



# Tennis SA Metro League

RULES  
2023-24 season

## 1. Schedule of Matches

- 1.1 16 home and away rounds will be played
- 1.2 First round commencing – 14 October 2023
- 1.3 Last round before Christmas to be 16 December 2023
- 1.4 Break after 16 December 2023, and resuming on 27 January 2024
- 1.5 Last round to be played on 2 March 2024
- 1.6 Finals to be played over 2 weekends commencing 16 March with Grand Final on 23 March 2024
- 1.7 Matches will not be played over the Adelaide Cup Long Weekend – March 9

## 2. Metro League Committee

- 2.1 Please refer to the Metro League Terms of Reference as found on the Tennis SA Website
- 2.2 For the purpose of the Season 2023/24 the members of the Metro League Administration are
  - (a) Brandon Oster (Chair);
  - (b) Dylan Hicks, Tennis SA, Metro League Coordinator and Recording Secretary.
  - (c) Association Reps and Independents as per Metro League Terms of Reference

## 3. Matches/Players

- 3.1 Each match will comprise 2 doubles matches and 4 singles matches.
- 3.2 A team may use up to 6 players in each match, no player may play more than one singles and one doubles.
- 3.3 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. Number 1 or 2 highest ranked player in order of merit, playing doubles on the day, must play in the top doubles pairing.
- 3.4 Players must be a registered member through a Tennis Australia approved database for their club, and details must be recorded in full on League Manager by 11:59pm on the Sunday following the match.
- 3.5 All players nominated must have registered and activated their own Competitive Player Profile to compete.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 If a club has two teams in any division a player having played three (3) matches in any one side cannot play in the other side without the instruction or permission of the Metro League Committee.
- 3.8 State League players that have played five matches are ineligible for Metro League unless with prior approval of the Metro league Match Committee.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 New players into a team who are not in the base 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 division, 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.
- 3.11 Where a team has no players over the age of eighteen (18) it will be required to supply an adult supervisor for each match.

## 4. Manager/Captain

- 4.1 Each team must have a Captain appointed for each match.
- 4.2 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.

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.

## **5. Balls and Ball allocation**

- 5.1 All balls must be of a type approved by Tennis Australia. The home team shall provide twelve new balls for the match. Finals: Each team to provide six new balls.

## **6. Match Times**

- 6.1 The scheduled starting time will be 1pm for home and away matches on a Saturday afternoon (unless otherwise notified) – 2 courts per match.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 Players must be ready to play at the stipulated match time.

## **7. Order of Play**

- 7.1 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.

## **8. Scoring**

- 8.1 Matches shall be decided by rubbers, where rubbers are even, by sets and where sets are even, by games.
- 8.2 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).

## **9. Forfeits**

- 9.1 Clubs are expected to fill Metro League teams each week. Clubs need to fill teams from top down; State League, Metro League Etc.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 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.
- 9.6 Any team forfeiting three matches may be removed from the competition.

- 9.7 If a team is to be removed from the competition or if a club withdraws a team from the competition, their matches and previous results will be replaced with a bye and the ladder will be calculated by match ratio.

## 10. Weather implications

- 10.1 In the event of extreme weather (including but not limited to rain or excessive heat) a message will be placed on the Tennis SA Website - [Inclement Weather Update](#) by 11:00am on the day of the scheduled match.
- 10.2 Matches will be cancelled when the forecast maximum temperature on match day, is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology at [www.bom.gov.au](http://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.
- 10.3 In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather the following will occur:
- 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 3.00pm 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.
  - If no rubbers are complete, the match will be considered "unplayed" for purposes of ladder calculation only with the premiership ladder determined using a points ratio (i.e. average points per matches played);
  - If at least one rubber is complete and neither team is in an unbeatable position, both teams will receive 2 premiership points, plus one point for each rubber won, and the unplayed or unfinished rubbers will be deemed split between each team.
  - 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)
- 10.4 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.

## 11. Results

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 For every unspecified player entered with a match result, two premiership points will be deducted from their team.

## 12. Match Disputes

- 12.1 All match disputes must be made by the Team Manager or Captain by email to the Coordinator at Tennis SA ([dhicks@tennis.com.au](mailto:dhicks@tennis.com.au)) by 9:00am on Tuesday 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 Tennis SA in line with Rule.
- 12.2 For any Code of Behaviour Issues, refer to Rule 18.
- 12.3 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.

- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 The Metro League Committee 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).

### 13. Interpretation of Rules and Regulations

- 13.1 Any question arising from or in connection with the interpretation or construction of these rules and regulations shall be determined by the Metro League Committee in its absolute discretion.
- 13.2 The Metro League Committee may alter or amend these rules and regulations from time to time without prior notice

### 14. Appeals

- 14.1 A party may appeal a determination made by the Metro League Committee pursuant to Rule 11.3, 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.

### 15. Premiership table

- 15.1 Four premiership points will be awarded for a winning match and two points for a draw plus one premiership point for each winning rubber.
- 15.2 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.**

### 16. Finals

- 16.1 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.
- 16.2 A Major Round draw shall be decided by both teams nominating their best doubles pairing and a match tiebreak played to decide the match.
- 16.3 (A) The team finishing 1<sup>st</sup> plays the team finishing 4<sup>th</sup>;
- 16.4 (B) The team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> plays the team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>;
- 16.5 (C) The winner of (A) plays the winner of (B) in a Grand Final.

### 17. Finals Qualification

- 17.1 All clubs shall update their playing lists for all teams in League Manager to reflect the correct order of merit for all qualified players no later than 9am on Tuesday following the second last match for the season. All players not qualified for finals should be changed to Reserve Players. The squads will then be locked and reviewed by Tennis SA. Any changes required will be communicated with the relevant clubs no later than the Friday following. Teams must then play in the approved order of merit.
- 17.2 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.
- 17.3 No player may play in finals matches unless that player has played in no less than five (5) minor round matches in at Metro League level or at an association 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 four (4) minor round matches to qualify for finals.

There are no grounds for appeal for players who have played less than the required number of matches to qualify for finals.

- 17.4 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.

## 18. Code of Behaviour issues

- 18.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the behavioural standards outlined in *Part II: Expected Behaviours* of the Tennis Australia [Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play](#) (the **Code**)
- 18.2 Any alleged breaches of the Code should be reported by filling out and lodging the [Tennis SA Competition Code of Behaviour Report](#) by COB Tuesday following the match in which the incident took place.
- 18.3 The Metro League Committee may meet on a weekly basis to consider any alleged breaches of the Code. The Metro League Committee will consider any reports/complaints, then determine, with regard to all the material provided to it, if a breach of the Code or the Metro League Competition Rules has occurred and consider appropriate penalties in accordance with clause 18 of these Rules.
- 18.4 *Team Captains and Team Managers are responsible for:*
- (a) Educating all players in their team on their responsibilities under Tennis Australia's National Policies (particularly the Code and Disciplinary Policy) and
  - (b) Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship.

## 19. Penalties

- 19.1 The Metro League Committee may impose penalties for any breach(es) of the Metro League Competition Rules and/or the Code. The Metro League Committee may resolve a dispute in any way it sees fit and/or impose a penalty, subject to the principles of natural justice. Penalties that may be imposed by the Metro league Committee include (but are not limited to) suspension from the Metro League Competition of no more than four weeks, the forfeit of matches or sets, and the loss of premiership points, on any club, player or spectator found to have breached these Rules and/or the Code.
- 19.2 The Metro League Committee reserves the right to refer breaches of the code to the Tennis Australia Integrity and Compliance Unit for further investigation and to be resolved in accordance with the Code.

