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1. General Rules

- (a) All matches and tournaments shall be played under the Tennis Australia official handbook rules, except where such rules are altered herein.
- (b) The seasons for all competitions and their closing dates shall be decided by the Association.
- (c) Fees must accompany team entry forms or paid by directly crediting DVTA account.
- (d) The team as submitted by the club for grading becomes the registered team. Once sections are determined, any changes to team composition must be notified to the Association at least one week prior to the commencement of the season.
- (d) The responsibility for the enforcement of all Competition Rules rests solely with the appropriate Match Committee which is also responsible for making decisions on issues not covered by the Rules. The DVTA Administrator is responsible for policing the Rules.

2. Age Requirement

For Junior competitions (Friday Junior Singles and Saturday Junior Doubles), dates of birth for each player must be entered on the team entry form.

3. Eligibility

- (a) For Friday Junior Singles, players must be under **19** years of age at the scheduled date for the Grand Finals for the given Autumn or Spring season.
- (b) For Saturday Junior Doubles, players must be under **18** years of age at the scheduled date for the Grand Finals for the given Autumn or Spring season.
- (c) For the DVTA Junior championships, players must be under **19** years of age at 31 December
- (d) Junior players are permitted to compete in both the Friday Night and Saturday Morning Junior competitions and in Night and Midweek ladies' competitions.
- (e) Junior players may play Friday Night with one club and Saturday Morning with a different club, if desired.
- (f) For all other competitions there are no age restrictions
- (g) Any player who has played THREE matches in any team shall not thereafter play in another team in the same section or a lower section in the given competition.
- (h) A player may not play for more than one club in the **same competition in the same season** without having a clearance from the first club. Should this club refuse, the player has the right to appeal to the Association.
- (i) Any player not named in the registered team must be written onto the ScoreSheet. This action signals to opposition that the player is an emergency. The opposition has the right to lodge a protest if an emergency is deemed to be not of a similar standard to the rest of the team.
- (j) A player must be a financial member of the club he/she is representing.
- (k) Any player failing to meet any of the above eligibility requirements will have his/her sets forfeited.

4. Courts, Starting Times and Playing Conditions

- (a) No match can be played or completed on any date or location other than that prescribed on the Trols fixture unless a change has been approved by the DVTA Administrator.



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(Updated 3 February 2016)

- (b) Should a team be not ready to commence play within 15 minutes after the official starting time, the first set shall be forfeited. Should **all** players for a team not be present within 30 minutes after the official starting time, the offending team shall forfeit the match.

Competition	Starting Time	Mandatory Finish Time
Friday Junior Singles	6:00pm	9:00pm
Saturday Junior Doubles	8:45pm	12 Noon
Night Competitions	7:30pm	Club Curfew
Midweek Ladies	9:30am	3:00pm

30 minute earlier starts may be requested where a match is limited to one court per match. When granted, an early start will be indicated on the ScoreSheet and will be identified by “*ES*” in the Team Contact Name on TROLS fixtures

- (c) Matches **MUST** finish at the nominated Mandatory finish time, except for Junior finals which must be completed.
- (d) The home team must have the court and all the playing facilities ready for the visiting team at least 15 minutes before the appointed starting time.
- 1) For night competitions, this includes the turning on of lights so the lights have warmed up by the scheduled start time.
 - 2) For Friday Junior Singles, lights must be turned on when requested by either team
- (e) Players should try to arrive 15 minutes before the appointed starting time to allow for hit-ups.
- (f) Play will be continuous and an interval of no more than five minutes will be allowed between sets.
- (g) **Telephone Washouts:** If the Home team considers there is no possibility of any play they can contact the visiting team to discuss a washout. However, such calls may not take place more than 90 minutes before the match is due to commence and one of the following conditions must apply
- 1) There is clear evidence from weather reports that there will be continuous significant rain.
 - 2) There is a risk that the court(s) will be damaged if play proceeds. This only applies to red porous courts. Play on other court surfaces, even when wet, will not damage the courts
 - 3) There is a risk to players if play proceeds. Save for acrylic surfaces, most courts are deemed safe to play on even when wet. However, poorly maintained courts (e.g low sand levels or moss/algae present on artificial grass can be slippery.
- If the visiting team believes that play may be possible they have the right to insist both teams attend the venue before a determination is made.
- (h) Where both teams attend the venue and play cannot commence within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time (one court), or 60 minutes (for more than one court), for one of the conditions described in paragraph (g), the match can be declared a wash-out.
- (i) If one game is completed the match is defined as having commenced. If there is rain, or a light failure, players may leave the courts. However, the match cannot be called off until
- 1) the accumulated time lost through rain or bad light interruptions is more than 30 minutes (one court) or 60 minutes (more than one court)
 - 2) there is clear evidence that the players will not be able to take to the courts within 30 minutes (one court) or 60 minutes (two courts).

Where play is ceased after one or more games has been completed, but before either team has achieved an unassailable lead, then it is defined as an incomplete match and not a washout; also see para 6 (b).



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- (j) For the Midweek Ladies competition, when the temperature (according to the Weather Bureau, local radio station FM1196 or radio station 3AW) reaches 32 degrees C, the match MUST be abandoned.

5. Conduct of Matches

- (a) ScoreSheets produced and distributed by the DVTA must be used for all matches
- (b) ScoreSheets with players names entered must be exchanged by the captains before the match starts. Any emergency players MUST be written on the ScoreSheet at this stage.
- (c) Sets to be played in the order of the ScoreSheet but can be altered by mutual agreement of the captains.
- (d) All match results must be entered into the Tennis Results On-Line System (TROLS) by the Home team within 48 hours of the scheduled starting time for the match; see Para 6
- (e) For Friday Junior Singles, matches will be played on two courts. For all other competitions, matches will be played on one court. Additional courts may be used for any match with the agreement of both teams.
- (f) The method of determining who shall serve first in each set shall be by a toss.
- (g) For ALL Junior matches, each team MUST provide a responsible adult to act as a Duty Parent. The Duty Parents shall act as joint referees in the case of a dispute and must ensure that none of their players leave the court precincts without permission/supervision.

5.1 Conduct of Matches (Saturday Junior Doubles)

- (a) Teams shall consist of four players of boys, girls, or mixed.
- (b) Matches shall consist of
 - 1) six "first to 6" games sets for Sections 1, 2 & 3. A tie-breaker will be played at 5 games all
 - 2) six sets of eight games each for all other sections. Players change ends after four games.

5.2 Conduct of Matches (Friday Junior Singles)

- (a) Teams shall consist of four players of boys, girls, or mixed.
- (b) Matches shall consist of eight sets of singles in the order as per ScoreSheet.
- (c) Sets shall be first to six games, with a tie-break played at five games all.

5.3 Conduct of Matches (Night Competitions)

- (a) Night Mixed teams shall consist of two men and two women. A match shall consist of one womens' doubles set, one mens' doubles set and four mixed sets. The order of sets shall be as per ScoreSheet.
- (b) Night Mens teams shall consist of four men. Night Ladies shall consist of four ladies. A match shall consist of six sets in the order as per ScoreSheet.
- (c) Sets will be first to six games, with a tie-break played at five games all.

5.4. Conduct of Matches (Midweek Ladies)

- (a) Teams shall consist of four ladies.
- (b) Matches shall consist of six sets of doubles; pairing and order as per the official ScoreSheet.
- (b) Sets will be first to eight games, with a tie-break played at seven games all.
- (c) During a rally, once the ball has been returned more than twice (after a doubtful line decision) it is deemed good.



6. Results

- (a) All matches are to be decided on games first, then on sets if games are equal.
- (b) All matches shall be played on the following points system:
 - Win 4 points plus percentage
 - Bye 2 points
 - Draw 2 points plus percentage
 - Forfeit 4 points plus percentage per para 7

In the case of an incomplete match (due to rain, heat, bad light, time etc.) each team will receive 2 points and percentage. However if one team is in an unassailable position they receive full match points and percentage. Percentage is calculated as “ total Games For x 100 / total Games Against”. Completed games must be totalled on the ScoreSheet.
- (c) At the conclusion of a match, both captains must sign each other’s ScoreSheets.
- (d) For ALL Home and Away matches, the Home Team captain shall be responsible for the entry of the results into the TROLS online scoring system. In the case of washout called off by phone, the AWAY team can also access TROLS for the entry of their players who would have otherwise played.
- (e) For ALL finals matches, the winning team shall be responsible for the entry of the results into the TROLS online scoring system. For an incomplete finals match (i.e a result has not been achieved), TROLS is not to be updated but the DVTA Administrator is to be advised by email that the match was not completed.
- (f) Match results must be entered into TROLS by 7pm two days after the match e.g for Monday Night Mixed by 7pm Wednesday. If the result is not entered by the data entry deadline, the responsible team must email a copy of the ScoreSheet to the DVTA Administrator and a fine of \$20 will apply. All missing results will be indicated on TROLS ladders.
- (g) For any incomplete or washed out Home/Away match, players whose names have been entered into Trols shall be deemed to have played in that match for qualifying purposes.
- (h) It is particularly important to enter results in a timely manner for all last round and finals matches.

7. Forfeits

A team giving a forfeit shall receive no points, with 4 points being awarded to their opposition. Both teams will receive percentage according to the following table:

Competition	Team Receiving Forfeit	Team Giving Forfeit
Friday Junior Singles	40 For 8 Against	8 For 40 Against
Saturday Junior Doubles (S1-S3)	28 For 8 Against	8 For 28 Against
Saturday Junior Doubles (S4-end)	40 For 8 Against	8 For 40 Against
Night Competitions	28 For 8 Against	8 For 28 Against
Midweek Ladies	40 For 8 Against	8 For 40 Against

Any team forfeiting three matches in any season shall be withdrawn from the competition and any points gained or lost against this team with regard to the formation of the ladder will be disregarded and their matches treated as byes.

8. Balls

For Home and Away matches and for Finals, home teams shall supply 4 new balls which must be of a Tennis Australia approved brand. However, for junior competition Home and Away matches, home Teams may supply used balls provided they are of a uniform, good quality.



9. Dress

- (a) Correct tennis attire (including proper footwear) shall be worn at all times. Items not permitted include casual trousers, jeans, football attire, casual jumpers and shoes not appropriate for tennis court surfaces as determined by the Home Club. Track suits may be worn. Skirts need not be worn over track suits.
- (b) If any player is not suitably dressed, the opposing team has the right to protest to the match committee.
- (c) Players must wear soft soled sports shoes. A player may be ordered off a court for incorrect soles on their shoes.
- (d) For all Junior matches, Duty Parents are empowered to reprimand players of either team for incorrect attire and report any non-compliance in this regard to the DVTA Administrator. If any club is consistently defaulting, the Administrator may report the club concerned to the General Committee for action.

10. Substitutes

During a match, should a player be unable to continue playing due to illness or injury, a substitute player may be used. This player must be eligible to play (see Rule 2) and ready to play within 30 minutes. The substitute player shall then be allowed a hit-up of no more than five minutes. Play shall then resume from where it was left off. Should no substitute be available, the games and sets unable to be played shall be forfeited.

11. Umpires

There is no requirement for any DVTA match to be umpired. However, for Junior competitions, it is recommended that the following guidelines are adopted for teams of new players (generally the lower sections)

- (a) For the first few rounds of a new season (say 4 matches), all sets are to be umpired by the Duty Parent from each team alternately. The home team umpires the first set.
- (b) For the next few rounds the Duty Parents shall alternately assume the umpiring position but require the players to do their own umpiring i.e. the Duty Parent will act as a supervisor/advisor rather than an umpire. The goal is to teach the children how to umpire rather than do it for them.
- (c) There can be only one umpire to each set.
- (d) No person other than the players and the umpire will be allowed into the court area during play.

12. Finals

- (a) To be eligible to play in a finals match, a player must have played at least THREE matches in that team or a lower section team for the same Club in the given competition
- (b) The four leading teams at the end of the home and away matches shall constitute the final four.
 - 1) Where a Preliminary Final is scheduled, the first and second teams will play in the second semi-final. The third and fourth teams shall play the first semi-final. The winner of the first semi-final shall play the loser of the second semi-final in the preliminary final. The winner of the preliminary final shall play the winner of the second semi-final in the grand final
 - 2) Where there is no Preliminary Final, the first and fourth teams and the second and third teams shall play the semi-finals. The two winners shall progress to the Grand Final with the two losing teams being eliminated



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- (c) Where two courts have been allocated, the first and second sets must be played concurrently. Remaining sets may be played on one court if either captain desires.
- (d) In the event of a draw on games AND sets
- 1) In a Midweek Ladies Semi or Preliminary Final, an extra set will be played. Captains may choose any two of their players to contest this set, and play must commence within ten minutes of completion of the last set. In the event of a draw in the Grand Final, the match is to be replayed at the discretion of the match committee.
 - 2) In any final for any other competition, a 12 point tie-breaker (first to 7 with a margin of 2 points) shall be played to determine the winner. Each captain will nominate any one player (singles) or any two players (doubles – for mixed competitions it must be a mixed pair) to play the tie-breaker.
- (e) Courts for finals matches shall be determined by the appropriate match committee using the following guidelines:
- (1) **Semi-finals:** at the home court of the team higher on the ladder.
Preliminary Finals: at the home court of the team losing the 2nd semi-final (1st v 2nd)
Grand Finals: at the home court of the team winning the 2nd semi-final (1st v 2nd)
 - (2) More than one court must be available for each match. If this is not possible, the match committee will allocate a neutral court location for the match.

13. JUNIOR Finals Participation

A Junior team may use more than 4 players for any finals match (semi, preliminary or grand) provided that all players are eligible to play in finals i.e. having competed in at least 3 matches for the given team, or for a team for the same Club in a lower section

The intention to play more than 4 players shall be declared on the scorecard to be exchanged with the opposition captain PRIOR to the commencement of the match

1. If a team elects to play just one additional “eligible” player then that player must substitute for Player No 4 as recorded on the scorecard for the 4th player’s final set. Both names are to be entered in position 4 as follows: Bill Brown / Sam Smith

2. If a team elects to play more than one additional players then

- The fifth player shall substitute for Player 4
- The sixth player shall substitute for Player 3
- The seventh player shall substitute for Player 2

with the card being marked per the example in paragraph 1

Should a “starting” player become indisposed before his/her last set then the normal substitution rule will apply from the point where play was halted thereby over-riding the above.

14. Spectators

Spectators are allowed to offer encouragement to players. However, they are not allowed to

- Be involved in any umpiring issue or comment on any decisions reached within the playing enclosure.
- Offer any “coaching” advice
- Make any derogatory or abusive comments directed at any of the players or other spectators.
- Use inappropriate language under any circumstances

Any spectator contravening the above rules should be asked to desist and if they fail to do so shall be reported to the DVTA Administrator. The DVTA reserves the right to ban any person found guilty of inappropriate behaviour from attending future matches.



15. Protests & Complaints

- (a) Protests on any matter must be lodged with the Administrator by email within four days of the match concerned. Each protest will be considered by the relevant match committee, whose decision will be final.
- (b) Complaints (e.g. regarding player behaviour) must be lodged through club committees within 30 days of the incident.

16. Fines

Fines shall be set at the Annual General Meeting and will be levied on clubs for the following:

- (a) Missing a TROLS data entry deadline - \$20
- (b) Withdrawing a team from a competition after grading and before the commencement of the season -\$50
- (c) Non-attendance of a DVTA Affiliated Club at a Delegates Meeting or Midweek Ladies Annual General Meeting- \$20.