METRO LEAGUE RULES

2019/20 SEASON

1. Schedule of Matches

1.1 15 home and away rounds will be played

1.2 First round commencing 12 October 2019

1.3 Last round before Christmas to be 14 December 2019

1.4 Break after 14 December 2019, and resuming on 1 February 2020

1.5 Last round to be played on 29 February 2020

1.6 Finals to be played over 3 weekends commencing 14 March with Grand Final on 28 March 2020

2. Matches/Players

2.1 Each match will comprise 2 doubles matches and 4 singles matches.

2.2 A team may use up to 6 players in each match, no player may play more than one singles and one doubles.

2.3 A team must play its singles players in singles Order of Merit. No player may move more than one ranking position up or down in consecutive matches.

2.4 Players must be registered members of their club, and details must be recorded in full on League Manager by 11:59pm on the Sunday following the match.

2.5 Any team playing a player listed on Tennis SA's list of ineligible players shall be penalised by losing any points the ineligible player has accrued and forfeit all sets played.

2.6 If a club has more than one team in a division, a player may play three matches before being bound to a team. No player is permitted to change teams after the end of January.

2.7 State League players that have played five matches are ineligible for Metro League unless with prior approval of the Metro league Match Committee.

2.8 No player shall play for more than one club in any one series unless with a written clearance from that club and the written approval of Tennis SA. No clearance will be approved after four programmed matches. PENALTY: Loss of all sets played by offending player.

2.9 New players into a team which are not in the initial squad list must be approved by Tennis SA. If Tennis SA is not notified before match day, you will have until 5:00 PM Monday to notify Tennis SA or penalties will be applied. Newly nominated players, who substantially alter the general standard of the team as originally graded, may not be accepted by Tennis SA. Penalty if player is not accepted – Loss of sets played by that player if the player is to play again in that team after being notified they are not eligible to play in that grade.

2.10 Where a team has no players over the age of eighteen (18) it will be required to supply an adult supervisor for each match.

3. Manager/Captain

3.1 Each team must have a Captain appointed for each match.

3.2 Each Team Captain must, prior to the scheduled start time of the match, complete the team score sheet by writing a list of doubles players on the score sheet showing the order in which his/her team will play and exchange the score sheet with the Captain of the opposing team. The singles players may be named after the completion of the scheduled doubles matches.

3.3 Both teams are required to print out a score sheet from Match Centre. In the case one or both teams do not have their scoresheet printed from League Manager with all players listed, as outlined above, the Metro League Committee have the right to issue a penalty in the form of loss of premiership points.

3.4 The Team Manager must attend from the commencement and remain at the Metro League match until the match is completed and will be responsible for the team abiding by Metro League Match Rules, Order of Merit and Code of Behaviour and any other policies as referred to in the Metro League Rules.

4. Balls and Ball allocation

4.1 All balls must be of a type approved by Tennis Australia. The home team shall provide eight new balls for the match. Finals: Each team to provide four new balls.

5. Match Times

5.1 The scheduled starting time will be 1pm for home and away matches on a Saturday afternoon (unless otherwise notified) – 2 courts per match.

5.2 Metro League teams are able to apply to the Metro League Committee in writing to hold matches at different times. These requests must be sent to the Metro League Recording Secretary prior to the commencement of the season.

5.3 Players must be ready to play at the stipulated match time.

6. Order of Play

Teams are permitted to use up to six (6) players in a match. Doubles matches shall be played first. After commencement, play is to be continuous. The order of play may be amended by prior agreement between the captains.

7. Scoring

7.1 Matches shall be decided by rubbers, where rubbers are even, by sets and where sets are even, by games.

7.2 Singles and doubles shall be the best of two, six game tiebreaker sets with a 12-point tie-break (traditional, first to seven points) at six games all in either set. If after the second set the match is one set each then a match tiebreak (first to 10 points with a 2-point margin or a 2-point margin after 9 points all is to be played).

8. Forfeits

8.1 Clubs are expected to fill Metro League teams each week. Clubs need to fill teams from top down; State League, Metro League Etc.

8.2 Forfeit of doubles rubber, except in the case of injury or sickness during the match, bottom double must be forfeited first. Failure by a team to forfeit in the correct order will result in a loss of four (4) Premiership points.

8.3 If any team cannot commence both doubles rubbers (unless by prior mutual agreement) by 1.15 pm that team shall forfeit any rubber that cannot be commenced. Any team not able to commence two rubbers within half an hour of the scheduled starting time, shall be liable to forfeit the entire match. This is a competition requirement, not at the discretion of team captains.

8.4 Forfeit of a singles rubber, except in the case of injury or sickness during the match, must be from the number 4 position up. Failure by a team to forfeit in the correct order will result in a loss of four (4) Premiership points.

8.5 A team proposing to forfeit a match or a rubber shall notify the opposing team as soon as possible. A team so giving a forfeit, shall in the absence of providing a reasonable written explanation to the Recording Secretary prior to 6:00pm the following Tuesday, be liable to lose four (4) Premiership points.

9. Weather implications

9.1 In the event of extreme weather (including but not limited to rain or excessive heat) a recorded phone message will be placed on the Tennis SA Weather Phone 8411 1512 by 11:00am on the day of the scheduled match.

9.2 Matches will be cancelled when the forecast maximum temperature on match day, is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au at 9.00 am on the morning of matches, is 37′ Celsius or more. If the said forecast includes a temperature of less than 37′ Celsius then the Committee may still also so cancel the said round in the manner set out above.

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

a. On the day set down for such, the matter shall be referred to the Metro League Committee for decision. Players must remain at the courts until at least 2.00pm before making any decision to abandon the match. In the event of wet lawn courts being unplayable, matches maybe transferred by agreement of both Captains.

b. 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 matches played);

c. If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and given 4 premiership points, plus one point for each rubber won, and the unplayed or unfinished rubbers will be deemed split between each team.

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

9.4 In major round matches players must remain at the courts until 4:00pm before making any decision to abandon the match. No new matches to commence after 7:00pm, lights may be used. If no result is achieved the higher placed team will be considered the winner.

10. Results

10.1 Tennis SA will be using the Tennis Australia approved competition software, League Manager. Captains will be required to **enter and confirm** the results of their match on League Manager/ Match Centre by 9:00am on the Monday following the match. Penalty loss of two points to both teams not entering results by 9:00am Monday following the match will apply.

10.2 For every unspecified player entered with a match result, two premiership points will be deducted from their team.

11. Match Disputes

All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to Metro *League Coordinator at Tennis SA (dhicks@tennis.com.au) by 6:00pm on Tuesday following the match. For any Code of Behavior Issues, refer to Rule 15. Please be aware that all teams are responsible for following the rules and regulations stated. It is the team's 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.*

12. Premiership table

12.1 Four premiership points will be awarded for a winning match and two points for a draw plus one premiership point for each winning rubber.

12.2 Premiership tables to be decided by points and in the case of equality of points at the end of the minor round, the team with the best percentage for and against (rubbers, then sets, then games) shall be deemed minor premiers. In divisions with a bye, or "unplayed" matches the premiership table will be decided by match ratio. (Match ratio is the Premiership points divided by the number of matches played). If equal on match ratio then by rubbers, then sets, then games.

13. Finals

13.1 The four teams securing the highest number of points shall play off in the major round. In the event of a bye in a draw or partly cancelled round, the four teams securing the highest match ratio shall play off in the major round. In the semi-finals, the Minor Premiers will have the option of hosting a home final on courts of a standard approved by the Metro League Committee. If the team declines, the decision as to where the match is to be played shall be made by the Metro League Committee.

13.2 A Major Round draw shall be decided by both teams nominating their best doubles pairing and a match tiebreak played to decide the match.

13.3 (A) The team finishing 1st plays the team finishing 2nd;

13.4 (B) The team finishing 3nd plays the team finishing 4th;

13.5 (C) the loser of (A) plays the winner of (B);

13.6 (D) The winner of (C) plays the winner of (A) in a Grand Final.

14. Finals Qualification

14.1 Nominations of teams including Singles order and Doubles pairings for each final round match must be in writing and in the hands of the Metro League Recording Secretary on the Tuesday preceding the programmed date of the match. A maximum of eight players are to be listed in order of merit including reserves as established in the Minor Rounds.

14.2 Players in the major rounds are to remain in the same order of their position of merit throughout the Finals Series– unless injury or similar requires any replacement players.

14.3 No player may play in finals matches unless that player is a registered member of Tennis SA and has played in no less than six (6) minor round matches in at Metro League level or at a senior level competition for the same club conducted on a Saturday afternoon, but does not include players deemed to be ranked higher than players in the team. In the event of 12 or less matches being played during the season, players will be required to play in no less than five (5) minor round matches to qualify for finals. There are no grounds for appeal for players who have played less than the required amount of matches to qualify for finals.

14.4 Any matches not cancelled by Tennis SA will count towards qualification, provided all listed players attend the venue and submit a scoresheet in League Manager / Match Centre.

15. Code of Behaviour issues

15.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour for Weekly Competitions.

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

15.3 Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behavior reports.

15.4 Team Captains and Team Managers are responsible for the exercise of control over their own players in all respects relating to match play, discipline and sportsmanship, etc.

16. Penalties

The Metro League Committee may apply penalties for any breaches of the Metro League Competition Rules other than Code of Behavior matters. The Metro League Committee may determine a dispute in any way it sees fit and impose a penalty, including but not limited to the forfeit of matches or sets, and the loss of premiership points, on any club or player involved in such a dispute.