

## TENNIS VICTORIA PREMIER LEAGUE

### Rules and Conditions of Play

#### 2025

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# CONDITIONS OF PLAY FOR PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHES (MEN & WOMEN)

Any changes for the 2025 season are written and underlined in RED

## 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Premier League shall be conducted for Clubs affiliated with Tennis Victoria in accordance with the following Conditions of Play.

## 2. INTERPRETATION

The following terms and definitions shall have the following meanings:

- 2.1 "CLUB" means any tennis body approved to play in the Premier League competition by the Competitions Committee, provided that the tennis body is directly affiliated with Tennis Victoria prior to the close of entries, noting that Competitive Play Committee shall only recommend a maximum of six Clubs for any one season in both men's and women's competitions and:
- Its home courts are located within Metropolitan Melbourne (as defined by the TV Constitution: 'situated within the State of Victoria and located within a metropolitan local government area as recognised by the State Government from time to time, excluding the Mornington Peninsula Shire.') or
  - Its home courts are located outside Metropolitan Melbourne (as defined by the TV Constitution), but its "home Premier League courts" are located within Metropolitan Melbourne (as defined by the TV Constitution) or
  - Its home Premier League courts are located outside Metropolitan Melbourne (as defined by the TV Constitution) and is given special approval to participate in Premier League by Tennis Victoria. (Applications for non-metro club approval must be made in writing to Tennis Victoria, a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the team entry closing date).
- 2.2 "COMPETITIVE PLAY COMMITTEE" means the Tennis Victoria Competitive Play Committee as constituted pursuant to the By-Laws of the Victorian Tennis Association.
- 2.3 "ENTRY CLOSE DATE" means the deadline given by Tennis Victoria by which time clubs must have submitted their Premier League Club Team Entry form and Entry fee for the relevant competition year.
- 2.4 "NON-VICTORIAN PLAYER" is taken to mean any of the following
- Any players who have resided in Victoria less than 50% of their life, at the time of the Premier League Entry Close Date for that seasons' competition.
  - Any players born outside of Victoria and have resided in Victoria for less than two (2) consecutive and continuous years immediately prior to the Premier League Entry Close Date for that seasons' competition.
- 2.5 "NON-PLAYING TEAM MEMBER AGREEMENT FORM" means a form produced by Tennis Victoria to be signed by all persons involved with the team who are not otherwise players confirming their full name and contact details, and that he or she agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Premier League Competition, including being bound by all Tennis Australia National Policies, including Discipline Policy, Anti-Doping, Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, Code of Behaviour and Member Protection Policy. Such persons include the Team Manager, Team coach and any person nominated to be an On-Court Coach.
- 2.6 "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, subject to these Conditions, and coach a player or doubles team during his, her or their rubber.
- 2.7 "PLAYER AGREEMENT FORM" means a form produced by Tennis Victoria to be signed by all registered players confirming their full name, place of residency for the 24 months immediately preceding the entry

close date, that he/she agrees to play for his/her nominating club and that he/she agrees to be bound by the conditions of play of the Premier League Competition including being bound by all Tennis Australia National Policies, including Discipline Policy, Anti-Doping, Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, Code of Behaviour and Member Protection Policy.

- 2.8 “PLAYED IN A MATCH” means where a player plays in at least one rubber in a match or is nominated as a team member of a Team where the match is partially or entirely washed out or other extreme weather that player shall be regarded as having played a match for that Premier League Club Team.
- 2.9 “PREMIER LEAGUE” means an annual tennis competition conducted by Tennis Victoria for clubs, teams and players.
- 2.10 “PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB TEAM (referred to hereafter as PLCT)” means group of players nominated by a club to represent condition 4.4.
- 2.11 “PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB TEAM ENTRY FORM” means a form produced by Tennis Victoria to be signed by each participating club confirming a range of club and player details regarding the Premier League competition including that the club agrees to be bound by the Conditions of play of the Premier League Competition including being bound by all Tennis Australia National Policies, including Discipline Policy, Anti-Doping, Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, Code of Behaviour and Member Protection Policy.
- 2.12 “REGISTERED PLAYER” means a person who is:
- Registered to play tennis with his/her club at the time of nomination to be included in the club’s PLCT whether that nomination is before or after the Entry Close Date, and;
  - Nominated as a member of a team to play Premier League by his/her club.
- 2.13 “SUPER ROUND” is where a club is permitted to host a complete round, with all matches for that round being played at their home site. A Super Round host, when requested by Tennis Victoria, may host either all the men’s matches for that round, all of the women’s matches for that round or where the club has a men’s and a women’s team in the competition, it may be all men’s and women’s matches for that round.
- 2.14 “TEAM” means a minimum of **four** male players of the same club or a minimum of **four** female players of the same club who are nominated to play in a match, plus substitutes, noting that a PLCT needs a minimum of 4 players to complete all rubbers in each round.
- 2.15 “TEAM DETERMINATION” means Tennis Victoria approval of a team for inclusion in the Premier League competition, such determination including the singles order of merit as determined by Tennis Victoria.
- 2.16 “TEAM MANAGER” is the administrative person appointed by the club to be in charge of all matters relating to the club’s Premier League team or teams, including ensuring the home courts meet the standards as required by these Conditions and being the contact person for the team. A Team Manager may also be a player and/or team coach.
- 2.17 “TEAM COACH” is the coach appointed for the team who may also act as an on-Court Coach and/or be a playing member of the team subject to the provisions of Condition 2.12. The Team Coach is also subject to all of the requirements as set out in Tennis Australia’s National policies.
- 2.18 “TENNIS VICTORIA REP” is a person who may be appointed by Tennis Victoria, to attend any Premier League match as a representative of Tennis Victoria and who shall be there to fulfil a role similar to a Tournament Director.
- 2.19 “VICTORIAN PLAYER” means a player who has been a resident of the State of Victoria for a continuous **24-month** period immediately preceding the Entry Close Date for each year’s Premier League competition. A player may not automatically be guaranteed entry status as a Victorian player simply by their place of birth but rather Tennis Victoria shall be entitled to consider his or her place of residence as registered with other Tennis Governing bodies such as other State Member Associations, Tennis Australia or the ITF and they shall be further entitled to request such proof of residency that they deem appropriate where a player is not registered with a Tennis Governing Body. A Victorian, who works or plays tennis outside Victoria, including being a student or a coach at an International College shall still be considered a Victorian if he or she retains his or her registered playing status as Victorian.
- 2.20 The singular shall mean and include the plural and vice versa and any gender shall mean and include all other genders save where reference is made to a gender specific competition in which case the stated gender shall only apply.

### 3. PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier League shall:

- 3.1 Be an annual tennis competition as per Condition 2.9 played at such times and during such months as determined by Tennis Victoria and the Competitions Committee. Be played between separate Men's teams and separate Women's teams.
- 3.2 Consist of
  - a) Home and away matches or Super Rounds, and
  - b) Finals matches.

### 4. ENTRIES

- 4.1 Each club shall only be entitled to enter one Men's PLCT and/or one Women's PLCT in Premier League each season on the specified Premier League Club Team Entry Form. In the event that in any one season team entries for the competition are under subscribed, clubs may be given an opportunity to submit a second Men's or Women's PLCT at the discretion of Tennis Victoria.
- 4.2 An entry fee as determined by Tennis Victoria must be paid to Tennis Victoria at the time of entry for each team entered. The entry fee is listed in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 There will be a maximum of six Men's teams and six Women's teams accepted into the Premier League competition each season.
- 4.4 Each PLCT must have a minimum of 5 players and may have a maximum of 9 players to be included in Premier League. A PLCT may only contain a maximum of 4 Non-Victorian players with the remaining team members being Victorian Players
- 4.5 The Entry Close Date for clubs to submit an entry form (refer 2.11) shall be determined by Tennis Victoria.
- 4.6 Each club entering teams shall submit to Tennis Victoria the names of the proposed players for the team including nominating the Team Manager and Team Coach and the proposed singles order of merit. The entry form must include:
  - a) A list of each nominated player including the players Tennis ID number.
  - b) Names of all non-playing team members with a defined role in the team who is not otherwise a player and in particular any person intended to be nominate as an on court coach.
  - c) Contact details for the Team Manager, noting that any communication sent to the Team Manager shall be binding on all team members and shall be interpreted as communication to the entire team. It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure Tennis Victoria is advised in writing of any subsequent change to these contact details.
- 4.7 The top **five** players nominated in a PLCT (as defined by the Competitions Committee's singles order of merit and as nominated at the time of entry) are expected to play in at least one home and away or Super-round matches during the season. Failure to do so, without good and sufficient reason as determined by Tennis Victoria, may affect that team's eligibility and player eligibility for the following season. Furthermore, a penalty and/or fine may also be issued to any club where a player of any nominated team does not play one match (home and away or super-rounds) for the season without good and sufficient reason. Tennis Victoria shall be entitled to call for such corroborating evidence as it deems appropriate to make this determination. The penalty, monetary or otherwise, will be at the absolute discretion of Tennis Victoria. Failure to provide the requested evidence may entitle Tennis Victoria to make an adverse inference as to why the evidence was not provided.
- 4.8 Before the Competition commences Tennis Victoria shall announce Team Determinations for each Team approved to be part of the Premier League competition, Tennis Victoria shall make this determination in its absolute discretion including which players shall be included in the respective teams and it shall advise the singles order of merit for each team, and shall notify each club accordingly.
  - a) From the time of the Team Determination until the conclusion of the final round of Premier League, a PLCT may replace one existing listed player in their PLCT for any reason where that player has not yet played a match for their team. A player being listed in a washout round will be counted towards having played in a match. (e.g. because the player is medically unfit to play). Adding a player to a PLCT that has less than 9 approved players shall not count as this one replacement.
  - b) Tennis Victoria shall in its absolute discretion decide whether any player added into a PLCT (up to a maximum of 9 players) or replaced in a PLCT, is of a higher or lower standard than the players originally approved.

- c) From the time of the Team Determination until the end of the Home and Away season, a club may add players, as approved by Tennis Victoria and in compliance with Conditions 2.12 and 4.4 to their PLCT where their team has less than 9 players.
  - d) Whenever a player is added to a PLCT, Tennis Victoria shall determine the team's singles order of merit in their absolute discretion and any changes shall be published by Tennis Victoria in accordance with Condition 4.9.
  - e) A player who has played in a match for a PLCT may not be replaced as a PLCT member for that club even if he or she subsequently becomes ill or injured.
- 4.9 The approved singles order of merit for all clubs will be advertised on Tennis Victoria's website, including when it is amended to include an additional or a replacing player. A club may apply to have the singles order of merit of their PLCT changed after the first round and before 12pm the day the fourth round of the season is scheduled to be played. The singles order of merit may only be changed at the sole and absolute discretion of Tennis Victoria.
- Case Example:** *Once the teams for each season have been announced by Tennis Victoria, players who were nominated to be part of an unsuccessful bidding team may then be nominated to be included in any approved teams, at which point a new singles order of merit as determined by Tennis Victoria will be announced (See also Condition 20 re Transfers).*
- Case Example:** *Prior to 12pm the day the fourth round of the season is scheduled to be played, teams may apply to have their singles order of merit amended by Tennis Victoria based on the results from the first few rounds or an injury or illness confirmed by a supporting medical certificate.*
- 4.10 A written request must be signed and submitted to Tennis Victoria prior to match day or to the Referee on match day by any additional player or replacing player approved to be added to a PLCT prior to that player playing a match for the team. A non-Playing Team Member Agreement form must be signed and submitted to Tennis Victoria prior to match day or to the Referee on match day by any additional team member who is nominated to take on an On-Court Coaching role.
- 4.11 An entry may not be accepted where a club has outstanding fines or other monies owed to Tennis Victoria.
- 4.12 No team refunds will be provided to any club whose team(s) are approved as a Premier League Team but subsequently withdraw and in addition to that Tennis Victoria may also impose an additional fine (refer schedule of fines).
- 4.13 The entry fee of any club that submits a team(s) but is not successful in entering the competition will be fully refunded (refer schedule of fees).

## 5. CONDITIONS OF PLAY IN HOME AND AWAY MATCHES

- 5.1 Clubs participating in the Premier League competition will be required to indicate on their PLCT entry form the location/venue of their home courts for the competition, including the specific court numbers at the venue to be used for Premier League matches, whether they wish to be the host of a Super Round and their time and date preference for a Super Round. All venues nominated by a club must be currently affiliated to Tennis Victoria. Only one venue may be specified for the season for each club and this venue does not have to be the club's home courts. Unless otherwise directed by Tennis Victoria, it is envisaged that all home Super Round matches shall be played on a club's nominated home courts.
- 5.2 Each team in the competition shall be given the opportunity to apply to host a Super Round at their home venue. The decision as to when and which clubs will be given the opportunity to hold a Super Round shall be decided at the absolute discretion of Tennis Victoria.
- 5.3 Two courts of the same surface shall be made available for each match, including each match played during a Super Round and will be pre-determined based upon the club's team entry form (refer Condition 5.1 above). Additional or substitute courts may be used for play if approved by the Referee.
- 5.4 Each court for each rubber of each match shall be of identical type and surface unless directed by the Referee.
- 5.5 The Referee at his or her discretion will allocate each doubles rubber and each singles rubber to one of the courts available for play as specified in the home club's original Premier League club team entry form. The Referee may approve additional courts for play if it is deemed necessary for the completion of the day's

match.

- 5.6 Each team shall play each other team once. Each match will consist of two doubles rubber and two singles rubbers.
- 5.7 On match day, each team captain or team representative must record all doubles player pairings, all singles players in singles order of merit and all On-Court Coaches on the score sheet for the Referee, 15 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of play. This playing order may only be changed if a player is substituted in accordance with the Substitution rule in Condition 20.
- 5.8 Details of proposed additional or replacement players and his or her position within the team's singles order of merit must be lodged with Tennis Victoria 48 hours prior to the match if the match is being played on a weekday and 72 hours prior to the match if the match is being played on a weekend. This player's nominated singles order of merit will be referred to Tennis Victoria who has the right to alter the additional or replacing player's nominated position in the team in accordance with the directions of Tennis Victoria. Tennis Victoria will notify the opposition team of the approved new player(s) and resultant revised singles order of merit prior to the match. No new PLCT member may be used if they have not been previously approved by Tennis Victoria.
- 5.9 Players are permitted to play in a higher singles order of merit position than the originally nominated and approved singles order of merit position; however, no player is permitted to play in a lower singles order of merit position within the team's singles order of merit. Any rubber whereby a player plays in a lower singles order of merit position will be forfeited by that player, save where a substitution is made in accordance with Condition 20. A team that is found to be in breach of singles order of merit, cannot win the match in either home and away (or Super-round) or finals matches, but will be awarded points for eligible rubbers won.

## 6. MATCH FORMAT

- 6.1 The match will consist of:
- a) Two doubles rubber, played as the best of two tie-break sets with advantage scoring and a 10-point match tie-break set at one set all.
  - b) Two singles rubbers, played as the best of two tie-break sets with advantage scoring and a 10-point match tie-break set at one set all.
  - c) The order of play for the singles and doubles rubbers will be dependent upon court availability at the host venue and as determined by Tennis Victoria prior to the match. Options for the order of rubbers will include:
    - i. Doubles Rubbers to be played first followed by Singles, unless both teams agree otherwise or unless in a Grand Final whereby Tennis Victoria will determine a playing order.
    - ii. The order of merit shall apply to the singles rubbers so that the rubbers will be played as 1 v 1 and 2 v 2.
    - iii. The Order of Merit for doubles shall be determined by the respective team captains prior to the match. The highest ranked doubles player can only play in the #1 Doubles rubber, and the third ranked doubles player can only play in the #2 Doubles rubber.
    - iv. Doubles is to be played first, followed by Singles. Unless both team captains agree to play singles first.
- 6.2 Within each match, teams can play a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 players per match.

## 7. TIME BETWEEN RUBBERS

- 7.1 Once a match has commenced, play should be continuous.
- 7.2 Fifteen minutes is the maximum time allowed for a doubles or singles rubber to commence from the time a nominated court is available for play and the Referee has called the match, subject to Condition 7.3 or unless a substitute player as defined in Condition 20 is required. A substitute player can replace the originally listed player, if this substitute player adheres to the order of merit ruling and is already listed in the PLCT. This condition also applies to any delay for a match in progress. No rubbers for the team match shall start until the 15 minutes has passed, allowing the team receiving the forfeit or the referee the opportunity to determine the rubber being forfeited.

7.3 No rubber shall be defaulted unless a nominated court is available for play and the requisite time periods as defined in Condition 7 have passed.

## 8. METHOD OF SCORING IN HOME AND AWAY MATCHES COMPLETED AND INCOMPLETE

- 8.1 The winner of each completed match shall be the team that wins the greater number of completed rubbers.
- 8.2 Where, prior to match day in the opinion of Tennis Victoria or on the match day in the opinion of the Referee by reason of weather or other good and sufficient reason a match cannot be commenced, each match will be considered a draw.
- 8.3 Where, in the opinion of the Referee, by reason of weather or other good and sufficient reason a match after being commenced cannot be completed and a winning match result has not been obtained, the match will be considered a draw.
- 8.4 A team may still win a match (including finals) even if they are unable to field a full team that day and/or one or more rubbers are forfeited because of punctuality or other reasons except for breaches of singles order of merit (see Condition 5.9). Any rubber forfeited will be recorded as follows:
- a) Where the rubber has not been commenced then a retirement will be recorded in League Manager, awarding all games to the opposing teams
  - b) Where the rubber has been commenced then all games not played shall be forfeited to the opposing team.
- 8.5 If a team only has three players available, the team receiving the forfeit will determine whether the #2 singles or doubles rubber will be forfeited. If a team only has two players available, one doubles rubber will be forfeited and the two singles rubbers and one doubles rubber will be played. If both teams only have three players available, the #2 singles rubber will be considered a double default.
- 8.6 Any team that forfeits a Premier League match may be subject to a team forfeit fine as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 8.7 At the completion of the home and away (or Super-round) matches, the top two teams will be determined to play in finals. If any teams that qualify to be in the top three have the same number of wins then the higher placed team shall be decided by the percentage of rubbers won over rubbers played, if equal on rubbers percentage, then it shall be decided on the percentage of sets won over sets played, if equal on set percentage, then it shall be decided on the percentage of games won over games played. If still equal, the team that won the match between the two teams in the home and away series shall be placed higher. If still equal Tennis Victoria will make a determination based on the respective team's match win ratio.

## 9. PREMIER LEAGUE FINAL MATCHES

- 9.1 At the completion of the home and away matches the two highest placed teams in Premier League shall compete in the finals. The teams finishing in first place and second place team shall play in the final to determine the overall winner of the Premier League competition. Premier League finals matches shall be conducted and played in accordance with the following:
- 9.2 Matches for finals shall consist of four separate rubbers that shall be played in accordance with Conditions 6.1, 6.2, 8.5 and 9.6.
- 9.3 The winner of each completed Premier League finals match shall be the team who wins the greater number of rubbers.
- a) Tennis Victoria shall determine in its absolute discretion the date and time that the Final shall be played and will additionally determine a Reserve date and time for the Final only to be used in the event play is abandoned for any reason on the original Finals day without a result being achieved. The Reserve date shall be no later than 8 days from the originally proposed date. The date of the Reserve Final day may be announced by Tennis Victoria after play has been abandoned without a result on the first Final day.
  - b) If play is required to take place on the Reserve Final day, teams may alter their nominated list of players for the Team for the Final for any rubber that has not commenced play on the first Final day. A rubber which has commenced play may only be completed by the player(s) who were playing that rubber. If a player has commenced in a rubber and is unable / unavailable to complete the rubber on the Reserve day, then the opposing team will be awarded the rubber. All games and sets already played will stand.

The singles order of merit will still apply to all singles rubbers that have not started.

- c) If a Reserve Final day is used, Tennis Victoria may use a different venue, surface and Referee and where rubbers were chair umpired with line officials on the first Final day, Tennis Victoria may not appoint chair umpires and line officials to be used on the Reserve Final day in their absolute discretion.
- 9.4 In the event of a washout, or inclement or extreme weather or where no result has been achieved in accordance with the timeframe defined by Condition 12.1 (e) and no team has achieved a winning position, the higher placed team at the completion of the home and away (or Super Round), will be the winner of the match for the Final. This rule shall only apply in the case of the Final where use of the alternate Reserve Final day is still not able to achieve a result in the Final.
- 9.5 Each player in each team shall play in the singles order of merit as previously nominated by the club and approved by Tennis Victoria.
- 9.6 The Premier League Final matches will be conducted at a venue(s) determined by Tennis Victoria. Matches will be played on two courts as determined by Tennis Victoria's arrangement with the venue. For the Final, the order of play for the rubbers shall be determined by Tennis Victoria. For all finals matches the Referee shall allocate each rubber to be played on each court. The Referee's decision is final regarding the order of play on the day of play.
- 9.7 All finals matches will be played to completion unless otherwise stated by the Tennis Victoria Representative on site for the match.

## 10. RESULTS OF MATCHES

- 10.1 Immediately after the completion of all matches whether or not a result is determined, the Tennis Victoria approved score sheet shall be completed and signed by the Referee and the Captains of each team.
- 10.2 In the event of a match not being commenced or being incomplete, the score sheet shall as far as practicable be completed and must include each nominated player's name and the score (if any) of each completed or incomplete rubber and state the reasons for the match not being commenced or completed.

## 11. PLACES AND DATES FOR MATCHES

- 11.1 No alteration shall be made to the place, date or time of a match without the approval of Tennis Victoria prior to match day or the Referee on match day (refer schedule of fines).
- 11.2 Should a match not be commenced or be commenced but not completed at a place, date or time otherwise than as determined by Tennis Victoria then the team in default (if any) shall be deemed to be defaulted unless otherwise determined by Tennis Victoria and points awarded (if any) for the match shall be determined by Tennis Victoria in its absolute discretion.

## 12. TIME FOR MATCHES

- 12.1 Matches shall be commenced and completed, unless otherwise approved by Tennis Victoria or unless delayed by inclement or extreme weather, as follows:
  - a) Day matches shall commence not before 10am.
  - b) Night matches shall commence not before 2pm.
  - c) Where Tennis Victoria elects to play all matches at one site as a Super Round, matches for that Round may be split into different time slots for each match in Tennis Victoria's absolute discretion, in particular to make better use of court availability. The start times for each match as advertised by Tennis Victoria, shall be referred to as "the commencement times". Tennis Victoria in its absolute discretion shall determine the start times for each match.
  - d) Both day and night home and away (or Super-round) matches, (not including finals), shall continue until completed or until the Referee determines the match should be discontinued. A Referee may abandon play due to inclement weather.
  - e) Venues are to use lights from when natural light is unsafe for play in an effort to achieve a match result. If a match result has not been achieved at the time of a referee's determination, then all outstanding match points will be shared.
  - f) In order for teams to achieve a match result, the Referee may change the courts nominated for play



from when conditions become unsafe for play, whether due to light or the conditions of the court as determined by the Referee.

- g) All finals matches shall commence and be played in accordance with Condition 12.1, unless play is abandoned by the Referee because of inclement weather or other good and sufficient reason (refer Condition 9.3 (d)). The Referee cannot modify or shorten the match format.

- 12.2 For home and away (or Super-round) matches, any player of a team not in attendance within fifteen minutes of being called to play his or her rubber, subject to Condition 7, shall have his/her rubber defaulted but the remaining rubbers of the match must be played and shall be commenced as soon as practicable.
- a) The remaining rubbers other than any that are defaulted are still to be played. However, for subsequent rubbers players must still be ready to play within fifteen minutes, subject to Conditions 7, 20 and of being called to play or where Conditions 12.6 and 12.7 apply.
- Case Example: Player A, who plays for Team Y has been called for his #1 doubles rubber match which is scheduled for 12:30pm. Player A is still not here at 12:45pm and therefore will need to forfeit the #1 doubles rubber. Player B who plays for Team Y is scheduled to play at 2:00pm (which is the next match listed in the order of play) is now expected to be ready to play by 1:00pm for their Singles rubber.
- b) If a player has not been called for and defaulted from his or her rubber prior to play being abandoned for the day, for inclement weather or other reasons, that player's rubber is not a default against his or her team.
- 12.3 In a finals match, where some rubbers are lost due to punctuality, insufficient team members or a behavioural/default that offending team may still win the match overall and will default that rubber or rubbers only.
- 12.4 Should a team wish to protest any of the events of the match day, writing "Played Under Protest" on the score sheet does not constitute a protest. This notation merely signifies that a protest is intended to be lodged. To formally lodge a protest, the steps outlined in Condition 23 must be followed.
- 12.5 Where under Conditions 12.1 and 12.2 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 (refer to Appendix 1).
- 12.6 For home and away (or Super round) matches in the event that a match cannot commence or continue by reason of inclement or extreme weather, the Referee shall declare a draw where there has been one hundred and twenty continuous minutes after the official commencement time of the match without play, or from the time that play was interrupted. All players must attend at the venue subject to the time provisions as defined in Condition 12.2 unless the Referee shall have declared a draw prior to the requisite time period having been reached.
- However, the Referee shall have the power to abandon play earlier than this if, in his or her opinion, the courts will not become playable within the one hundred and twenty minute period and there are no other courts available to transfer to. This power is only to be used as a last resort and where all reasonable efforts would be unlikely to make the courts playable. It is recommended that play not be abandoned prior to the expiration of at least ninety minutes after any delay has commenced. Any rubber completed or defaulted prior to any rain delay shall remain as completed. No player may be defaulted for punctuality reasons where the courts are unfit for play in the determination of the Referee.
- Case Example:** *During a match there are 3 rain delays. The 1st delay is for 75 minutes, the 2nd is for 50 minutes and the final delay is for 120 minutes. Play may not be abandoned for the day prior to the completion of the 3rd rain delay, unless the Referee determines the courts are unfit for play at all that day.*
- 12.7 For finals matches there must be 240 minutes of continuous rain delay before a washout can be declared. In this event or where a final is timed out without a result being achieved pursuant to Conditions 12.1(e) and Conditions 9.3(d) the higher placed team at the completion of the home and away rounds shall be deemed the winner. The Referee has the same discretionary powers as per Condition 12.6 to abandon the match earlier than the prescribed time.

### 13. HIT-UP AND REST PERIODS

- 13.1 The maximum time permitted for a hit-up before commencement of each rubber is five minutes only.

- 13.2 Play shall be continuous throughout each rubber and no rest period is permitted between sets unless Tennis Australia's Extreme Weather Policy is in effect, however, the courts played upon may be serviced between sets at the discretion of either player/team or if directed by an official. Courts may only be serviced during a set if both players/teams agree or if directed by an official.

#### **14. DEFAULTS BY TEAMS/PLAYERS**

- 14.1 Where a team fails to appear for a match, it shall be deemed defaulted and the club is 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.
- 14.2 Where a team fails to appear for any match in a season, or it be disqualified by Tennis Victoria, the club shall be liable for a fine. (Refer to Appendix 1)
- 14.3 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 (noting also the rule regarding substitution in Condition 20.1, the result shall be recorded in the same way as a retirement due to injury where all games played shall be retained and the remaining games will be forfeited.

#### **15. MAKE, COLOUR AND NUMBER OF BALLS FOR USE IN EACH MATCH**

- 15.1 The only tennis balls permitted for use in the Premier League Competition are those nationally approved makes adopted by Tennis Victoria.
- 15.2 **Three** new balls shall be supplied at the commencement of each set in each doubles rubber and each singles rubber for home and away (or Super) rounds and all finals matches. New balls shall not be provided for a match tiebreak set.

#### **16. CONDITION OF COURTS AND CLUBS**

- 16.1 Matches shall be played on surfaces and at places as determined by Tennis Victoria.
- 16.2 The type, quality and condition of courts used in Premier League 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.

#### **17. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR PREMIER LEAGUE**

- 17.1 To be eligible to play Premier League whether prior to or after its commencement in any season, a person must be a player as defined in Condition 2.12 (a).
- 17.2 Any team that plays in a match with a person not being a player as defined in Condition 2.12 hereof shall be deemed defaulted and the club liable for a fine and the team not in default shall be awarded those rubbers, sets and games and points for the match in which this person was involved, unless otherwise determined by Tennis Victoria.

#### **18. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR ALL PREMIER LEAGUE FINALS MATCHES**

- 18.1 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 two home and away matches for the team in that season with his/her club.

#### **19. EMERGENCY PLAYERS**

- 19.1 Only approved PLCT members may be used to play in Premier League. No Emergency players will be permitted to be used, even where a PLCT does not have sufficient approved team members available to play all rubbers in a match. [Please refer to Condition 5.8 for additional players ruling](#)

#### **20. PLAYER TRANSFERS**

- 20.1 If a club delists a player from their PLCT without that player having played in a match, that player may be approved by Tennis Victoria to be included in another PLCT for a different club, provided all requirements of these rules are otherwise complied with. A player who does transfer to another club under this rule must sign and submit a [request in writing to Tennis Victoria for approval](#). Approval from the original club for this transfer is not required.

- 20.2 Once the season has commenced there shall be no player transfers between clubs.
- 20.3 Once a player has signed a written player request form and has been nominated and approved to play for a Premier League club, that player may not play for any other Premier League club in that season.
- 20.4 A Player may transfer to a different Premier League club between seasons without requiring approval from his or her original club or from Tennis Victoria.

## **21. PLAYER'S TENNIS ATTIRE**

- 21.1 Each team must have a tennis uniform for the following clothing items – playing tennis shirt, shorts, skirt, dress, skort, track-suit top and track-suit bottom. A team uniform may be simply a range of nominated club team colours (maximum of four nominated colours per club) or may be a more formal team uniform. Clubs will be expected to nominate this clothing attire in their Premier League club team entry form. Recognised tennis attire and footwear as determined by the Referee must be worn for play in Premier League. All players competing in Premier League (whether a nominated, emergency or substitute player) and on-court coaches must wear their club team uniform (refer schedule of fines).
- 21.2 Prominent images, advertising, lettering (greater than 3 sq. inches (19.5cm<sup>2</sup>) or any offensive words or images (as determined by the Referee) are not permitted. There are no restrictions on the number or size of commercial logos PLCT can have on uniforms. All uniforms must include a club logo.
- 21.3 Team track suit tops and bottoms (including compression / inner garments) are permitted to be worn during the hit-up and during a match subject to Conditions 21.1 & 21.2.
- 21.4 Uniforms must be approved by Tennis Victoria prior to the commencement of the competition.

## **22. ON-COURT COACH**

- 22.1 Each team can have one on-court Coach courtside for each doubles and singles rubber. The on-court Coach must be a person nominated on the on-court Coach list submitted by the team pursuant to Condition 5.7 and on the team score sheet 15 minutes prior to play, and be in team uniform.
- 22.2 Although more than one on-court Coach can be used by a team for any one rubber, there can only be one on-court Coach on court for each team courtside at any one time for each rubber in progress. Each on-court Coach must obtain verbal approval from the Referee before they enter the court enclosure to coach.
- 22.3 Once courtside, an on-court Coach may do the following:
  - a) Enter the court during a rubber (once approval from the Referee has been obtained) 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 22.3(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).
  - e) Service the court at end of sets or rubbers or as per instruction of an official.
  - f) While courtside, coaches must comply with the player tennis attire provisions contained in Condition 22

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.
- 22.4 The Referee and the chair umpire (where there is one), 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.

(Note: A breach of Tennis Australia's coaching Code of Behaviour is a code against the player and not the coach and is subject to the point penalty schedule.)

### **23. PROTESTS BY CLUBS**

- 23.1 Only clubs involved in a particular match shall have the right to make a protest as a result of any matter arising before during or after a match. Where possible "Match played under protest" may be recorded on the score sheet when the score sheet is signed by both team captains but this of itself, shall not constitute a protest by that club, it merely indicates an intent to protest.
- 23.2 All protests for home and away (and Super-Rounds) matches must be lodged in writing with full particulars of such protest to Tennis Victoria accompanied by the prescribed fee by 5pm on the Monday after the match to which the protest relates. All other clubs involved in the protest will then be given the content / subject of the protest and be requested to reply in writing within 24 hours to the protest.
- 23.3 All protests for finals matches must be lodged in writing with full particulars of such protest to Tennis Victoria accompanied by the prescribed fee within 24 hours after the match to which the protest relates. All other clubs involved in the protest will then be given the content / subject of the protest and be requested to reply in writing within 24 hours to the protest.
- 23.4 In the event of exceptional circumstances, (such as a very limited timeframe between finals), the process of any club protest or subsequent appeal in the timeframes outlined in Condition 23.2 and 23.3, may not be viable and therefore appropriate accelerated procedures will be required as determined by Tennis Victoria.
- 23.5 Once Condition 23.2, 23.3 or 23.4 has occurred, [Tennis Victoria Management](#) shall consider and determine each protest and notify the clubs having an interest in such protest of its determination.

### **24. PAYMENT OF FEES AND FINES**

- 24.1 Any fee or fine imposed pursuant to these Conditions shall be paid within thirty days of the date of imposition of such fee or fine unless otherwise determined by the Tennis Victoria.
- 24.2 Any club failing to pay a fee or fine by the prescribed time shall be liable to a further fine or penalty (including but not limited to a suspension or disqualification from Premier League), as determined by Tennis Victoria.

### **25. POWERS OF TENNIS VICTORIA**

- 25.1 Tennis Victoria and the [Competitive Play Committee](#) shall have the widest and most absolute power and discretion relating to the Premier League competition or any matter or thing arising from or in connection with the Premier League competition and without limiting the foregoing it shall have the power and discretion at any time without giving or assigning any reasons therefore 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 reasonably prescribed by Tennis Victoria to suspend or disqualify such club from Premier League for such time as Tennis Victoria determines and to cancel points previously awarded to such club.
  - 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 Premier League as a result of a player's conduct or behaviour arising from or in connection with a match.
  - d) Impose penalties whether by fine, suspension or disqualification or by forfeiture of points for any noncompliance or breach of any of these Conditions.

### **26. INTERPRETATION OF CONDITIONS**

- 26.1 Any question arising from or in connection with the Premier League competition or as to the interpretation or construction of these Conditions shall be determined by Tennis Victoria in their absolute discretion.

### **27. APPEALS**

- 27.1 A club or player shall have the right to appeal from any determination of Tennis Victoria Management or the Competitive Play Committee except from a determination relating to the singles order of merit and the Team Determinations.
- 27.2 Notice and grounds of appeal shall be lodged with Tennis Victoria accompanied by the prescribed fee (refer schedule of fees) within two days from the written notification of a determination being given to the club or player.
- 27.3 Appeals shall be heard as soon as practicable by an Appeals Tribunal consisting of three members of the Tribunal Panel, who shall consider the appeal and notify the club, and player of its determination as soon as practicable.
- 27.4 The Appeals Tribunal shall have the same power as Tennis Victoria in accordance with Condition 26 including the power to require the attendance of any person or player likely to assist the Appeals Tribunal at a hearing.
- 27.5 The lodging of a Notice and Grounds of Appeal shall act as a stay of the determination until the determination of the Appeals Tribunal.
- 27.6 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).

#### **28. CONDITIONS OF PLAY – TA & MA EVENTS DISCIPLINARY POLICY**

- 28.1 All matches shall be played under the ITF Rules of Tennis as adopted by Tennis Victoria, Tennis Australia's and the ITF's rules for matches without chair umpires (where no chair umpires are used). In addition, all matches shall be, where applicable, under all Tennis Australia's National policies including National Extreme Weather Policy, Discipline Policy, Anti-doping Policy, Tennis Anti-corruption program, Member Protection Policy and the Code of Behaviour Policy.
- 28.2 All matches will be guided by the recommendations of Tennis Australia's National Extreme Weather Policy, noting that the application of this policy will be determined by the Referee with first reference to the Tennis Victoria Representative if he or she is on site. The Referee's determination will be final. No match format may be shortened as a result of anything contained in the Policy, but the rest periods as referred to in Conditions 7 and 13 may be altered at the discretion of the Referee where applicable under the policy's guidelines.

## APPENDIX 1

### SCHEDULE OF PREMIER LEAGUE FEES AND FINES (all figures are inclusive of GST)

2.12 (a)	Unregistered player fine	\$250
4.2	Entry Fee	\$550
4.8	Change in order of merit fine	\$250
8.6	Team forfeits for a home and away or super round match	\$500
11.1	Places and dates for matches fine	\$500
14.1	Defaults per rubber fine	\$150
14.2	Defaults per match fine	\$500
16	Condition of courts and club fine	\$500
17	Eligibility of players fine	\$250
18	Eligibility of players for finals fine	\$500 (plus loss of match)
21	Player tennis attire fine	\$100
23	Protest Fee	\$100
24	Non-payment of fees & fines	\$100
27	Appeal Fee	\$300