



Rules & Conditions of Play

Tennis Victoria Pennant

2025



TENNIS VICTORIA PENNANT – RULES & CONDITIONS OF PLAY

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CONDITIONS OF PLAY – VICTORIAN PENNANT MATCHES

Any sections underlined are new or updated rules for the 2025 season.

1.0 - General

Victorian Pennant shall be conducted for Clubs affiliated with Tennis Victoria in accordance with the following Rules and Conditions of Play.

2.0 – Interpretation

The following terms and definitions shall have the following meanings:

- 2.1. “CAPTAIN” (or “Team Captain”) means the person who is the nominated player in either the team or who is a registered member of the team’s Club and is appointed by that team to represent them in relation to any decisions or coin tosses that may need to be made pursuant to these rules.
 - a. Where a Team Captain is not in attendance to make the required decision, the remaining members in attendance in the Captain’s absence shall appoint a substitute Captain to take their role until they are in attendance. Where only one team member is present (and that person is not the usual team Captain) that team member is the Captain until the appointed Captain arrives.
- 2.2. “CLUB” means any tennis club or tennis body approved to play in the Pennant competition by Tennis Victoria, provided that the tennis body is affiliated with Tennis Victoria.
- 2.3. “COMMENCEMENT TIME” means the time prescribed by these Rules for the start of play for defined types of matches (Note: home and away matches may have different times from Finals matches).
- 2.4. “CONCLUSION TIME” means the latest prescribed time by which a specified type of match must be completed or discontinued in accordance with these rules.
- 2.5. “MATCH CENTRE” means the national computer software used by Tennis Victoria to conduct Victorian Pennant, including, but not limited to the registration of teams and players, payments of fees, registration of results and protests.
- 2.6. “MATCH DAY PANEL” means the Match Day Advisory Panel which is an associated panel of the Tennis Victoria Competitive Play Committee – as constituted pursuant to the By-Laws of the Victorian Tennis Association and governed by the Match Day Advisory Panel Terms of Reference.
- 2.7. “MEN’S/WOMEN’S MASTERS 35+ DOUBLES PENNANT” means a doubles only tennis competition for players aged 35 years or more conducted by Tennis Victoria for clubs, teams and players pursuant to these Victorian Pennant Rules.
- 2.8. “NOMINATED CLUB REPRESENTATIVE FOR WASHOUTS” means the person appointed by a club as an alternative contact to the home Captain who may decide with the mutual agreement of the visiting Captain to abandon play because of rain in accordance with the Abandoned Washout Procedure (see By-law 7.3). This person’s contact details will be included on Tennis Victoria’s website.
- 2.9. “PENNANT” means a singles and doubles tennis competition conducted by Tennis Victoria for clubs, teams, and players pursuant to these Victorian Pennant Rules; except where its contents specify that it applies to Men’s or Women’s Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant only.
- 2.10. “COMPETITIVE PLAY COMMITTEE” means the Tennis Victoria Competitive Play Committee – as constituted pursuant to the By-laws of the Victorian Tennis Association.
- 2.11. “REFEREE” means a registered tennis official appointed by Tennis Victoria for the purposes of officiating at a specified Pennant, or Men’s or Women’s Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant match.
 - a. Where no umpires are present, any determination made by a Referee in relation to a question of fact shall be final.
 - b. Any determination made by a Referee in relation to a question of law shall be final save that the Referee shall not be required to make any determinations in relation to a team’s



- makeup and/or [singles UTR playing order](#).
- c. Tennis Victoria will appoint Referees at Tennis Victoria's expense for all Grade Grand Finals. A club may request a Referee to be appointed for any other match (home and away or finals) and one will be appointed (subject to the availability of a Referee) at the expense of the club making the request. Any such request will need to be made prior to 5.00pm on the Wednesday preceding the relevant match to be officiated.
- 2.12. "REGISTERED PLAYER" means a person who is:
- Registered to play Victorian Pennant tennis with his/her team's club. The person need not be a financial member of that club. It is further noted as follows:
 - Where the player is part of the original nominated team, the club registration of that player must be registered as at the close of entries.
 - [A registered player must have a complete Competitive Player Profile. That is a Match Centre account linked to their UTR Rating.](#)
 - Where the player first plays for the team as an Emergency/ **reserve** player then that player's club registration must be registered as at the time he/she first plays for the team.
 - Where a player first plays for the team as an additional lower ranked player that player's club registration must be registered as at the time he/she first plays for the team, or
- 2.13. "REPLACEMENT PLAYER" means a player who plays in a Victorian Pennant team as an Emergency or a Substitute. [For this definition, Emergency Players, Fill-ins and Reserves are all classified as replacement players.](#)
- 2.14. "RULES/CONDITIONS OF PLAY" means these rules of the Victorian Pennant Teams Competition, which encompasses the regulations governing the Pennant and Men's or Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant Competitions as set out in this document.
- 2.15. "TEAM" means a minimum of **five** male players of the same club or a minimum of **five** female players of the same club who are nominated to play in a match.
- 2.16 "ON-COURT COACHES" are the team players, Team Coach, Team Manager and other persons who are nominated each week by the team to be permitted to go on-court, and coach a player or doubles team during his, her or their rubber.
- 2.17 "VICTORIAN PENNANT" means the weekly competitions of Pennant and Men's or Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant operated by Tennis Victoria and governed by the Competitive Play Committee pursuant to these Rules.
- 2.18 The singular shall mean and include the plural and vice versa and any gender shall mean and include all other genders except where reference to a gender specific competition is referred to, in which case the stated gender shall only apply.
- 2.19 Unless otherwise specified, where a By-law permits the two team Captains to make a decision by agreement, this decision will instead be made by the Referee if one has been appointed to officiate the match.

3.0 – Pennant

Pennant shall:

- 3.1. Be played on Saturday mornings and/or afternoons and / or Sunday afternoons in each year during such months as determined by Tennis Victoria; except where a Finals match has been postponed due to the Finals Wet Weather Procedure (By-law 13.1) or time, the scheduling for Finals the following week may include a weekday at the discretion of Tennis Victoria (By-Law 13).
- 3.2. Be played between separate male teams and be played between separate female teams. It will consist of home and away matches, and finals matches. It will also consist of singles and doubles rubbers.
- 3.3. Be divided into Grades and Sections, with each Section containing eight (8) teams, as follows:
 - a. Men's State Grade and Grade 1 shall consist of one section, with all sections to be played on Saturday afternoons unless otherwise specified by Tennis Victoria.



- b. Men's Grade 2 shall consist of two sections, with all sections to be played on Saturday afternoons unless otherwise specified by Tennis Victoria.
- c. Men's Grade 3 and below shall consist of four sections each, all of which are to be played on either Saturday afternoon or Sunday afternoon as determined by Tennis Victoria.
- d. Women's State Grade and Grade 1 shall consist of one section, with all sections to be played on Saturday afternoons unless otherwise specified by Tennis Victoria.
- e. Women's Grade 2 and below shall consist of at least two sections each, with all sections to be played at times specified by Tennis Victoria.
- f. Clubs are limited to entering a maximum of three teams across State Grade and Grade 1. This is limited to one team in State Grade and two teams in Grade 1 unless prior permission is given by Tennis Victoria.

4.0 – Men's And Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant

Men's and Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant shall:

- 4.1. Be played on Saturday and / or Sunday afternoons in each year during such months as determined by Tennis Victoria; except where a Finals match has been postponed due to the Finals Wet Weather Procedure (By-law 13.1) or time, the scheduling for Finals the following week may include a weekday at the discretion of Tennis Victoria (By-Law 13).
- 4.2. Be played between separate male or separate female teams only where players are aged 35 years or over (see also By-law 21.1 for full age details).
- 4.3. Consist of home and away matches, and finals matches, consisting of doubles rubbers only. It will be divided into Grades only, with each Grade consisting of between 6 and 8 teams.
- 4.4. There shall be no **playing order** Men's or Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant, and each team shall nominate their pairings on the score sheet before the match commences. These nominations shall include different combinations of player pairings for the 3rd and 4th rubbers. No rubber may have identical pairings to a rubber previously played in the match. Each player must play two rubbers in the match.

5.0 – Entries

- 5.1. To be eligible to enter teams into Tennis Victoria Pennant, clubs must be affiliated members of Tennis Victoria with no outstanding affiliation fees. Teams that have failed to pay previous Pennant registration fees or fines will be ineligible to enter future pennant teams until the monies are received.
- 5.2. Any affiliated club from across Victoria is eligible to enter teams into Tennis Victoria Pennant. However, for those clubs that are situated more than 100km from the Tennis Victoria Offices, they must nominate a Home Venue that is within a 100km radius of the Tennis Victoria offices for their entry to be accepted.
- 5.3. Each club shall be entitled to enter teams in Pennant and Men's and/or Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant.
- 5.4. An entry fee as determined by Tennis Victoria, for each team shall be paid to Tennis Victoria, prior to the commencement of Round 4 matches. Failure to do so may result in teams being ineligible to compete in further matches or accumulate any premiership points until the monies are received.
- 5.5. Entries shall close as determined by Tennis Victoria.
- 5.6. Each club entering teams shall submit to Tennis Victoria the names and other details of the proposed players for each team and provide such evidence as Tennis Victoria shall deem necessary in support of the suggested Grade in which the team should play.
- 5.7. Players nominated in teams entered in State Grade or Grade 1 of Pennant are expected to participate in a minimum of four matches during the season in the Grade in which the player has been nominated. Failure to do so, without good and sufficient reason as determined by Tennis Victoria, may affect player eligibility for the following season. Teams will also be penalised a total of sixteen points for a player who does not reach the minimum number of matches played. The



- maximum point penalty for a team in breach of this rule is thirty-two points.
- 5.8. Tennis Victoria shall determine in its absolute discretion which Grade (and Section for Pennant) any team or player shall play.
 - 5.9. Once a team has been approved by Tennis Victoria the team may not add any further members to their team unless he or she is included as approved by these Rules, or unless permission is given by Tennis Victoria. Teams may use Emergencies to replace an ordinary team member, but these players will not be considered part of the team. Emergencies may not strengthen a team from its initially approved standard ([Please refer to By-Law 22.6](#)), except if a Wildcard is used at State Grade level.
 - a. At any time during the home and away season a club may apply to Tennis Victoria to have additional players added to a team. Any such player/s must be of a lower playing standard than the original lowest ranked player on the team. Tennis Victoria shall determine whether the players may be added to the team at their sole and absolute discretion.
 - 5.10. The maximum number of teams to be entered by clubs in any one season of play will be determined by the number of courts available with a limit of two teams for each two courts made available.
 - 5.11. No entry will be accepted where a club has outstanding debt or fines with Tennis Victoria.

6.0 – Conditions of Play in Home and Away Matches

- 6.1. The format for State Grade, Grade 1 and [Grade 2](#) shall be as follows:

Rubber 1	Rubber 2
Doubles Best of 2 tie-break sets, 7-point tie-break at 6 all, no advantage scoring Match tie-break at one set all (first to 10 points) No.1 pair 2 points per rubber	Doubles Best of 2 tie-break sets, 7-point tie-break at 6 all, no advantage scoring Match tie-break at one set all (first to 10 points) No.2 pair 2 points per rubber
Rubber 3	Rubber 4
Singles Best of 2 tie-break sets, 7-point tie-break at 6 all Match tie-break at one set all (first to 10 points) No.1 player 2 points per rubber	Singles Best of 2 tie-break sets, 7-point tie-break at 6 all Match tie-break at one set all (first to 10 points) No.2 player 2 points per rubber
Rubber 5	Rubber 6
Singles Best of 2 tie-break sets, 7-point tie-break at 6 all Match tie-break at one set all (first to 10 points) No. 3 player 2 points per rubber	Singles Best of 2 tie-break sets, 7-point tie-break at 6 all Match tie-break at one set all (first to 10 points) No. 4 player 2 points per rubber
4 points for the winning team	



6.2. The format for Grade 3 and below shall be as follows:

Rubber 1	Rubber 2
Doubles Odd numbered rounds: First to 8 games, tie-break 8-8 Even numbered rounds: Best of 2 tiebreak sets, match tie-break at one set all No.1 pair 2 points per rubber	Doubles Odd numbered rounds: First to 8 games, tie-break 8-8 Even numbered rounds: Best of 2 tiebreak sets, match tie-break at one set all No.2 pair 2 points per rubber
Rubber 3	Rubber 4
Singles Odd numbered rounds: Best of 2 tiebreak sets, match tiebreak at one set all Even numbered rounds: First to 8 games, tie-break 8-8 No.1 player 2 points per rubber	Singles Odd numbered rounds: Best of 2 tiebreak sets, match tiebreak at one set all Even numbered rounds: First to 8 games, tie-break 8-8 No.2 player 2 points per rubber
Rubber 5	Rubber 6
Singles Odd numbered rounds: Best of 2 tiebreak sets, match tiebreak at one set all Even numbered rounds: First to 8 games, tie-break 8-8 No. 3 player 2 points per rubber	Singles Odd numbered rounds: Best of 2 tiebreak sets, match tiebreak at one set all Even numbered rounds: First to 8 games, tie-break 8-8 No. 4 player 2 points per rubber
4 points for the winning team	

6.3. The format for Men's and Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant shall be as follows:

Rubber 1	Rubber 2
Doubles Best of 2 tie-break sets Match tie-break at one set all (first to ten points) No Order of Merit 2 points per rubber	Doubles Best of 2 tie-break sets Match tie-break at one set all (first to ten points) No Order of Merit 2 points per rubber
Rubber 3	Rubber 4
Doubles Best of 2 tie-break sets Match tie-break at one all (first to ten points) No Order of Merit 2 points per rubber	Doubles Best of 2 tie-break sets Match tie-break at one all (first to ten points) No Order of Merit 2 points per rubber
4 points for the winning team	

In finals fixtures, all rubbers will be a best of 2 tie-break sets, tie-break at 6 all and match tiebreak (first to ten points) at one set all.

6.4. The following will apply for all matches:



- a. The names of players for all rubbers and the team Captain shall be completed on the scoresheet prior to and at the Commencement time for the match and shared with the opposition team. If a scoresheet is not available, the Match Centre scoresheet should be completed online prior to and at the Commencement time for the match.
 - b. No team may be strengthened by the inclusion of an Emergency and/or a Substitute ([Refer to By-Law 22.6](#)). A Wildcard can be utilised in State Grade only, under the conditions of 25.4.
 - c. Rubbers 1 & 2 will be played first, followed by the other rubbers, unless mutually agreed upon by both teams. Pennant procedure for singles rubbers (away team picks first, home team second, away team third)
 - d. Any On-Court Coaches must be communicated to the opposition team, prior to the match commencing.
 - e. Should a rubber be incomplete, and not due to forfeit or retirement, the rubber points will be shared between both competing teams.
 - f. Should a match be incomplete, if a winner is confirmed, they would receive the full match points. If the match result is yet to be determined, the match points would be shared.
 - g. If a match format is applied incorrectly, the outcome of the match will be at Tennis Victoria's discretion. Forfeited rubbers and fines may be applied to clubs who utilise the wrong match format.
 - h. [If a home team needs to change the venue that their match is scheduled for, this must be submitted to Tennis Victoria as far in advance as possible, however, no later than 5pm on the Thursday prior to that scheduled match.](#)
- 6.5. For Men's and Women's Pennant, the following will apply:
- a. Four to six players from each team shall compete. If there are less than four players available, a team is still permitted to compete but will forfeit the relevant rubber(s) as per [singles UTR playing order](#). If a team uses more than six players, any rubbers that the additional player(s) participate in shall be forfeited.
 - b. Each player in each team shall play [in a playing order that is appropriate to their UTR as at the time of the match with 0.5 leeway applicable. For further information on this rule, refer to By-Law 22.](#)
 - c. [The highest rated doubles player on each team must play in the #1 doubles rubber. The remaining doubles players can play in any remaining position across doubles rubbers #1 and #2.](#)
- 6.6. For Men's and Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant the following shall apply for matches:
- a. Every week each team, prior to play, shall nominate four combinations of pairs (which must be four different pairs) made up from a minimum of four to a maximum of six players in the team to play that week. Each pairing shall be categorised as either the first, second, third or fourth pair.
 - b. In every match the first pair of one team shall play the first pair of the opposing team, the second pair of one team shall play the second pair of the opposing team, the third pair of one team shall play the third pair and the fourth pair of one team shall play the fourth pair of the opposing team. No one player shall play more than two rubbers in a match. Once a specific combination of pairs has played each other, this combination may not be repeated to play again in another rubber.

7.0 – Commencement and Conclusion Times for Matches (Home and Away)

- 7.1. Matches shall be Commenced and Concluded at times to be determined by the Match Clock and unless otherwise approved by Tennis Victoria, as follows:
 - a. The Commencement time for morning home and away matches shall not be later than 8:30am (unless delayed by inclement weather see By-law 7.2). The Conclusion time for morning matches is that they shall be completed no later than 1:30pm. If a game has commenced before Conclusion time, that game must be completed. However, if courts are available to play after Conclusion time, then play may continue until a match result is



achieved or until the match is complete. Any extension of play beyond Conclusion time must be by mutual agreement of both team Captains. For purposes of interpreting this By-law, a tiebreak game or a Match tiebreak game is a game and therefore must be completed once started.

- b. The Commencement time for afternoon home and away matches shall be not later than 1:00pm or the conclusion of a morning Pennant match scheduled to play on the same courts, whichever is later (unless delayed by inclement weather see By-law 7.2). For example, Players will need to adhere to the 1:00pm start time and be prepared to play any available matches by no later than 1:15pm.

7.2. **The Wet Weather Procedure** is as follows:

- a. In the event that a match cannot commence or continue by reason of inclement weather, unless the Captains of both teams mutually agree to reduce or extend the time, the match shall be abandoned after the expiration of any one continuous period of delay of ninety minutes after the Commencement time, or from the time that play was interrupted. Teams should make every effort to play a match. Teams found to have displayed less than the best effort to dry courts and play matches may be liable to a fine as well as a match forfeit.
- b. Once play has been abandoned for the day in home and away matches the scoring provisions of rules 8.2 and 8.3 shall apply.

7.3. **The Abandoned Washout Procedure** is as follows:

- a. In the event of inclement weather the Captain of the home team and/or a home team's nominated club representatives (Washout or Pennant Secretary), can agree with the visiting Captain and/or nominated club representatives (Washout or Pennant Secretary) to declare the match a wash out without any member of either team having to turn up to the match site. This agreement can be made at any time within 48 hours of the Commencement time for the match. Team Captains should always endeavor to play matches wherever possible.
- b. In the event of this type of washout, the visiting Captain or nominated club representatives (Washout or Pennant Secretary) must provide the home Captain or nominated club representatives (Washout or Pennant Secretary) with the names of his/her nominated team members for the match within 24 hours of the match being called a wash-out. This can be done via telephone, email, or SMS text.
- c. Once play has been abandoned for the day the scoring provisions of rules 8.2 and 8.3 shall apply. The home team must enter the match result as per the contents of By-law 17.
- d. If mutual agreement between the captains or between the Nominated club representatives (Washout or Pennant Secretary) is not attained prior to the Commencement time for the match, the match will proceed as scheduled, and the no show provisions of By-law 14 shall apply. The match may then subsequently become subject to The Wet Weather Procedure above.

8.0 – Method of Scoring on Home and Away Completed and Incomplete Matches

- 8.1. The winner of each completed match shall be the team who wins the greater number of (for purposes of determining the result of a match a Match tiebreak shall count towards rubber results but will not count as a set or a game):
 - a. Rubbers: but if the number of rubbers won is equal, then
 - b. Sets: but if the number of sets won is equal, then
 - c. Games: but if the number of games won is equal, then the match shall be tied.
- 8.2. Where, in the opinion of Tennis Victoria, by reason of weather or other good and sufficient reason a match cannot be commenced, the total match points will be split.
- 8.3. Where, in the opinion of Tennis Victoria, by reason of weather or other good and sufficient reason a match after being commenced cannot be completed then:



- a. If no overall winning result has been obtained, two points shall be awarded to each team for the match. In addition, the amount of points in accordance with 8.2 shall be awarded to a team for each rubber they won and half the points in accordance with 8.2 shall be awarded to both teams for each incomplete rubber.
 - b. If an overall winning result has been obtained, four points shall be awarded to the winning team. In addition, the amount of points in accordance with 8.2 shall be awarded to a team for each rubber they won and half the points in accordance with 8.2 shall be awarded to both teams for each incomplete rubber.
- 8.4. At the completion of the home and away matches, if any teams have the same number of points and this impacts on who will play in the Finals or a team's Finals position, then the tie shall be broken based on the team who has won the greater number of matches. If any teams are still equal then the tie shall be determined by the percentage of rubbers won over rubbers lost during the home and away season. If they are still equal then it will be decided on the percentage of sets won over sets lost. If still equal then it will be decided on the percentage of games won over games lost. If still equal head-to-head matches during the season will be considered, the result being first based on match points, then rubbers then sets. If still equal, a coin toss held at Tennis Victoria's office, will take place to determine positions. For the purposes of determining this By-law, a Match tiebreak shall count as both a set and a game.

9.0 – Pennant Sectional Finals

- 9.1. At the end of the home and away matches, Sectional Finals (Semi Finals for State Grade, Grade 1 and Masters) shall be played between the Pennant teams finishing in Finals position as follows:
 - a. The teams finishing in first to fourth positions will play-off with 1 v 4, 2 v 3, except in the case of 6 team sections, where there will only be the 2 v 3 match played. 1st will not be required to play a Sectional Final and move to the next round as per 9.1.b
 - b. The winners of these play-off matches shall play in the Grade Finals Series (Grand Final for State Grade, Grade 1 and Masters)
- 9.2. Sectional Finals (including times) will be conducted in accordance with conditions of the Grade Finals series Rules (By-Law 10).

10.0 – Pennant Grade Finals Series

- 10.1. At the completion of the Sectional Finals the winners shall qualify to take part in the Grade Finals series.
- 10.2. Once the Grade Series Finalists are known, Tennis Victoria shall rank the teams as per their Match Ratio throughout the home and away season (average number of points per round) and announce the draw and schedule for the Grade Finals series.

If match ratio is tied, the following will be used in order to determine position

 - i. Greatest Number of Wins
 - ii. Rubber Won Percentage
 - iii. Sets won percentage
 - iv. Game won Percentage
- 10.3. The Commencement and Conclusion times and venues for the Sectional Finals and Grade Finals series shall be (unless otherwise determined by Tennis Victoria in their absolute discretion) as follows:
 - a. The Commencement time for Men's & Women's Sectional Finals and Grade Finals series matches shall be at the discretion of Tennis Victoria. There is no time limit to Sectional Finals and Grade Finals, and the match is played to a result only unless both teams mutually agree to continue.
 - b. All Sectional and Grade Finals Series matches, except the Grade Grand Finals shall be played at the home venue of higher ranked team in a Finals series match and this team shall be the home team. Where a club has insufficient courts to host all of the Grade Finals series matches they have earned the right to host by this By-law, the club shall



nominate which of their teams will play their match at a neutral venue, such neutral venue to be determined by Tennis Victoria in their absolute discretion. Despite playing at a neutral venue, this team shall still be regarded as the home team for the match. Grade Grand Finals shall be played at neutral venues as determined by Tennis Victoria in their absolute discretion.

- 10.4. The Grade Finals Series shall be played out until there are two teams remaining in each Grade. These two teams have then qualified to play in their Grade's Grand Final.

11.0 – Pennant Sectional And Grade Finals Series Match Conditions

- 11.1. Sectional and Grade Finals matches shall consist of as regular season matches, with the exception that all matches will be played as a best of 2 sets format. Furthermore, matches shall only be played until a match winning result has been achieved.
- 11.2. The winner of each completed Finals match shall be the team who wins the greater number of:
- Rubbers, but if the number of rubbers won be equal, then
 - Sets, but if the number of sets won be equal, then
 - Games, but if the number of games won be equal, then
 - A doubles tiebreak set shall be played (with a tiebreak of first to 7 points with a 2-point advantage played at 6 games all). Each team shall choose any two of the four doubles players who participated in the relevant match to compete in this deciding tiebreak set.

12.0 – Pennant Grade Grand Finals

- 12.1. The last two remaining teams in each Grade, having played the Grade Finals series, shall then play off in a Grade Grand Final to determine the winner of the Grade Premiership.
- 12.2. Sectional and Grade Finals matches shall consist of the same format and times as regular season matches, except matches shall only be played until a match winning result has been achieved.

13.0 – Abandoned, Postponed And Rescheduled Victorian Pennant Finals

- 13.1. **The Finals Wet Weather Procedure** is as follows:
- The Wet Weather Procedure shall apply to all Victorian Pennant Finals matches (including Grade Grand Finals) save the rain delay which shall invoke this clause shall be 120 minutes of continuous rain delay and not 90 minutes.
 - Where some members of a team were at the Finals site at the Commencement time but one or more team members has/have not attended the site before play is abandoned but their rubber/s was/were not called to be played no penalty applies and the rubbers may be re-scheduled and a different player/s may be used on the next occasion.
 - If a player is defaulted because of punctuality before play is abandoned, any rubber he/she was still required to play but which had not been called need not be played by them in the re-scheduled Finals match.
 - The provisions of By-law 13.3(d) regarding substitute players in rescheduled Finals matches shall also apply.
- 13.2. The Abandoned Washout Procedure shall not apply to any Finals match, including the Pennant Grade Grand Finals.
- 13.3. Where a result has not been reached in a Victorian Pennant Finals match by their scheduled Conclusion time or a match has been abandoned due to bad light or washed out pursuant to the Finals Wet Weather Procedure (By-law 13.1) the following applies:
- Tennis Victoria may in their absolute discretion for those teams affected, schedule two Pennant Sectional and/or Victorian Pennant Grade Finals matches (one to be finished) to be played on consecutive days during the following week which may include a week day or it may be both days of the following weekend.



- b. In the alternative, where a Pennant Sectional or Victorian Pennant Grade Finals match scheduled to be played on a Saturday does not achieve a result or is washed out pursuant to the Finals Wet Weather Procedure this match may be played the following day only with the agreement of both Team Captains at a site and time that they both agree upon. This decision may not be made by a Referee.
- c. For a Grade; Grand Final the following applies:
 - i. Tennis Victoria may in their absolute discretion for those teams affected schedule the Grade Grand Final to be completed on any day at any time during the following week, including either a weekday or a Sunday on the following weekend. Tennis Victoria may also schedule a second optional day, time and place in the event that the match is again not completed.
 - ii. In this alternative above, this match may be played the following day only with the agreement of both Team Captains at a site and time that they both agree upon. This decision may not be made by a Referee.
- d. For any rescheduled Victorian Pennant Finals match pursuant to this By-law the following applies:
 - i. Any player who has played at least one point in an unfinished rubber before the match was postponed must return to resume that rubber when the match is rescheduled, **otherwise this player will forfeit the rubber.**
 - ii. Any player who is nominated to play a rubber which has not started at the time play is abandoned need not play in the rescheduled match, this includes where the player is a doubles player, and he/she has already completed one rubber.
- e. Where an originally nominated player does not play in a rescheduled match:
 - i. Where no rubbers were commenced in the original match, any qualified Finals player may replace the original player in the rescheduled match. In singles, the substitute player must play in the correct singles order.
 - ii. Where at least one rubber had been commenced in the original match, the substitute player may only be of an equal or lower playing standard to the player they are replacing (**Please refer to By-Law 22.6**). Further, in the case of singles, the substitute player must play in the correct singles order.

14.0 – Attendance and No-Show Provisions

- 14.1. Where a match has not been previously abandoned due to the Abandoned Washout Procedure and even if it is raining at the Commencement time and the courts are not fit for play (but they may become fit for play), the following shall apply:
 - a. For Home and away matches and finals where doubles matches are scheduled to commence first then at least two of the nominated doubles players must be in attendance at the place specified for the match by Tennis Victoria within 15 minutes of the Commencement time otherwise the whole match will be declared a default by the offending team and no rubbers will be played.
- 14.2. In home and away matches, if both teams have the required number of representatives (By-Law 14.1.a) in attendance at the Commencement time, then the two Captains shall meet without delay and nominate the first rubbers to be played. The nominated players for these rubbers will then have 15 minutes from the nomination to be ready to play, subject to inclement weather. If this first rubber nomination is delayed by a late arriving team, then once the nominations are made the players shall only have 15 minutes from the Commencement time to be ready to play. A nominated rubber is defaulted by a team if their player (singles) fails or player(s) (for doubles) fail to be ready to play within the specified time. If the nomination for the first two rubbers takes place before the Commencement time, then the players will have until 15 minutes from the Commencement time to be ready to play.
- 14.3. In the home and away series, once a rubber is lost by a no show default by this process or any of the following no show rules, the offending team will still be eligible to win the match and the match points and the remaining rubbers must still be played (subject to inclement weather or a default for



another reason) and points for these singles or doubles rubbers may still be won.

- 14.4. When a team defaults a rubber/s (and not the whole match) because of punctuality the remaining rubbers that can be played will still be played.
- 14.5. Where a player has been defaulted because of punctuality, he/she need not attend the match site at some time before the conclusion of the match (including where the match is abandoned because of rain or time). However, if that player was nominated to play in another rubber in that match that player is still subject to the same no-show provisions of By-Law 14 for that rubber and their position may not be replaced by a Substitute in accordance with By-law 26 (except where a Finals match is abandoned and rescheduled to a different day).
- 14.6. If a team wishes to dispute any defaults made pursuant to the provisions of By-Law 14, all rubbers that are the subject of the disputed default shall be played under protest. Tennis Victoria shall subsequently, in accordance with these rules, make a decision regarding the affected rubbers. The team claiming the rubber/s or match as a default shall record their unwillingness to play the subject rubbers or match by recording the rubbers or match as “played under protest” in the comments section of the score sheet. This may be used in evidence before Tennis Victoria that their subsequent play was involuntary. Tennis Victoria will not make any such determination regarding the disputed defaults unless all of requirements in the Protest provisions in By-law 29 are complied with. Failing to write this on the score sheet will not preclude a subsequent protest being made.
- 14.7. Where under the provisions of By-Law 14 hereof both teams are in default, Tennis Victoria shall determine the points to be awarded for the match (if any) and the fine (if any) to be imposed.

15.0 – Playing Out Of Order and Strengthening A Team

- 15.1. A team shall not, by use of an Emergency player, strengthen a team from its originally submitted line up. Emergencies should be of equivalent or lower standard than the nominated player they are replacing in that match ([Please refer to By-Law 22.6](#))
- 15.2. Where a team plays a player in a match who is determined by Tennis Victoria to have strengthened the team in breach of these rules, any games, sets and rubber/s won by the player determined to have strengthened the team, will be forfeited and the match points, if won by that players team, will be also forfeited and awarded to the opposing team. This By-law applies to home and away and Finals matches. All other rubbers played in accordance with the rules will stand. When deciding, Tennis Victoria will utilise the Universal Tennis Rating and current season Pennant results to make a judgement.
- 15.3. Where a Pennant team plays a player/s out of the singles [UTR playing order](#) in breach of these rules, any games, sets and rubber(s) won by any player/s determined to have played out of the singles [UTR playing order](#), will be forfeited and the match points, if won by that players team, will be also forfeited and awarded to the opposing team. This By-law applies to home and away and Finals matches. The offending team’s club will also be liable to a fine.
- 15.4. [Tennis Victoria will provide teams with an official “UTR Playing Order” warning during the first 4 rounds of Pennant fixtures if they are found to be in breach of this rule. After Round 5 teams that commit a ‘Playing Order’ breach will be penalised and will result in loss of rubbers/ games and sets for the relevant breaches. All other rubbers played in accordance with the rules will stand.](#)
- 15.5. A Wildcard player can strengthen the team in State Grade as per 25.4.

16.0 – Defaults by Teams/Players

- 16.1. Where a team fails to appear and defaults a match, it shall not only be deemed defaulted, but also the club will be liable for a fine and the team not in default shall be awarded all rubbers, sets and games and all the points for the match.
- 16.2. Where a team fails to appear for any three matches in any one season, or it be disqualified by Tennis Victoria, that team shall be disqualified from playing any further matches in that season and the club shall be liable for a fine, and any points awarded to that team or its opposing teams previously during that season shall be declared void and not be counted.
- 16.3. Where a team voluntarily withdraws from a Section and/or Grade during the home and away season, if this team has not played every other team in the Section or Grade at least once then all



games, sets and rubbers from their matches will be declared void and not counted. Where the withdrawing team has played each other team in their Section or Grade at least once than all games, sets, rubbers and points from the first half of the home and away season shall remain as won or lost and be counted, and all remaining games, sets, rubbers and points shall be declared void and not counted. Team Entry Fee will not be reimbursed for any team that withdraws after the season has commenced.

- 16.4. Where a player is defaulted during a rubber for reasons other than punctuality that player shall also be defaulted from any further rubbers that he/she was originally nominated to play in that match. This By-law applies even where the Wet Weather Procedure or the Finals Wet Weather Procedure is used and further play in other rubbers is abandoned for the day. This By-law shall also apply where a Finals match is postponed to be played another day. Any rubbers lost pursuant to the original default shall remain defaulted
- 16.5. Where a player is defaulted for reasons other than punctuality, the player shall forfeit all remaining games in the rubber where the offence occurred. The offending player's team may still win the match overall. This provision applies to both home and away and Finals matches.

17.0 – Results of Matches

- 17.1. Immediately after the completion of all matches whether or not a result is determined, the result score sheet shall be completed (either online via Match Centre or by hard copy scoresheet) before leaving the match venue.
- 17.2. The home club shall ensure that each result is entered via the Match Centre system by no later than 9:00am on Monday following the completion of the match. If not entered by 9:00am on the Monday following the match, a late result entry fine may apply.
- 17.3. The away club shall confirm each result via the Match Centre system by no later than 5:00pm on the Tuesday following the completion of the match. If not confirmed by 5:00pm on the Tuesday following the match, a late result score sheet fine may apply.
- 17.4. In the event of a match not being commenced or being incomplete, the result score sheet shall as far as practicable be completed and must include each player's name and score (if any) of each completed or incomplete rubber and state the reasons for the match not being commenced or completed. These details must also be completed via the Match Centre system online by the above times.
- 17.5. The results of each last round home and away match shall be entered online by the home club by 9:00am on the Monday following that match. The opposing team shall confirm the result by 9:00pm on that Monday. If not entered and confirmed following the match by the above times, a late result score sheet fine may apply.
- 17.6. The results of each finals match shall be entered online by the winning or leading team by 9:00am on the Monday following that match. The opposing team shall confirm the result by 9:00pm on that Monday. If not entered and confirmed following the match by the above times, a late result score sheet fine may apply.

18.0 – Make of and Number of Balls for use in each Match

- 18.1. The only tennis balls permitted for use are those nationally approved makes adopted by Tennis Victoria for use in Pennant. Tennis Victoria shall advise clubs prior to the commencement of each season of the make or makes adopted for that season.
- 18.2. For all matches, two new balls shall be supplied by the home team at the commencement of each rubber for home and away and all Finals matches.
- 18.3. Two new balls may be provided by the home or away team at the commencement of the second set in any rubber, if it is at the agreement of both teams.
- 18.4. For Grade Grand Finals and Super Rounds, Tennis Victoria will provide four new balls for every rubber played.



19.0 – Number of Courts necessary

- 19.1. Unless otherwise determined by Tennis Victoria, matches shall be played on club courts.
- 19.2. Two courts shall be made available for each home and away match and additional or substitute courts may be used for play if approved by Captains of both teams.
- 19.3. Each court for each rubber of each match shall be of identical type and surface unless mutually agreed by both Team Captains.

20.0 - Condition of Courts and Clubs

- 20.1. Matches shall be played on surfaces and at places as determined by Tennis Victoria.
- 20.2. The type, quality and condition of courts used in Pennant and the condition of the clubhouse, dressing room and toilet facilities of each club shall be of a proper and suitable standard as determined from time to time by Tennis Victoria.
- 20.3. Each home team shall provide morning or afternoon tea at the completion of a match to the visiting team

21.0 - Eligibility of Players for Victorian Pennant

- 21.1. A player is eligible for the 2025 Pennant competition if they meet the following requirements.
 - a. They are a registered tennis club member with their respective club
 - b. They have reached their thirteenth(13th) birth year
 - c. If the player has not reached their thirteenth (13th) birth year, and they meet the minimum UTR Rating requirement by the entry deadline
 - i. Female - 6+ minimum
 - ii. Male - 7.5+ minimum
 - d. If a player has not reached their 13th birth year and meet the minimum UTR requirements, they must submit a form to Tennis Victoria to enter Tennis Victoria Pennant.
 - e. To be eligible for Men's or Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant a player must be at least 35 years old by the 31st of December in the year that the competition is played. All other Victorian Pennant Competitions are Open age groups.
- 21.2. A Base player may only play for one club in each separate Victorian Pennant competition but may during the same season play for up to two different clubs in total, being one club in each different Victorian Pennant Competition (e.g. Men's & Men's Masters).
 - a. A player not initially named as a Base player may play for multiple clubs, until they have played four matches for one club. From there, that player must play for that club for the remainder of the season in that competition.
 - b. Where a Base player plays for a different club than the one they are registered for in a particular Victorian Pennant Competition, or an emergency player has played four matches for one club, any match he/she subsequently plays for another club in the same Victorian Pennant Competition shall be forfeited and all games, sets, rubbers and match points will be awarded to the opposing team(s) and the club may be fined.
 - c. If a team plays an unregistered player, without a complete Competitive Player Profile (CPP), they have until 5pm the Friday following the match to register that player's CPP. Failure to do so may result in Schedule 1- Common Fees and Fines applying for that respective club.

22.0 - UTR Playing Order

- 22.1 Each team is expected to be aware of their respective UTR Playing Order prior to their upcoming fixture.
- 22.2 Is it the responsibility of both team captains to confirm the correct team playing order before play commences. Playing order will stand for each rubber once the match has commenced,



regardless of whether it is out of order.

- 22.3 If one team captain is in disagreement with the playing order, the match will proceed as per usual, but the objecting team captain can play this match 'under protest'. This protest must be submitted in writing no later than the following Tuesday at 5pm. (Please refer to 30.0 regarding 'Protests by Clubs' regarding the procedure to follow.)

Singles

- 22.4 Players must play in Singles UTR playing order to two digits after the decimal point as displayed on Match Centre at the time of the match, with the highest rated player playing in #1 position and the lowest rated player playing #4.
- 22.5 Teams are allowed to alter the playing order of their base players, provided the difference between the "players' ratings" does not exceed 0.50 of a UTR rating.
- 22.6 Reserve players must not strengthen the team and should be of equivalent or lower standard than the player they are replacing. Tennis Victoria considers a UTR rating variance of 0.50 to be of equivalent standard and therefore not strengthening the team.
- 22.7 Tennis Victoria will require any teams that are intending to play a reserve player to complete an information form, which details the respective player's playing history and results. This form should be completed prior to the competition fixture. However, if this is not possible, it must be done before 9am Monday morning following the match.

Doubles

- 22.8 The player with the highest doubles UTR to two digits after the decimal point as displayed on Match Centre at the time of the match must play in the doubles rubber #1.
- 22.9 The highest rated doubles player may play doubles with any other team player. The remaining two doubles players can play in the doubles rubber #2.
- 22.10 Reserve players must not strengthen the team and should be of equivalent or lower standard than the player they are replacing. Tennis Victoria considers a UTR rating variance of 0.50 to be of equivalent standard and therefore not strengthening the team.
- 22.11 Tennis Victoria will require any teams that are intending to play a reserve player to complete an information form, which details the respective players playing history and results. This form should be completed prior to the competition fixture. However, if this is not possible, it must be done before 9am Monday morning following the match.

23.0 - Eligibility of Players for all Finals Matches

- 23.1 A player shall be eligible to play with a team in Finals matches only if that player has played, or in the case of an incomplete match or a match not commenced was nominated to play, at least four home and away matches for one club in a particular Victorian Pennant Competition in that season.
- If a player has played four or more matches for a club that has two teams in the same Grade, that player may only play Finals matches for the first team he/she plays a finals match for. Once that team loses in the Finals series, he/she may not play in the other team in the same Grade.
 - If a player has played four or more matches in two or more different Grades, once he/she plays a Finals match he/she may only play in Finals matches in subsequent Finals rounds where the team he/she is nominated to play for is the same team or a team in a higher Grade. Once a player has played a finals match, he/she may not play in a lower Grade Finals match without the permission of Tennis Victoria.
 - In Pennant, where an Emergency qualifies to play Finals by playing four or more home and away matches for a club, the Emergency must play in the correct singles UTR playing order and may only be used to replace a player of equal or higher playing standard to them (Please refer to rule 22.6)



- 23.2 Where a player retires during a rubber and a Substitute is used for his/her remaining rubber, then both players will be credited as having played a match for that team for purposes of eligibility for the Finals.
- 23.3 Where a player is defaulted from a rubber because of punctuality that player's nomination to play that match shall not be credited to his/her eligibility for Finals match unless he/she plays another rubber in that match (e.g. the singles following the doubles).
- 23.4 Notwithstanding the provisions of By-law 22.1 hereof, a player may be deemed by Tennis Victoria to be eligible to play in any team in finals matches where exceptional circumstances are established to the satisfaction of Tennis Victoria. At that time, if the approval is for a player to be an additional team member of a Pennant team, then Tennis Victoria shall also assign a singles UTR playing order for that player.
- 23.5 On the Monday prior to any finals matches, Tennis Victoria shall distribute a list of qualified players for a final match to both teams that are to compete against each other in finals that week. Opposing teams have until 5:00pm Wednesday, the week prior to the finals match to dispute any qualification requirements of the players from the opposing team.

24.0 - Players competing in different Grades

- 24.1. A player shall not play in any team of a lower grade than the team in which that player was originally entered during any one season in Pennant or Men's or Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant without the approval of Tennis Victoria being first obtained.
- 24.2. A player is permitted to play in any team of a higher grade than the team in which that player was originally entered during any one season in Pennant or Men's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant provided that if that player plays at least four matches in a particular higher grade, that player shall thereafter in that season only be eligible to play in that higher grade or in any team of a higher grade without the approval of Tennis Victoria being first obtained.

25.0 - Players changing teams in a Grade

- 25.1. Where a club has two or more teams in the same Grade, a player shall not play as a Base Player in any team other than the team in which that player was originally entered during any one season in Pennant or Men's or Women's Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant without the approval of Tennis Victoria being first obtained. Any breach of this will result in loss of match win points and rubbers of that player.
- 25.2. A player may play in two teams in the same Grade for the same club where he/she does so as an Emergency in one or both teams. Once that player has played four times for either team, they are no longer eligible to play for another team in the same grade.

26.0 - Emergency Players

- 26.1. A player may play as an Emergency in a team if that player is a registered member of that club.
- 26.2. A player may play an unlimited number of matches as an Emergency in a team in any one season, except as in 21.2 and 24.2. When a player plays as an Emergency in a team it shall be recorded on the score sheet in each match as "E." It is the team's responsibility to record these details on the score sheet.
- 26.3. Restrictions regarding the use of Emergencies apply as follows:
- Players who are Emergencies should be of no more than equivalent standard of the Grade being played and in the case of singles no more than the playing standard of the player being replaced. Tennis Victoria in its absolute discretion will allow a leeway of 0.5 of a UTR Rating margin between the emergency player and the player being replaced. For example, a player with a 5.25 UTR rating can be replaced by a player with a 5.75 UTR rating, but not a 5.76 UTR rating



- b. Emergencies shall play in a team UTR playing order for singles rubbers and should not strengthen the team (Refer to by-law 22.6 and 22.7). For emergency players with no UTR Rating or a projected UTR rating, the respective team will need to submit information to Tennis Victoria (Refer to by-law 22.7)
 - c. In singles and doubles, an Emergency should not give an unreasonable advantage or disadvantage to his or her team or to another team in that Section/Grade.
 - d. A Player who plays four or more matches as an Emergency for a Grade shall not be permitted to play in a lower Grade team (as an Emergency or a team member) thereafter.
- 26.4. In Men's and Women's State Grade only, teams will be able to utilise one 'Wildcard' player per week. This player can strengthen the team, as long as they play in the relevant position based on their ability. To do so, a team must satisfy the following conditions:
- a. The Wildcard has not played for another club during the Pennant season
 - b. The player plays in the correct singles UTR playing order based on their ability
 - c. Permission has been granted from Tennis Victoria prior to the Wildcard being used – this must be submitted by 5:00pm Thursday, prior to the match.
 - d. If the above conditions are not satisfied, the opposition team may protest the use of the Wildcard player and the offending team may be liable to forfeited rubbers as a result.

27.0 – Substitute Players and Retirements

- 27.1 The meaning and use of a Substitute player is as follows:
- a. A Substitute player may be either a team member who was not originally selected to play the affected match that week or an Emergency player.
 - b. Where in any match a player is prevented through illness, accidental disablement or any other good and sufficient reason from commencing a rubber then after notifying the opposing team Captain or Referee, a Substitute player may commence that rubber in the place of the player prevented from competing. A player may not replace another player in a subsequent rubber where that player was defaulted from their first rubber because of punctuality or other reasons.
- 27.2 Whilst the Substitute player makes their way to the venue, any other rubbers that can be completed should do so. Once all other rubbers are either complete or on court (when two courts are being used), the Substitute player must be ready to play within 30 minutes of all other players for the rubber being available to play and the team Captain then advising the referee and/or opposing team Captain that the substitution will be made.
- 27.3 Where a player retires from a rubber as outlined in By-law 26.1, the player who retires shall forfeit all remaining games in that rubber. The score should be entered in Match Centre as it was when the rubber ceased. Any outstanding sets or games will then be credited to the winning team automatically.
Case example: Where a player retires when losing 5-1 in the first set, the score should be entered as such, and the remaining sets/games with automatically be credited to the winning team through the competition software.
- 27.4 Where in any match a player is prevented through injury or illness from completing a rubber, that player may not take further part in subsequent rubbers on that day, as per Tennis Australia's Tournament Rules.
- 27.5 A player may have a maximum 10-minute injury time period until a player forfeits that rubber.

28.0 – On-Court Coaches

- 28.1 Once courtside, an on-court Coach may do the following:
- a. Enter the court during a rubber either before the commencement of the rubber, at a change of ends or at the completion of a set.
 - b. Provide support and mentoring to his/her player(s) subject to Condition 27.1(d).



- c. Sit courtside next to the player's chair or as directed by an official on a chair or similar whilst a rubber is in progress.
- d. Only talk directly to his/her player(s) at the change of ends or the completion of a set (communication at other times shall be subject to the provisions of the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play).
- e. Service the court at end of sets or rubbers or as per instruction of an official.

The on-court Coach cannot under any circumstances communicate with the opposing team player(s) or the opposing player's on-court Coach or any official. Any dispute in relation to a question of fact or question of law may only be made to the chair umpire and/or Referee (as permitted by the rules of tennis) by the players involved in the rubber in question and the on-court Coach may not participate in these discussions.

- 28.2 The Referee and the chair umpire (where there are either), shall have the power to give the on-court Coach two formal warnings and thereafter the Referee may remove him/her from the rubber in progress and/or from further rubbers of the match. The Referee may also remove an on-court Coach without formal warning for a single incident of misconduct.
 - a. If an on-court Coach is removed from a rubber he/she may be replaced by another on-court Coach from the nominated on-court Coaches list.
 - b. On-court Coaches will remain subject to the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour and may also be awarded an onsite code violation if their behaviour breaches the code.
 - c. Where there is no Referee, unacceptable conduct by an on-court Coach must be reported to Tennis Victoria, where sanctions may apply.

29.0 – Club Uniforms

- 29.1. All State Grade and Grade 1 Men's and Women's participants are required to wear their club's uniform when competing in Pennant matches. This includes base players, emergencies, wildcards and fill-ins.
- 29.2. The uniform can be at each club's discretion; however, must be a recognised tennis attire as per Tennis Australia's rules and regulations and fit within Tennis Victoria's Pennant Uniform Guidelines.
- 29.3. Clubs who do not comply may face a penalty at the discretion of Tennis Victoria, which may include, but is not limited to, fines and forfeited rubbers or matches.

30.0 – Protests By Clubs

- 30.1. Any Club shall have the right to make a protest in relation to anything arising before, during or after a match whether that Club is represented in that match or not. Where possible "Match played under protest" should be recorded on the score sheet when the score sheet is signed by both team Captains. This procedure shall not constitute a formal protest and a protest must comply with the following provisions of Rule 29.2 to be eligible to be considered by Tennis Victoria and the Match Day Panel.
- 30.2 A match protest may initially be registered with Tennis Victoria by registering a protest (with details) when completing or confirming a score in the Match Centre system, or if this option is not used then by an email to Tennis Victoria with associated reasons accompanied by the prescribed fee ("Protest Fee") by Tuesday 5.00pm after the match to which the protest relates.
 - a. Any protest in relation to whether a team has been strengthened or received an unfair advantage by the inclusion of a particular player(s) and/or a singles **UTR playing order** breach must be made by the opposing team (or other team who feels affected) ("The Protesting team") in writing to Tennis Victoria on or before 5:00pm on the Tuesday immediately following the match being played otherwise the result from the match shall stand as played. This requirement is the sole responsibility of the Protesting team and neither Tennis Victoria and/or a Referee assigned to the match will undertake any separate scrutiny of this consideration.
 - b. Tennis Victoria may subsequently contact teams regarding breaches not the subject of a protest and request the team to remedy the breach in the future. These breaches may



still be fined even if they were not the subject of a protest.

- 30.3 After considering the details provided in the Match Centre system and email sent to Tennis Victoria, Tennis Victoria will:
- a. Provide to a team the content / subject of the protest (“Defending team”) and request them to reply in writing or email to the protest within 24 hours. The matter may proceed without their defense if it is not received within this timeframe. A copy of the reply shall be given by Tennis Victoria to the Protesting team.
 - b. If the Defending team raises new protest issues in their reply, a copy of these new issues will also be given to the Protesting team, and they will be invited to reply to only those new issues in writing or email within 24 hours. The Defending team shall pay the prescribed Protest Fee in the event that they raise new issues to be considered. The Protesting team will not be given an opportunity to respond to the reply unless requested by Tennis Victoria.
 - c. Call for further details from one or both teams as it deems necessary (including obtaining witness statements) prior to giving the Protest details to the Match Day Panel for consideration.
 - d. Copies of all evidence obtained by Tennis Victoria, including witness statements, will be made available to both parties.
 - e. When determining the Protest, if the Match Day Panel calls for oral evidence to be given, both parties to the protest shall be given the opportunity to hear and answer the evidence. This may be done by a team representative personally attending the hearing or by conference call.
 - f. Any timeframe within this Rule may be extended at the sole and absolute discretion of Tennis Victoria.
- 30.4 The Match Day Panel shall consider and determine each protest and Tennis Victoria will then notify the Clubs having an interest in such protest of its determination.
- 30.5. If the protest is upheld, the Protesting team (or Defending team where applicable) will receive a refund of the Protest Fee paid. In all other cases, Tennis Victoria has discretion whether to refund any Protest Fee paid.
- 30.6. Tennis Victoria has discretion to notify the Tennis Australia Integrity and Compliance Unit following any matter raised under this process.

31.0 – Payment of Fees and Fines

- 31.1. Any fee or fine imposed pursuant to these Rules and Conditions shall be paid within thirty days of the date of imposition of such fee or fine unless otherwise determined by Tennis Victoria.
- 31.2. Any club failing to pay a fee or fine by the prescribed time shall be liable to a further fine or suspension or disqualification from Pennant or Men’s or Women’s Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant as determined by Tennis Victoria.

32.0 – Powers of the Competitive Play Committee and Match Day Panel

- 32.2. The Competitive Play Committee, Match Day Panel and Tennis Victoria shall have the widest and most absolute power and discretion relating to the Victorian Pennant competitions or any matter or thing arising from or in connection with Victorian Pennant and without limitation shall have the power and discretion at any time without giving or assigning any reasons to:
 - a. Demand from any club any information of any nature relating to any matter or thing arising from any match, and in the event of any club refusing or neglecting to supply such information to Tennis Victoria within the time as prescribed by Tennis Victoria, the Competitive Play Committee and Match Day Panel to suspend or disqualify such club from Pennant or Men’s or Women’s Masters 35+ Doubles Pennant for such time as Tennis Victoria and the Competitive Play Committee determines and to cancel points previously awarded to such club and award such points to opposing teams as it deems appropriate.



- b. Demand the replay of any match wholly or in part, and to alter or extend the place, day or time for the playing of any match.
- c. Suspend or disqualify a player from Pennant or Men's or Women's Masters 35+ Pennant as a result of a player's conduct or behaviour arising from or in connection with a match or in relation to a suspension imposed by Tennis Victoria or Tennis Australia pursuant to the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour, Tennis Australia Anti-Doping Policy, Tennis Anti-Corruption program or Tennis Australia Disciplinary Policy.
- d. Impose penalties whether by fine, suspension or disqualification or by forfeiture of points for any non-compliance or breach of any of these Rules and Conditions of Play.

33.0 – Interpretation of Rules and Conditions of Play

- 33.1. Any question arising from or in connection with Victorian Pennant or as to the interpretation or construction of these Rules and Conditions of Play shall be determined by Tennis Victoria in its absolute discretion.

34.0 – Appeals

- 34.1. A club or player ("The Appellant") shall have the right to appeal from any determination of the Match Day Panel except from Tennis Victoria determinations made relating to Grading, assigned singles **UTR playing order** or eligibility for finals matches.
- 34.2. Notice and grounds of appeal shall be lodged with Tennis Victoria accompanied by the prescribed fee by 5:00pm three days from the day the notification of a determination being given to the club or player or where the Appeal relates to a Finals match, by 5:00pm two days following notification of the determination.
 - a. Where the Appeal is based on the determination of a protest made pursuant to By-Law 34 a copy of the Appeal shall be given by Tennis Victoria to the other party to the protest ("The Defending Appellant team") and they shall be invited to reply within 24 hours.
 - b. If the Defending Appellant team raises new Grounds of Appeal in their reply, a copy of these new grounds will be given to the Appellant, and they will be invited to reply to only those new grounds in writing or email within 24 hours. The Defending Appellant team shall pay the prescribed Appeal fee in the event that they raise new Grounds of Appeal to be considered. The Appellant team will not be given an opportunity to respond to the reply unless requested by the Appeals Tribunal.
 - c. Tennis Victoria may call for further details from one or both teams as it deems necessary (including obtaining witness statements) prior to giving the Appeal details to the Appeals Tribunal for consideration.
 - d. Copies of all evidence obtained by Tennis Victoria, including witness statements, will be made available to both parties.
 - e. When determining the Appeal, if the Appeal Tribunal calls for oral evidence to be given, both parties to the Appeal shall be given the opportunity to hear and answer the evidence. This may be done by a team representative personally attending the hearing or by conference call.
 - f. Any timeframe within this By-law may be extended at the sole and absolute discretion of Tennis Victoria.
- 34.3. Appeals shall be heard as soon as practicable by an Appeals Tribunal consisting of three members of the Tennis Victoria Disciplinary Tribunal, not being members of the Competitive Play Committee or associated panels, who shall consider the Appeal and notify the clubs and players of its determination as soon as practicable.
- 34.4. The Appeal hearing shall only relate to errors in law, save for where the Appeals Tribunal determines that an error made by Tennis Victoria or the Match Day Panel was sufficient to warrant a full rehearing of the original matter.
- 34.5. The Appeals Tribunal shall have the same power as the Match Day Panel hereof including the power to require the attendance of any person or player likely to assist the Appeals Tribunal at a



- hearing.
- 34.6. The lodging of a Notice and Grounds of Appeal shall act as a stay of the determination of Tennis Victoria or the Match Day Panel until the determination of the Appeals Tribunal.
 - 34.7. If the Appeal is upheld by the Appeals Tribunal the Appeal fee will be fully refunded to the Appellant (or Defending Appellant team where applicable).

35.0 – Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play

- 35.1. 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)
- 35.2. Any alleged breaches of the Code should be reported by filling out and lodging the Tennis Victoria Competition Code of Behaviour Report by COB Tuesday following the match in which the incident took place.
- 35.3. The Match Day Panel and Tennis Victoria management may meet on a weekly basis to consider any alleged breaches of the Code. The Match Day Panel and Tennis Victoria management will consider any reports/complaints, then determine, with regard to all the material provided to it, if a breach of the Code or the Tennis Victoria Pennant Rules has occurred and consider appropriate penalties in accordance with clause 34 of these Rules.
- 35.4. 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.

36.0 – Penalties

- 36.1. The Match Day Panel and Tennis Victoria management may impose penalties for any breach(es) of the Tennis Victoria Pennant Competition Rules and/or the Code. The Match Day Panel and Tennis Victoria management 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 Match Day Panel and Tennis Victoria management include (but are not limited to) suspension from the Tennis Victoria Pennant 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.
- 36.2. The Match Day Panel and Tennis Victoria management 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.

37.0 – Conditions of Play for Players – TA & MA Events Disciplinary Policy

- 37.1. All matches shall be played under the ITF Rules of Tennis as adopted by Tennis Victoria and Tennis Australia, Tennis Australia's Procedures For Matches Without Chair Umpires where no chair umpires are used for a match. The Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour (as applicable to Member Association weekly competitions), the Tennis Australia Disciplinary Policy and the Tennis Australia National Extreme Weather Policy shall also apply to all Victorian Pennant Competitions.



Schedule 1 – Common Fees and Fines

Please note:

- All Figures are inclusive of GST.
- TBD Denotes "To be Determined" by Tennis Victoria and the Competitive Play Committee where applicable.

Fee	\$ Amount (inc. GST)
Team Entry Fee	\$225.00
Team Entry Fee – State Grade	\$550.00
Protest Fee (refundable if upheld)	\$55.00
Appeal Fee (refundable if upheld)	\$200.00
Unregistered Player	\$55.00
Change in Singles Order of Merit	\$55.00 (plus TBD)
Late home team results entry / away team confirmation (including finals)	\$55.00
Team and player Defaults / Walkover	\$55.00 (plus TBD)
Condition of Courts and Clubs	TBD
Eligibility of Players	\$55.00 (plus loss of match)
Eligibility of Players for Finals	\$55.00 (plus loss of match)
Players competing in Different Grades (except under By-Law 6.22.5)	\$55.00 (plus loss of match)
Players changing teams in a grade	\$55.00 (plus loss of match)
Emergency Players	\$55.00
Substitute Players	\$55.00 (plus loss of match)
Breach of Code of Conduct	TBD
Withdrawal of Team (after schedule released)	\$200.00

