

**WGTA – BYLAWS.**  
**AMMENDED 12TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

***BY-LAWS***

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The rules governing play shall be the same as those adopted by Tennis Australia except where modified by the following Association rules.

***MEETINGS***

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1.1

At the Annual Meeting of the Association the following sub committees shall be appointed consisting of members of the affiliated clubs. Senior match committee, Junior match committee, Night match committee and Mid-week ladies committee. These committees shall be responsible for grading players, emergencies and teams for their respective competitions. Also the selection of personnel to represent the association at any representative matches that may be arranged.

1.2

All sub committees associated with the W.G.T.A. are to submit an annual report to the Secretary, two weeks before the Annual Meeting for inclusion in the W.G.T.A. Annual Report.

Representatives of all committees will be required to report to the executive on a regular basis which will be determined by the executive.

1.3

Each club will be automatically fined \$20.00 for non attendance at general meetings including annual meetings, any other special meeting called by the executive. Provided the clubs have been notified, in accordance with sub-clause 2.1.3 of the constitution.

1.4

Each club shall have the following voting rights:-

\* One vote per member club present in accordance with sub-clause 2.1.6 of the constitution.

## *TRIBUNAL*

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### 2.1

The association shall at its AGM appoint an honorary tribunal consisting of three persons, none of whom shall be an official of any affiliated club to handle any matter that it feels cannot be handled by the members of the executive. The tribunal shall elect their own chairman. The tribunal shall have full power to deal with matters brought before it and to make decisions, impose penalties and to make and record findings as it thinks fit. It may call for additional evidence and adjourn its meeting if thought necessary. Decisions of the tribunal shall be final and binding on the Association and not subject to review without the tribunal's permission. No appeal shall be allowed except where provided under the rules of Tennis Victoria.

The tribunal shall meet at a time and place it deems most suitable. Upon receipt of the protests etc., the Secretary of the Association shall give notice of the meeting by letter to the club secretaries and all summoned must attend such meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the club to have its witnesses summoned present before the tribunal.

## *PROTESTS AND APPEALS*

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### 3.1

All protests and appeals must be lodged in writing and be accompanied by a deposit of \$20.00 which shall be liable to be forfeited to the Association if the protest is considered frivolous. Every protest in respect to home and away games must, together with the deposit, be in the hands of the secretary of the Association within three clear business days of the date of the match, and in respect of finals matches within two days of the match concerned. Appeals must be lodged within three clear business days of receipt in writing of notification of an executive decision.

### 3.2

Each club shall have the right to be represented at the hearing of a protest by a delegate or official of the club, but no member of the legal profession shall be allowed unless on their own behalf.

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## *REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS*

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### 4.1

Prior to playing with any team in this Association each player shall be registered with the score secretary of the Association. Registration of players for each season will be via team entry forms. The names of players regarded as emergencies may be included on team entry forms, or on a separate list, provided that the list indicates the section which these players will act as emergencies.

### 4.2

Unregistered players may become registered by notifying the score secretary or on the back of the scorecard prior to that player's first match with the Association. Failure to comply with this by-law will result in the unregistered player losing the sets they played to love. Any player that submits a late registration will play on a two match permit to determine their suitability for the section that they have applied for.

### 4.3

If an emergency player is to be utilized, the team captain must inform the opposing captain prior to play commencing. The opposing captain has the option of writing comments about the emergency player's ability on the score card.

## *GRADING*

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### 5.1

Clubs shall submit lists of teams and players (including ages for juniors) in order of merit to the association secretary by a date set at the Annual Meeting. These teams shall then be graded by the relevant sub committees.

Supplementary lists may be submitted to the committees.

The sub committees shall complete the grading of teams and select playing formats for the coming season.

### 5.2

Upon the completion of these tasks the sub committee shall notify each club of the complete allocation of teams and playing formats within the association, as decided upon.

Each club will have 5 days in which to appeal against any grading. The sub committee will deal with any such appeal.

### 5.3

At the end of round five the sub committee is empowered to review teams and if a team is over or under graded, it may re grade where possible that or those teams to different sections to even out the competition. Teams that are affected will be allocated half of the available points for the five matches played.

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## *PLAYER ELIGIBILITY*

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### 6.1

Any player playing with a club that has two or more teams entered in the one section and having played four home and away matches with one team is eligible to play with that team only. Emergencies from lower sections can still go to any team.

### 6.2

A player who has played four of the total home and away matches in any one section will not be permitted to play in a lower section. A player who has played four of the total home and away matches will not be permitted to play in any section below the lowest section in which that person has played.

### 6.3

Any player who has played in four home and away matches (at least two of these matches must be played in the first eight rounds) with a club in the association during the current season in one particular competition is eligible to play with that club in the finals of that particular competition.

In exceptional circumstances a written application may be made to the relevant sub committee.

### 6.4

For a registered player to qualify for finals play in any given section they must have played the majority or equal number of their recorded matches in that section or lower.

### 6.5

No player shall play competition matches with more than one club within the Association in that particular competition.

### 6.6

A player cannot transfer from one club to another within the Association in the same season without a permit from the executive committee.

## COMPETITION RULES

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### JUNIOR

#### 7.1

All players must be 17 years and under as at 31st December of current year.

#### 7.2

Playing Formats:

FORMAT A: Teams to consist of three players.

All sets to 6 games with a 12 point tie break to be played at 6 all. Playing order to be 1 v 1, 2&3 v 2&3, 2 v 2, 1&3 v 1&3, 3 v 3, 1&2 v 1&2.

A club may use four players to fill the three available positions in the team. If this occurs one

player will play two doubles and a singles, the remaining three players will each play either two doubles or a doubles and a singles. Player 4 will replace player 2 in the 2&3 doubles and player 3 in the 1&3 doubles.

FORMAT B: Teams to consist of four players.

All sets to 6 games with a 12 point tie break to be played at 6 all.

Playing order to be 1&2 v 1&2, 3&4 v 3&4, 1&3 v 1&3, 2&4 v 2&4, 1&4 v 1&4.

A club may use five players to fill the four available positions in the team. If this occurs two players will play three doubles, the remaining three players will each play two doubles. Player 5 will replace player 3 in the 3&4 doubles and number 4 in the 1&4 doubles.

(No two sets will have the same partners).

#### 7.3

A junior team having the correct number of players can rearrange their playing order so that all players are able to play at least one set when their opposition team is one team member short.

#### 7.4

In the singles section, players are to play their singles sets in order of merit. That is, the best player at No. 1, the second best at No.2. and the weakest at No.3. During the first full round of the home and away season (i.e. 5 rounds for a 6 teams draw, 7 round for an 8 team draw, etc), teams may experiment with their order but after that the order is set for the rest of the season, including finals.

If a singles team is playing with 4 players on any given morning, then the 3 singles players only must play in their order of merit. Any of the 4 players are able to play at the No 4 position without being affected by the Order of Merit Rule. Failure to comply will result in loss of sets to love in the affected sets.

7.5 Lowest section is for learning and confidence building only. If a player has played in this section the previous season that player may only play in the lowest section again at the discretion of the junior match committee.

7.6

Home and visiting teams must provide adult supervision on courts for each team. Adult supervisors are responsible for conduct on and around courts and for umpiring matches in junior doubles sections only.

7.7

All players must adhere to correct court etiquette at all times. However if bad behaviour persists after two warnings from duty parents, play shall be stopped and current game forfeited to opposition. If duty parents cannot agree, the aggrieved club should lodge a formal protest in accordance with by law 3.1

7.8

Starting time for all junior matches is 8.30am, with 15 minutes grace. If play has not started by 8.45am the offending team must forfeit one set for each 15 minutes thereafter. The set (or sets) must be claimed by the opposing captain before the commencement of the match.

No sets will start after 11.45am without agreement between the team managers of both teams.

7.9

The time for notifying a visiting junior team of a wash-out is 7.30am. If a wash-out has not been notified by this time, the visiting team must attend and be ready to play if conditions allow.

In the event of the home team not notifying the visiting team of a wash-out, and allowing the visiting team to attend the courts, the home team must all be in attendance, otherwise all points will be forfeited.

## SENIOR

### 7.10 Playing Formats:

FORMAT A : Teams to consist of three men and three ladies. Doubles to be one eight game set (tie break at eight games all). Mixed doubles to be one eight game set (tie break at eight games all).

A club may use four men and/or four ladies to fill the three available positions in the team. If this occurs one player will play two doubles and a mixed, the remaining three players will each play either two doubles or a doubles and a mixed.

FORMAT B: Teams to consist of four men. 2 singles "best of 2 sets" rubbers and 3 doubles  
"best of 2 sets" rubbers to be played. Playing format to be: 1 v 1, 2 v 2, 3&4 v 3&4, 1&3 v 1&3,  
2&4 v 2&4.

A "best of 2 sets" rubber is a best of 3 set match but the 3rd set, if required, is only a super-breaker  
(first to 10 points with at least a 2 point advantage)

FORMAT C: Singles Section; Teams to consist of 3 players (Men and/or Ladies).  
Numbers 1 and 2 play singles "best of 2 sets" rubbers. Number 3 plays doubles "best of 2 sets" rubbers with 1 and 2. Playing format to be: 1 v 1, 2 v 2, 1&3 v 1&3, 2&3 v 2&3.

FORMAT D: Teams to be made up of 2 men and 2 ladies with 1 male or female reserve.  
Doubles and 2 Mixed only. Maximum number of players per team on the day is 5.  
Matches now rubbers, best of 3 tiebreak sets.

7.11 If a team is playing 4 men/ladies in format A then one nominated player will play 3 sets and the remaining three players will play 2 sets each. If playing 4 players the opposing captain must be notified prior to tennis commencing, otherwise only 3 players are allowed to play.

If a team is playing 5 players in format B then the fifth player may replace the #3 in the 1&3 doubles or the #4 in the 2&4 doubles

7.12 Matches shall commence at 1p.m. The teams must be complete by 1.45pm or will forfeit one set for each 15 minutes. Any team not ready at the court to start at 1.00pm must forfeit one set for each 15 minutes, provided no other set can be played after the allotted time.

## NIGHT

### 7.13 Playing Formats:

FORMAT A: Teams to consist of four players. All sets to 6 games with a 12 point tie break to be played at 6 all. Playing format to be 1&2 v 1&2, 3&4 v 3&4, 1&3 v 1&3, 2&4 v 2&4, 1&4 v 1&4.

### 7.14

If a 5th player is to be used then they will replace the #3 in the 3&4 set and the #4 in the 1&4 set.

## MIDWEEK LADIES

7.15 Playing Formats: Teams to consist of four players. All sets to 8 games with a 12 point tie break to be played at 7 all.

Playing format to be 1&2 v 1&2, 3&4 v 3&4, 1&3 v 1&3, 2&4 v 2&4, 1&4 v 1&4, 2&3 v 2&3.

Play is to commence at 9:30am and the home team is responsible to supply lunch at the conclusion of play.



## *SCORE CARD*

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8.1 Before the commencement of the match, the captain of each competing team shall complete the score cards on which is plainly printed the full names of the players and order of play including mixed.

8.2 The Association now uses the electronic form of reporting of scores as provided by Tennis Victoria. The deadline for scores is 10am on the Sunday morning following the Saturday match. Home team to submit data. At the conclusion of the match BOTH team captains shall sign the scorecards/s  
Away team to check the scores have been entered correctly. Score cards need NOT be posted to the score secretary, but need to be kept by both teams. Score cards can be down loaded from our website. Failure to comply with this by-law shall result in the loss of premiership points.

8.3 For all finals matches, the winning captain will ensure that the result is put onto the website scoring system. The penalty for failing to record the results onto the website scoring system as defined under the provisions contained in bylaw 8.2 will be a fine of \$25.

8.4 Any team receiving a forfeit must fill out their team on the website scoring system in order to receive premiership points.

8.5 Teams are responsible for filling out their own side of the scorecard with full names. Failure to comply with this by-law shall result in the loss of 1 premiership point.

8.6 If there is a washout, the names put on the card/website will count towards finals eligibility. Cards need not be sent to the score secretary for a washout.

8.7 If a team wants to protest the result of a match then they should write on the card that they do not agree with the result and send the card to the score secretary before midday the following Saturday.

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## PREMIERSHIP POINTS

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9.1 Premiership points shall be allotted as follows:-

### SENIOR COMPETITION AND NIGHT COMPETITION:

Two points shall be awarded to the team that wins the most sets as well as one point for each set won. If teams are equal on sets then two points shall be awarded to the team that wins the most games as well as one point for each set won.

In the men's section the singles sets and doubles rubbers are considered to be equal with the

winner to be the team that wins 3 or more of the matches.

Percentages shall be calculated as follows:-

Firstly on the ratio of sets won and lost and secondly on the ratio of games won and lost.

### JUNIOR COMPETITION:

Two points shall be awarded to the team that wins the most games as well as one point for each set won. If teams are equal on games then two points shall be awarded to the team that wins the most sets as well as one point for each set won.

Percentages shall be calculated as follows:-

Firstly on the ratio of games won and lost and secondly on the ratio of sets won and lost.

9.2

If matches have commenced and play abandoned through adverse weather conditions teams will share the premiership points unless a winning margin has been reached then teams shall be allotted the appropriate premiership points.

## *FINALS*

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### 10.1

#### Venues:

Junior competition: All finals to be played at neutral (where possible) venues and surface as decided by the junior match committee with court allocation to be finalized by that committee.

Senior competition: The location of all finals venues is decided by the Grading Committee.

Night competition: For semi and preliminary finals the team finishing higher on the ladder at the end of the home and away season shall be awarded home final.

Grand Finals are to be played at the club of the Second (1v2) Semi Final winner.

#### Mid-week ladies:

### 10.2

#### Order of matches:

Senior competition and junior competition with 8 or 10 team draw:

Teams filling the first four positions on the ladders will play in the finals.

1st v 2nd = Second Semi Final, 3rd v 4th = First Semi Final.

Winner of the Second semi-final will advance to the grand final.

The loser of the second semi-final will play the winner of the first semi-final in the preliminary final.

The winner of the preliminary final will advance to the grand final.

Junior competition with 6 team draw:

Teams filling the first three positions on the ladders will play in the finals.

2nd v 3rd will play in the preliminary final with the winner to advance to the grand final against the 1st placed team.

### 10.3

#### Drawn matches:

In the event of a draw Junior competition and Senior men's competition: In any finals match, the winner shall be decided by playing a 12-point tie-breaker of doubles. To be played by any two players as nominated by the team manager/captain.

Senior mixed competition: In any finals match, the winner shall be decided by playing a 12-point tie-breaker of mixed doubles. To be played by any two players as nominated by the team captain.

#### 10.4

##### Adverse Weather:

In the event of a decision not being reached in a scheduled finals match due to adverse weather and play is abandoned.

##### Junior competition:

The teams may mutually agree to play during the week and if an agreement cannot be reached then the match committee shall determine the time and date on which the match will be played.

Matches are to be continued from the point of play reached when the match was abandoned (all sets, games and points played still stand).

Senior competition: Matches are to be continued from the point of play reached when the match was abandoned (all sets, games and points played still stand) at the original venue on the Sunday. In the event of a decision not being reached on the Sunday due to adverse weather. Then teams may mutually agree to play during the week and if an agreement cannot be reached then the match committee shall determine the time and date on which the match will be played.

Night competition: The teams may mutually agree to play during the week and if an agreement cannot be reached then the match committee shall determine the time and date on which the match will be played. Matches are to be continued from the point of play reached when the match was abandoned (all sets, games and points played still stand).

Mid-week ladies: The teams may mutually agree to play during the week and if an agreement cannot be reached then the match committee shall determine the time and date on which the match will be played. Matches are to be continued from the point of play reached when the match was abandoned (all sets, games and points played still stand).

#### 10.5

If a finals match is rescheduled due to adverse weather a named player may be replaced if unavailable at the new scheduled time, provided the following conditions are met:

(a) The replacement player is qualified to play for the team in the finals.

(b) The replacement player has not been named in any other team for that round of finals.

(c) The replacement player must be substituted in the same position in the team as the unavailable player held and any set that was in progress when weather stopped play involving the replaced player would be forfeited by the team utilising a replacement player

## *GENERAL BY-LAWS*

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### 11.1

In the event of inclement weather (defined as wet, rainy or stormy/cyclonic) individual matches may be cancelled without teams attending the courts, providing that it is mutually agreed to by both captains, other wise players must attend courts. The home team should contact the away team at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled starting time.

### 11.2

On days of extreme heat, before play can be stopped, both captains must be in agreement, except when the temperature reaches 36 deg. C in Melbourne (as provided by the bureau of meteorology, (1900 926 121) when either captain has the option to stop play.

### 11.3

If play has been stopped due to weather conditions, both captains must agree before the match is abandoned. However if play has not resumed within 45 minutes after the match was stopped then either captain shall have the option to abandon the match. In the extreme heat condition sets must be completed prior to play ceasing unless all players mutually agree to cease play. As per bylaw 8.2 the home team is responsible for notifying the score secretary.

### 11.4

The scorecard will be followed for order of play.  
In junior finals the order of play shall be as stated in 7.2

### 11.5

When a team is not complete the players present must fill the top positions first.

### 11.6

The committee has the power to fine and/or suspend players for misconduct during all matches. Complaints must be in writing and lodged with the association secretary within five days of the offence. A club lodging a protest must inform the secretary verbally or via email that a protest is being lodged. The executive shall address the protest within 14 days of receipt of the letter.

### 11.7

Teams shall toss for service and ends before each set: the winner of the toss has the options of: serving, receiving, choice of ends or to give the first choice to their opponent.

11.8

Should a player become incapacitated during the playing of a match, an emergency shall be permitted to take their place within:

Junior competition: half hour.

Senior competition: one-hour.

Night competition: half hour.

Mid week Ladies: one-hour.

The set where the injury occurred shall be forfeited. (Not applicable to cramp or having prior injury or illness.)

11.9

No point in any game may be questioned after commencement of the next point.

11.10

All clubs shall adhere to the program of matches drawn up by the Association.

Any club failing to complete any engagement on the date fixed without reasonable excuse shall be dealt with as the Association shall determine with an automatic fine of \$20.

Any club withdrawing a team after the draw has been done will be liable for a \$50 fine per team withdrawn.

11.11

Any matters not provided for in these rules or any interpretation of these rules shall be determined by the executive committee whose decision shall be final and shall be taken and acted upon as binding to all clubs.

11.12

Honorariums will be paid on an annual basis to the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Score Secretary. Honorarium amounts shall be set at the annual general meeting.

11.13

Umpires:

Teams will umpire themselves during the home and away matches with the exception of the junior doubles sections.

During finals matches:

In junior doubles each competing club must provide 2 senior umpires per team.

It is recommended by the executive that parents whenever possible do not umpire their own children. In all other matches finalists may obtain their own neutral umpires if desired.

Only players playing the current set and appointed umpires are permitted inside court fencing.

#### 11.14

##### Balls & Afternoon Tea:

During the home and away matches:

Junior competition: The home team shall provide four balls which may be good used balls, for each match.

Senior competition: The home team shall provide four new branded balls (approved by Tennis Australia) for each match and afternoon tea.

Night competition: The home team shall provide four new branded balls (approved Tennis Australia) for each match.

Midweek Ladies: The home team shall provide four new branded balls (approved by Tennis Australia) for each match and afternoon tea.

Finals Matches: Teams competing in finals matches must supply one pair of new balls approved by Tennis Australia for each of the finals in which they are competing.

#### 11.15 Courts:

Junior competition: The home team shall provide a minimum of one court for each match.

Senior competition: The home team shall provide a minimum of one and a half courts for each match.

Night competition: The home team shall provide a minimum of one and a half courts for each match.

Midweek Ladies: The home team shall provide a minimum of one and a half courts for each match.

#### 11.16

Correct tennis attire must be worn.

DRESS CODE: Correct Tennis Attire

MEN: - Recognized, acceptable sports clothing (colours permitted)  
Shoes must be flat soled and non marking for all court surfaces.

LADIES:-Recognized, acceptable sports clothing (colours permitted)  
Shoes must be flat soled and non marking for all court surfaces.

NOT PERMITTED

Singlets, tank tops and the like. Jogging, cycling, board, Bermuda, boxer and walk shorts and body shorts worn under tennis shorts. No prominent advertising or lettering, only small company logos measuring no more than 2sq inches. Ripple sole, jogging, running, cricket shoes or shoes with raised heel or studs.