with a 7-point tie-break played at six games all.

3.2.2 Pathways League

(a). **Proposed Team Structure:** Three men and three women

(b). **Match Team Structure:** Two men and two women

(a). **Fixture Format:** Team members shall play one mixed doubles rubber, one same gender singles rubber and one same gender doubles rubber such that the fixture comprises 8 rubbers in total.

(b). **Rubber Formats:** Singles, mixed doubles and same gender doubles rubbers each comprise one 6-game set with a 7-point tie-break played at six games all.

3.2.3 Doubles

(a). **Proposed Team Structure:** Three men and three women

(b). **Match Team Structure:** Two men and two women

(a). **Fixture Format:** Team members shall play one same gender doubles rubber and two mixed doubles rubbers such that the fixture comprises 6 rubbers in

total.

(b). **Rubber Formats:** Mixed doubles and same gender doubles rubbers each comprise one 9-game set with a 7-point tie-break played at eight games all.

3.3 Junior Competition

The junior competition is intended for participants of an age that satisfies respective limits set forth in the "Player Restrictions" section (see subsection 5.1).

3.3.1 Yellow Ball

(a). **Proposed Team Structure:** Five players arranged in order of merit irrespective of gender (i.e., teams can be mixed or single gender).

(b). **Match Team Structure:** Four players arranged in order of merit irrespective of gender (i.e., teams can be mixed or single gender).

(c). **Fixture Format:** Team members shall play one doubles rubber and one singles rubber such that the fixture comprises 6 rubbers in total.

(d). Rubber Formats: Doubles and singles rubbers comprise one 6-game set with a 7-point tie-break played at six games all.

3.3.2 Green Ball

(a). **Proposed Team Structure:** Five players arranged in order of merit irrespective of gender (i.e., teams can be mixed or single gender).

(b). **Match Team Structure:** Four players arranged in order of merit irrespective of gender (i.e., teams can be mixed or single gender).

(c). **Fixture Format:** Team members shall play one doubles rubber and one singles rubber such that the fixture comprises 6 rubbers in total.

(d). Rubber Formats: Doubles and singles rubbers comprise one 6-game set where the winner is the first team to get 6, thus no tie-breaks will be played.

3.3.3 Orange Ball

(a). **Proposed Team Structure:** Four players arranged in order of merit irrespective of gender (i.e., teams can be mixed or single gender).

(b). **Match Team Structure:** Three players arranged in order of merit irrespective of gender (i.e., teams can be mixed or single gender).

(c). **Fixture Format:** Team members shall play two doubles rubber and one singles rubber such that the fixture comprises 6 rubbers in total.

(d). Rubber Formats: Doubles and singles rubbers comprise one 4-game set where the winner will be the first team to reach 4, thus no tie-breaks will be played.

3.4 Competition Format

With the exception of Junior Orange Ball, competition format shall comprise a Minor Round followed by a Major Round adhering to the McIntyre Final Four play-off system. Junior Orange Ball competition format shall comprise of 2 separate 6-week seasons to be run before and after the Christmas break. No premiership is awarded to this competition.

4 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.

4.1 Courts

(a). Clubs shall provide at least two courts per fixture unless exempted by the GSTA.

(b). 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.

(c). 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.

4.2 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). Dimensional 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.

4.3 Balls

(a). Only ITF approved, surface specific (e.g., hardcourt balls for hardcourt surfaces), “Type 2” balls to be used in all divisions of all competitions except for Junior Green Ball where ITF approved “Stage 1 (Green)” (i.e., Green-Dot) and for Junior Orange Ball where ITF approved “Stage 2 (Orange” balls shall be used. The GSTA may disallow use of certain brands or models of ball should they prove to be inappropriate. Clubs will be informed if a specific ball is added to the banned ball list.

(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). In the Junior competition, except for Division 1 teams in Junior Yellow Ball, it is not necessary to use new balls for each fixture provided balls that are used are in good condition (appropriate pressurisation with brands still visible).

(c). Home teams shall provide balls for all Minor Round fixtures.

(d). The GSTA shall provide all balls for Major Round fixtures.

4.4 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.

4.5 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.

(e). Clubs must comply with any COVID-19 regulations and restrictions regarding players, spectators, officials and other, as long as these regulations and restrictions are in place.

(f). All clubs are to abide by the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines for Continued Play and COVID-19 Competition Regulations for South Australia. Removal from the competition could occur if guidelines are not followed.

5 Player Restrictions

5.1 Junior Age Limits and provisions

The age limits for the junior competition shall be as follows:

(a). Players in Yellow Ball competition shall be 17 years or under on 31st of December of the year in which the season commences.

(b). Players in Green Ball competition shall be 12 years or under on 31st of December of the year in which the season commences.

(c). Players in Orange Ball competition shall be 10 years or under on 31st of December of the year in which the season commences.

(d). Junior players of a younger age may be allowed to play in a higher competition, provided that these players have the capability and maturity to play in the higher competition (i.e., an 8-year-old player may play in the Green Ball competition)

(e). Junior players of an older age than that specified for a certain junior competition may be permitted to play in a lower junior competition should there be extenuating circumstances limiting this player to play in the age-appropriate competition (i.e., a 12-year-old player may play in the Orange Ball competition)

5.2 Player Proficiency Limitation

The GSTA conducts competitions intended for amateur players in an attempt to promote participation in the sport of tennis across the Fleurieu Peninsula. Despite adopting an inclusive policy with regard to player participation, the fielding of players who have recently been competing at the highest professional level is deemed disruptive and detrimental to the goals of the association.

(a). No team may field a player who has participated in an Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) or Women's Tennis Association (WTA) tournament within the last 24 months. Each breach of this rule will result in cancellation of all premiership points earned by the offending team for the fixture in which the invalid player participated and a $100 fine to the team's club.

5.3 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. Clubs must notify the Match Recorder in writing when fielding a player from another Club for the first time.

(b). Once a player has played in three fixtures for a single Club in a particular competition, they shall only play for that Club in that competition for the remainder of the season.

Exceptions to this rule will be considered by the GSTA on a case-by-case basis provided agreement is obtained between associated Clubs and all fees owed by the player to the initial Club have been settled.

(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 fields two or more teams in the same division of a competition, then a player may interchange between such teams until they have played three fixtures for any one team after which they must only play within that particular team within that division.

(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.

5.4 Extra Players

(a). Teams participating in the open-age competition may use one extra player per gender for Minor Round fixtures.

(b). Teams participating in the open-age competition may use one extra player per gender for Major Round fixtures provided each such player has met all other eligibility criteria (12.3) and played for that team in the majority of their Minor Round fixtures withing the open-age competition.

(c). Teams participating in the junior competition may use up to two extra players for Minor Round fixtures.

(d). Teams participating in the junior competition may use up to two extra players for Major Round fixtures provided each such player has met all other eligibility criteria (12.3) and has played for that team in the majority of their Minor Round fixtures within the junior competition.

5.5 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.

(c). Clubs shall be afforded the first three rounds of the Minor Round to establish their order of merit. The order of merit is irrespective of player age and includes regular players, Reserve Players and Extra Players.

(d). From the fourth to the penultimate round (inclusive) of the 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). A club's order of merit shall not change between the penultimate and last round of the Minor Round nor during the Major Round.

(f). A movement of more than one relative place may be permitted between junior Green Ball and junior Orange Ball where age limits may preclude the lowest player in Green Ball from filling down into Orange Ball. The Match Recorder is to be consulted in such cases.

(g). 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 (see 10.2(f)).

5.6 Player Movement Between Competitions, League and Divisions

(a). During the Minor Round a player may move between the Junior Yellow Ball Competition and Open-age Premiership League or Pathways Leagues 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 the Junior competition or Open-age leagues in accordance with player availability and changes to the Club's order of merit.

(c). A player moving down from the Premiership League to the Pathways League may attract a penalty unless the player is returning to their normal league after having played as a Reserve Player in the Premiership League

(d). A player moving down by more than one division within their league (e.g., from the bottom of Division 1 to the top of Division 3) may attract a penalty unless the player is returning to their normal division after having played as a Reserve Player in the higher division.

(e). Open-age Doubles League shall be considered a lower League than Open-age Premiership League Division 1.

(f). During the Minor Round, an Open-age Doubles League player may play as a Reserve Player in any team in either the Premiership League or the Pathways League provided the Club's order of merit is adhered to.

(g). During the Minor Round, an Open-age Double League team may source Reserve Players from the Premiership League (Divisions 2 and under), the Pathways League or the Junior Yellow Ball competition, provided the junior player not also be an Open-age Premiership League Division 1 player.

(h). A player from an Open-age Premiership League Division 1 team shall not move down into an Open-age Doubles League team unless that player is returning to the Open-age Doubles League team after having played as a Reserve Player in Open-age Premiership League Division 1.

(i). Movement of any player to or from an Open-age Doubles League team during the Major Round shall require prior Executive approval.

5.7 Rubber Participation Limitations

(a). In junior fixtures, if the player of the top (highest ranked) singles rubber also plays a doubles rubber, then they shall play in the top doubles rubber.

(b). In Open-age Premiership League or Pathways League fixtures, if the player of the top singles rubber for each gender also plays a same-gender doubles rubber, then they shall play in the top same-gender doubles rubber.

(c). In Open-age Pathways League fixtures, each team must include in their top mixed doubles rubber at least one of their players allocated to each gender's top singles rubber unless both their top singles players do not play a mixed doubles rubber.

(d). In Open-age Pathways League fixtures, a player may not participate in a mixed doubles rubber that is more than one position below their singles ranking.

6 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 9:00am, 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 GSTA Match Recorder 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 (ldoughty@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.

7 Fixture Procedure

7.1 Players Allocated to Rubbers Prior to Commencement

In accordance with subsection 10.1, prior to commencement of play each team captain/manager shall present a scorecard listing all their players' names (both first name and surname) in order of merit and showing their player allocations for each rubber of the fixture. Each team captain/manager shall then transfer the names of the opposition team's players for each rubber onto their own scorecard. A team has the right to not commence play until the opposing team has allocated players to every rubber of the fixture.

7.2 Starting Time

Players must be present and ready to play prior to the fixture's scheduled starting time. Clubs may submit written reports to the GSTA citing cases of unjustifiable tardiness of opposition teams or failure of home teams to have facilities ready for use (see 4.1(c)). The GSTA may elect to impose fine or penalty to teams found to be disrespecting the punctuality of their opposition.

7.3 Warm-up

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

7.4 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 or mixed doubles) order as listed on the fixture scorecard. For example, junior fixtures would play doubles then singles whereas Open-age Pathways teams would play mixed-doubles followed by singles then same-gender doubles.

7.5 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 junior competition is not present at the fixture venue within one hour of the scheduled starting time, then they shall forfeit all of their un-played rubbers.

(d). 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.

7.6 Umpires

(a). An umpire must be provided whenever requested by a player regardless of whether or not the rubber has already commenced. That umpire shall be selected by mutual agreement of both captains/managers.

(b). At least one adult umpire shall accompany each junior team at every fixture.

(c). All rubbers comprising Minor Round fixtures in Orange Ball of the junior competition shall have an umpire.

(d). In the Junior Yellow Ball competition, rubbers comprising Major Round fixtures shall not be required to have an umpire on court unless a player participating requests so or both team managers agree otherwise.

(e). In the Junior Green Ball competitions, all rubbers comprising Major Round fixtures will have an umpire on court

(f). Umpires for all Major Round fixtures both Open-age and Junior competition will be provided by the GSTA.

7.7 Afternoon Tea

The requirements for the home teams to provide afternoon tea for Open-age fixtures will be

suspended for the season and indefinitely while COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

Should these restrictions be lifted or no longer required, 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.

8 Forfeits

8.1 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 (see 12.3(a)).

(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 (see 12.3(b))

(f). No rubber of a Major Round fixture shall be forfeited for frivolous reason such as the fixture result already being determined.

8.2 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 fulfill their obligations with results entry (see 10(b)). Players listed in the team receiving the forfeit shall not play in any other team within the same competition in the same round.

(e). A player from a team forfeiting a fixture shall not play for another team in an equivalent or lower league or division of the same competition in the same round.

(f). A player from a team forfeiting a fixture shall only play in a higher division team within the same competition in the same round if that higher division team does not, in the case of

the open-age competition, field an extra player of their gender, or, in the case of the junior competition, field an extra player.

9 Cancelled, Incomplete & Abandoned Fixtures

9.1 Hot Weather Policy & Related Cancellations

(a). In the event of extreme weather a message will be placed on the Tennis SA Website – Inclement Weather Update by;

Friday 4:00pm – Friday Night Junior matches

Saturday 7:00am – Saturday Morning 9:00am matches

Saturday 11:00am – Saturday Senior 1:00pm matches

(b). Matches will be cancelled in accordance with the Tennis Australia Extreme Weather Policy.

(c). Junior matches will be cancelled when the projected forecast maximum temperature for match time is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology at (http://www.bom.gov.au/places/sa/victor-harbor/forecast/detailed/) is 36' Celsius or more.

(d). Senior matches will be cancelled when the projected forecast maximum temperature for match time is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology at (http://www.bom.gov.au/places/sa/victor-harbor/forecast/detailed/) is 37' Celsius or more.

9.2 Inclement Weather Abandonment

(a). Inclement weather shall mean the existence of abnormal climatic conditions that render play at a fixture impractical and/or poses unnecessary risk to the safety and well-being of participants. Inclement weather encompasses (but is not restricted to) rain, extreme wind, electrical storm, high temperature (within or exceeding range stated in 9.1(b)), and poor air quality due to excessive smoke or severe dust. Such factors should not only be considered in isolation, but also in combination (e.g., elevated temperature may be exacerbated by high humidity). Team captains/managers have a duty of care to their players and must responsibly assess risk associated with climatic conditions at a fixture venue.

(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/manager 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 one hour for junior fixtures or 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 two hours for junior fixtures or three hours for open-age competition fixtures, and conditions are still unplayable, then the fixture may be abandoned by either team captain/manager.

(e). Teams should endeavour to complete fixtures despite inclement weather and abandonment should only be enacted if there is little likelihood of conditions improving in time to permit remaining rubbers to be completed. Nevertheless, player safety shall always be the primary concern when deciding whether conditions are playable. No player can be forced to play on a wet or slippery court and due discretion should be applied to assess risk before attempting play on wet courts.

9.3 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 (see 10(d)). 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.

10 Scorecards & Results Entry

10.1 Scorecards

(a). Clubs must enter players into their teams within Tennis Australia's 'League Manager' prior to the first fixture of the season.

(b). Teams must print a scorecard via one of Tennis Australia's web based interfaces ('League Manager' or 'Match Centre') for each fixture they participate in and present this scorecard at the designated venue with their player names allocated to all rubbers comprising the fixture prior to play commencement.

(c). Scorecards must list each player's first name and surname.

(d). Names on scorecards and player allocations for each rubber shall only be adjusted prior to play commencement.

(e). Scorecards should be crosschecked and countersigned by each team captain/manager at fixture completion. If a scorecard discrepancy cannot be amended through mutual agreement between captains/managers, then a note to that effect should be hand-written on each score- card and signed accordingly. A scorecard that is not countersigned will be inadmissible for the purpose of dispute resolution.

(f). Teams must retain all original 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.

10.2 Results Entry

(a). A player, captain, manager or club delegate of each team is required to EITHER enter

results OR confirm/dispute them via one of Tennis Australia's web based interfaces ('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, then 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) If a team enters or confirms a fixture result with one or more of their players unspecified (i.e., missing) within any rubber of the fixture they did not forfeit then they shall be penalised two premiership points.

(iv) A rubber won by an unspecified player in a fixture result will not be retrospectively credited to the actual player for the purpose of counting toward an association most consistent award.

(v) An unspecified player in a fixture result will not be retrospectively credited to the actual player for the purpose of major round qualification.

(b). When a team receives a forfeit for an entire fixture, they must still specify their own players for each rubber of the fixture in order for such players to gain credit towards association most consistent awards and for the purpose of major round qualification. The entire fixture, not each individual rubber, shall be marked as "not played/completed" and the appropriate "cancel reason" selected (i.e., "forfeit by home team" or "forfeit by away team"). A confirmatory fixture comment should also be supplied for clarity. The forfeiting team may leave their players unspecified but should still enter or confirm the fixture forfeit.

(c). If a fixture is cancelled due to forecast high temperature or abandoned due to inclement weather, players must still be specified for each rubber of the fixture. If play never commenced then the entire fixture shall be marked as "not played/completed" and the appropriate reason selected (i.e., do not enter any scores or mark each rubber individually). If play had commenced prior to abandonment, then scores for completed rubbers and progress scores for incomplete rubbers must be entered and all incomplete or un-played rubbers shall be individually marked as "not played/completed" with the appropriate "cancel reason" selected for each. A fixture comment should also be supplied for clarification purposes.

(d). When entering results for fixtures affected by emergencies, players must be specified for each rubber of the fixture. If play never commenced then the entire fixture shall be marked as "not played/completed" and the "cancel reason" of "other" selected (i.e., do not enter any scores or mark each rubber individually). If play did commence then scores for unaffected rubbers shall be entered as usual whereas any emergency affected incomplete or un-played rubbers shall be individually marked as "not played/completed" and the "cancel reason" of "other" selected for each. A fixture comment must also be supplied to explain the actual reason for such incomplete or un-played rubbers.

(e). For Major Round fixtures in which the result was determined via tie-break playoff (see 12.5), the winning team name and associated tie-break scores shall be entered into the fixture comments.

(f). If a team disagrees with results entered by the other team, they should not confirm such results but instead elect to dispute them, being sure to include a brief reason for their dispute within the provided comment field. They must then email a detailed explanation and a copy of their scorecard to ldoughty@tennis.com.au by 9pm Sunday the week of the fixture to facilitate investigation of the matter.

(g). When entering results for junior teams the names of nominated sportspersons for the fixture (see subsection 15.3) must be entered into the provided comments field and clearly identified as such (e.g., "Junior Sports-persons: Club 1 - Joe Smith, Club 2 - Jane Doe").

11 Premiership Points

Premiership points are awarded to teams throughout the Minor Round in order to ascertain relative ranking within each division so as to determine which teams advance to the Major Round.

11.1 Determination of Winning Team

The winning team of a Fixture shall be the team winning the greatest number of rubbers. If both teams win the same number of rubbers, then the team with the greater number of sets shall be the winner. If both teams win the same number of rubbers and sets, then the team with the greater number of games shall be the winner. If both teams have won the same number of rubbers, sets and games then the result shall be deemed a draw. A winner can be determined in an unfinished/abandoned fixture only if one team is in an unbeatable position.

11.2 Allocation of Points

Premiership points shall be allocated to teams for each Fixture of the Minor Round as follows:

(a). One point for each Rubber won by the team whether by Match completion, forfeit or retirement.

(b) The team winning a fixture shall receive additional points according to standard team size whereby one point is awarded for every two players in the team (e.g., if a team of four players wins a fixture, they are credited with two points for the team win). Such points shall be divided evenly between both teams in the event of a drawn result.

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

a. If neither team is in an unbeatable position, no rubbers will count and 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 match played);

b. If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and awarded premiership points as stated in 11.2 (a). plus one point for each rubber won, and the unplayed or unfinished rubbers will be deemed split between each team.

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

11.3 Point Deductions

Premiership points may be deducted from a team as full or part penalty for breach of specific by- laws.

11.4 Allocation of Points for Forfeited Fixtures

(a). A team receiving a forfeit shall receive the maximum possible number of premiership points for that fixture (i.e., a point for each rubber of the fixture and points for the team win) and be credited with the maximum number of rubbers, sets and games for that fixture.

(b). A forfeiting team shall receive no premiership points for that fixture and will not be credited with any rubbers, sets or games for that fixture.

11.5 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" (see 11.6(c)).

11.6 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 solely based on the total number of premiership points of each team whereby the team with the most premiership points are deemed the highest/first ranked team.

(c). In divisions that contain a bye, ranking shall be based on the "points ratio" being the total number of premiership points divided by the number of fixtures played whereby the team with the largest points ratio is deemed the highest/first ranked team. This ensures that all tables/ladders accurately reflect relative position of teams throughout the season and obviates the need to make manual adjustments at the end of the Minor Round.

(d). If two or more teams have the same number of premiership points with the same number of fixtures played, then the team having the greater number of fixture wins shall be ranked higher. If the number of fixture 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.

12 Major Round (Finals)

12.1 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 detailed and tabulated in the remainder of this subsection.

(a). The Qualifying Semi-final shall be played between the first and second ranked teams.

(b). The Elimination Semi-final shall be played between the third and fourth ranked teams.

(c). The Preliminary Final shall be played between the winner of the Elimination Semi-final and the loser of the Qualifying Semi-final.

(d). The Grand Final shall be played between the winner of the Qualifying Semi-final and the winner of the Preliminary Final.

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

12.2 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 together with the President or, should the President be unavailable,

another Office Bearer shall select neutral fixture venues for the Preliminary Finals and Grand Finals.

(c). At least two courts shall be allocated to junior and open-age competition Major Round fixtures.

(d). The Executive shall provide a referee for each Grand Final venue.

12.3 Player Eligibility

(a). A player shall be considered to have "*participated*" in a Rubber provided they, or their team, has not forfeited the Rubber. Thus, *participated* Rubbers include those completed, retired, cancelled, abandoned, and those for which a forfeit was received.

(b). A player shall be considered to have "*participated*" in a fixture provided they, or their team, has not forfeited all of the Rubbers of the fixture to which that player was allocated. Thus, a player has *participated* in a fixture if at least one of their allocated Rubbers was completed, retired, cancelled, abandoned, or forfeited by the opposition.

(c). To qualify to play Major Round fixtures for a team, a player shall have *participated* in four times the maximum number of Rubbers it is possible for a member of that team to play per fixture, for their Club, during the Minor Round. Thus, to qualify for Major Round participation in an Open-age Premiership League, Doubles League or Junior Yellow and Green Ball competition fixture, a player would need to have participated in 8 rubbers for their club whereas for an Open-age Pathways League team a player would need to have participated in 12 rubbers for their club. As Junior Orange Ball competition will not comprise of Major Round competition, players will need have participated in any 2 fixtures during a 6-week season to be considered for a participation award.

(d). A player shall not be permitted to play in Major Round fixtures in a League or Division lower than that in which they *participated* in the majority (or equal number) of Minor Round fixtures.

(e). 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.

(f). A team may only use Extra Players in Major Round fixtures that satisfy applicable restrictions set forth in 5.4(b) and 5.4(d).

12.4 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.

12.5 Drawn Finals Fixtures

(a). If a Major Round fixture is drawn, then the winning team shall be determined through tie-break playoff. In the open-age competition, each same-gender doubles listed on the scorecard shall play a 7-point tie-break game. In the junior competition, each doubles listed on the scorecard shall play a 7-point tie-break game.

(b). All players must remain at their Major Round fixture venue until a match result has been reached. If a player is absent and the fixture is drawn, no substitute player can be used, and the relevant tie-break game of doubles will be forfeited by the absent player's team.

(c). Players are permitted a warm-up hit prior to commencement of their first playoff tie-break game provided it does not exceed 5 minutes in duration.

(d). The choice of end or the choice to be server or receiver for the first point of the playoff tie-break game shall be decided by toss.

(e). The team winning the greatest number of playoff tie-breaks shall be declared the fixture winner. If each team wins the same number of playoff-tiebreaks, then the point scores of all such tie- breaks played shall be summed and the fixture winner shall be the team with the greatest total number of points. If both teams also have an equal total point score, then a new playoff round shall commence with all tie-breaks being replayed. This process shall repeat until a clear winner is determined at completion of an individual playoff round.

(f). For Major Round fixtures where the result is achieved through tie-break playoff, the tie-break scores and winning team name shall be clearly recorded on the scorecard and also entered within the fixture comments when submitting results online (see 10.2(e)).

13 Fees, Fines & Penalties

13.1 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 Premiership League Teams:	$80 per team
Open-age Pathway League Teams:	$80 per team
Open-age Doubles Leagues:	$80 per team
Junior Competition (Yellow Ball, Green Ball):	$50 per team
Junior Competition (Orange Ball):	$30 per team

(d). Invoices for team registration fees will be issued to Clubs in early November and must be paid in full within one calendar month from the date of issue. Overdue fees shall attract a fine of $50 per calendar month.

(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.

13.2 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 in full within one calendar month of invoice date otherwise late fees of $50 per calendar month will 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.

14 Fixture Disputes, Interpretation & Appeals

14.1 Fixture Disputes

(a). Disputes of fixture results submitted in accordance with 10.2(f) shall be processed by the Match Recorder. If possible, such disputes will be resolved by the Match Recorder through consultation with both teams involved in the fixture.

(b). Should a dispute entail a straightforward technical breach of a by-law which has a stipulated fine and/or penalty, then the Match Recorder may, after consultation with another GSTA Office Bearer, enact the respective penalty and/or direct the Treasurer to issue the applicable fine. In such cases the Match Recorder shall inform the offending team/club in writing of the nature of the breach and the penalties imposed.

(c). If a fixture dispute involves breach of a by-law for which there is no stipulated fine or penalty, then the Match Recorder shall refer the dispute to all remaining Office Bearers (see 13.2(e)).

14.2 Match Disputes

(a). All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to the match recorder (ldoughty@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 in line with rule 14.1 (b) For any Code of Behaviour Issues, refer to Rule 2.3.

(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)

14.3 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.

14.4 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.

15 Awards, Shields & Trophies

15.1 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 (see subsection 15.5). The GSTA 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.

15.2 Medallions & Pennants

(a). Each premiership team shall be awarded a single pennant for their club to keep as a record of their achievement.

(b). 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 is under no obligation to provide additional medallions to cater for extra players but may do so at its discretion.

15.3 Junior Sportsperson Awards

(a). For each Minor Round fixture of the Junior Competition participating teams must nominate a playing member of the opposition team who they consider the best “sportsperson” (i.e., having displayed fairness, etiquette or helpfulness either on or off court). Such nominations are entered in the comments field when submitting results (see 10(g)).

(b). Junior Sportsperson Awards are presented at the GSTA AGM to the players which receive the most “junior sportsperson” nominations across all fixtures of the Minor Round. If the Minor Round of a particular division (e.g., Orange Ball) contains more rounds than for other divisions, then nominations from such additional rounds shall not be counted.

(c). Two Junior Sportsperson Awards are presented: one for the player participating in Junior Yellow Ball competition that receives the most nominations, another for the player participating in Junior Green Ball competition that receives the most nominations.

(d). If a player receives nominations from their participation within both competition ranges (i.e., Yellow Ball and Green Ball) then such nominations shall be summed yet the player shall be considered to belong to the division range within which they played the most fixtures.

(e). Should more than one person receive the most junior sportsperson nominations within either stipulated competition range, then the winner shall be the player with the highest nomination ratio (i.e., nominations divided by fixtures played). If the result is still tied, each person shall receive an award.

15.4 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

15.5 Most Consistent Trophies

(a). 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.

(b). 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.

(c). 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. For other divisions, the winning percentage calculation shall incorporate all rubbers played. If winning percentage cannot differentiate between multiple players, then each such player shall receive a trophy.

15.6 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). Brian Lienert Shield (BLS) points are calculated from premiership points awarded to teams during the Minor Round only.

(b). A team can be awarded a maximum of 20 BLS points per fixture played.

(c). A team's BLS point score for the season is calculated in a manner that normalises the result with respect to the number of rounds the team played in their Minor Round, the team structure and fixture format. This ensures that all teams in all divisions of all competitions can theoretically attain the same maximum BLS point score for the season.

(d). A team's BLS point score for the season '*T*" is calculated according to the following equation:

$$T = \frac{P_p \times S_r \times 20}{F_s \times M_f}$$

where,

P_p = Team's total premiership points from the Minor Round.

F_s = Number of fixtures scheduled for the team during its Minor Round (does not include byes).

S_r = Standard number of rounds in the association's Minor Round (normally 16, this number is a constant for all teams in any one season).

M_f = Maximum premiership points the team can win per fixture (e.g., 8 points for a Junior team, open-age Premiership League Team or an Open-age Doubles team, 10 points for an Open-age Pathways team$).

(e). A Brian Lienert Shield is awarded to the club with the highest overall BLS point score. A club's overall BLS point score 'C_{bls}' is calculated by dividing the sum of each of its individual team BLS point scores (T_1, T_2,. ,T_n) by the total number of teams the club fielded 'n', which
is represented by the following equation.

$$C_{bls} = \frac{\sum_{x=1}^{n} T_x}{n}$$

(f). 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 constituent 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 differentiation between large and small clubs may instead be based on the number of players associated with teams fielded by a club. 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 each.

16 References

- ITF's *Rules of Tennis*
  See
  www.itftennis.com/technical/publications/rules/overview.aspx or
  www.itftennis.com/officiating/rulebooks/rules-of-tennis.aspx
- ITF *Approved Balls*
  www.itftennis.com/technical/balls/approved-balls.aspx
- Tennis Australia's *Etiquette* guidelines
  www.tennis.com.au/learn/rules-and-scoring/etique
  tte
- Tennis Australia's *Matches Played without a Chair Umpire* document
  See www.tennis.com.au/doc/tennis-etiquette-and-rules-for-non-umpired-matches
  or download
  www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Rules-for-matches-without-chair-umpire-2013-latest.pdf
- Tennis Australia's *Safeguarding Children Guidelines*
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- Tennis Australia's *Safeguarding Children Resources*
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