

Metro Masters Tennis Association Inc (A0041176X)

By-Laws Conditions of Play – AUTUMN, 2023

**PLEASE DESTROY PREVIOUS COPIES OF BY-LAWS
CHANGES TO BY-LAWS IN BOLD RED-READ CAREFULLY**

1 COMPETITION PLAY

- 1.1 Matches shall be played on Thursday afternoons, starting at 1.00pm. **By mutual agreement, teams may agree to an earlier match commencement time. Teams may not agree to play home & away matches on any day other than Thursday.**
- 1.2 **Player order shall be nominated by both captains prior to commencement of play, preferably but not necessarily by entering names on the result sheet.**
- 1.3 Two courts **of the same surface** are to be provided and four players shall make a team, **except for By Law 1.4. A four-player team has players listed on the result sheet numbered as 1, 2, 3 and 4.**
- Order of play:**
- 1 & 2
 - 3 & 4
 - 1 & 3
 - 2 & 4
 - 1 & 4
 - 2 & 3
- All players therefore each play 3 sets.**
- 1.4 **Five players can play in place of the four players providing this format is entered on the result sheet prior to the match commencing – no changes to either format can be made after the start apart from players being replaced by an eligible substitute. This works in the following manner:
A team intending to play five players has players listed on the result sheet as 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.**
- Order of play:**
- 1 & 2
 - 3 & 4
 - 1 & 3
 - 2 & 5
 - 1 & 5
 - 2 & 4
- Players 1 & 2 play 3 sets and players 3-5 play 2 sets only.
If only one team has five players, players 1 and 2 will play against the opponent's number 1 and 2 players, the others will be necessity have differing opponents for some sets.
If both teams have five players, all numbers will match up as they do in four player matches.
The result sheet accommodates both 4 and 5 player teams.**
- 1.5 There will be two scheduled Competition Seasons each calendar year, and these will be:
- 1.5.1 Autumn Season February to June. **Commencing first Thursday in February.**
- 1.5.2 Spring Season August to December. **Commencing first Thursday in August.
The Committee may amend the above dates should exceptional circumstances arise.**
- 1.6 The Grading Panel shall **determine** the number of sections and the number of teams playing in each section.
- 1.7 Any of the first two sets not commenced because of the unavailability of one or more players by thirty minutes after the **scheduled** starting time shall be forfeited.

1.8 Any player not in attendance by 2.00pm **or one hour after the agreed commencement of the first set for earlier starts** cannot participate in the match and **any sets and games** that they would have played in are forfeited.

1.9 **A match once commenced on a specific playing surface shall not be transferred to a different type of playing surface unless both captains agree to the change. If the captains do not agree to a change of playing surface and the home club is unable to provide similar surface courts to complete the match, the home club shall forfeit all remaining games & sets. En tout cas, synthetic clay & mod grass are defined as different types of playing surface. Note that hard courts – plexipave or plexicushion etc. are not acceptable for play in MMTA matches.**

2 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – NOMINATED & EMERGENCY PLAYERS

2.1 The minimum age for players in this competition is 50 years, though players who will reach this age during the current season **of home and away matches** will be eligible to play. Any sets played by an ineligible player shall be forfeited.

2.2 **A nominated player is a player who has been entered as a member of a team by a club in order for sections to be graded. Clubs/teams can also enter players as emergencies in their on-line team entry as nominated players if they are not expected to play at least 5 matches. An emergency player once grading is completed, and the season has commenced is any non-nominated player or a player who is representing a club or team other than for which he/she has been nominated. No changes can be made to the on-line entries after they have closed.**

2.3 Teams must nominate a minimum of five players who are expected to play regularly. **All players who anticipate playing, even for limited rounds, should be nominated to enable accurate grading by the Grading Panel.**

2.4 **A nominated player shall not play in any team in a section lower than which he/she is graded.**

2.5 Where the club has two or more teams in the same section, **in the home and away rounds only, nominated (and emergency) players can play a maximum of three matches in their other same section, same club teams.**

2.6 **In the home and away rounds, nominated players can play as emergencies for other teams in their allocated section despite having already played more than five matches, however they shall not play more than two matches (except for Section 1 remaining at four matches) with any other team in their allocated section, except as allowed in section 2.5. Any sets played by an ineligible player shall be forfeited.**

2.7 **Nominated players can play as emergencies in a higher section team of their own club or another club. Any player after playing having played five matches in a higher section shall not be eligible to play with any club or team in a lower section.**

- 2.8 An emergency player shall be of no more than the equivalent standard of the section he/she is to play in. Where the Grading Panel determines that the emergency player has significantly strengthened the team, that player's sets shall be forfeited, and the match result amended accordingly. **This applies to all emergency players, except for those already mentioned in By Laws 2.6 and 2.7.** If an emergency player has played in that section in previous seasons or that team if they are playing in a lower section no action should be taken. By-Law 2.7 is breached when a player has played more than **two matches (Paragraph 2.6) or three matches (Re Paragraph 2.5) matches** in another team in the same section or in a higher section.
- 2.9 **Where emergencies who have not participated in** MMTA matches in prior seasons except in Section 1 permission shall be sought **wherever possible**, with 4 days' notice, either verbally or by **email** detailing name, age and full details of playing records **shall be provided to the Record Secretary for his approval.** **If four days' notice cannot be provided, the same players details shall be provided at the first opportunity before the match.** Where it is considered necessary the player's performance together with other details will be reviewed by the Grading Panel. Any emergency player **shall** be subjected to By-Law 2.8, and may have their sets forfeited, and the match result amended accordingly **and/or** restricted to play for other teams and clubs in a higher section. **Emergencies for Section 1 teams shall be exempt from seeking permission to play.**
- 2.10 An emergency player, i.e. a player not nominated in a registered team, shall be identified on the result sheet & in TROLS with the letter (E). If he/she plays for another team in the same section or from another lower section team he/she should also be identified on the result sheet & in TROLS with the letter (E), and in the **emergency details on the result sheet and TROLS with** the club and section **or other competition** he/she plays in.
- 2.11 An emergency player who has played five matches in a team shall be deemed to become a nominated member of that team.
- 2.12 To qualify for any finals match a nominated **or emergency player** must have played in the team playing in the finals for at least five matches **where there are no byes in a six or eight team section** **If there is a bye in a six or eight team section four matches will qualify.** **The Committee reserves the right to adjust these finals qualifying numbers for a particular season if they consider exception circumstances have been experienced e.g. an unusual number of wash-outs, heat outs or other unexpected circumstance.** A player qualified to play in the finals matches of one team is not eligible to play in any other team in the same section except as provided in By-Law 2.13.
- 2.13 If due to unforeseen circumstances, a team is unable to field four qualified players for a finals match, that team may **utilise a qualified player from a lower section team from their own club.** **Should a qualified player from that club not be available, permission may be sought from the Record Secretary, who shall approve a qualified player of equivalent or lesser standard from any other team in a lower section.** If due to unforeseen circumstances a lowest section team is unable to field four qualified players for a finals match, that team may seek approval from the Record Secretary to play a qualified player **of equivalent or lesser standard** from any other team in the lowest section provided that team **has** not participated in the final series. **Note any player sourced from a different club under this sub-rule 2.13 shall not have played in a final for their original team in the current final series.**

3 DETERMINATION OF MATCHES

- 3.1 Matches shall be decided on sets won. In the event of sets being equal, then the team that has won the higher number of games shall be the winner. If the number of sets is equal and the number of games is equal, then the match is considered drawn.
- 3.2 Sets are concluded when one pair has won eight games. A **seven-point** tiebreaker (**first to seven points with a two point advantage**) shall be played at seven **games** all.
- 3.3 One point is awarded for each set won, and four points are awarded for winning the match. Points are shared for sets not completed or not started because of inclement weather. Two points are awarded to each team for a **drawn or an incomplete match**.
- 3.4 Play shall continue from the last point completed in any unfinished **set**.
- 3.5 A drawn final (**sets and games are equal**) shall be decided by the playing of a seven-point tiebreaker (**first to seven points with a two point advantage**) by the last four players to finish the final set in the match. **A coin toss or racquet spin shall decide the order of play. Prior to any set or drawn final determining tie-break, the player/team who wins the toss may choose:**
 - a. **To be server or receiver in the first game/point of the match, in which case the opponent(s) shall choose the end of the court for the first game/point of the match; or**
 - b. **The end of the court for the first game/point of the match, in which case the opponent(s) shall choose to be server or receiver for the first game/point of the match; or**
 - c. **To require the opponent(s) to make one of the above choices.**
- 3.6 The home team shall provide two pairs of new **Tennis Australia approved** tennis balls. In finals matches the choice of approved tennis balls shall be decided by a coin toss. If other arrangements are made they should be agreed by both captains.
- 3.7 A designated person of the winning team shall be responsible for entering the results into TROLS **before 9.00am** Friday. For a drawn match, a wash-out, a heat-out, **any match cancelled by the MMTA** or any other incomplete **or non-commenced match, including any final**, where a result has not been achieved, the captains of both the home and away teams or their designated persons shall be responsible for entering the results into TROLS **before 9.00am** Friday following the match together with the details of their respective teams. However, where wash-outs or heat-outs are organised by telephone, a designated person from both clubs can enter their club's details **by using the by Ph option in the 2.EnterMatch Results in the Club Zone tab**. Failure to do this will mean that match will not be used to determine the number of matches played to qualify for the finals.
- 3.8 **The home team shall provide a TROLS score sheet upon which all relevant details shall be entered, including section, date, scores (if any) & player details. Player details shall include Given names & Surnames. Additionally, should any player be replaced by a substitute during a match, this should be listed in the comments section. If that substitute player is an emergency, this should be noted in the comments in order for the Record Secretary to determine eligibility. All players listed shall be deemed for qualifying purposes to have played in the match, with the following exemption – By Law 3.9.**

- 3.9 **In the event of a washout or a heat out i.e. no play commenced – four players only may be nominated for play by each team in that match. All of those players will be recorded as players for that match. In the event of a washout or a heat out, if a team fails to submit team composition to the Record Secretary in accordance with By Law 3.7, no players for that team will be recorded for finals eligibility. Any emergency player listed for a washout or a heat out is subject to eligibility as per By Law 2.8.**
- 3.10 All results must be entered in TROLS by the due date **before** Friday **9.00am** following the match. **This allows for the early reporting of results and ladders.** The copy of the result sheet should be retained by the winning captain for a short period in case of any protests. If the result is not entered in TROLS by **9.00am** Friday following the match the Record Secretary must be notified in writing within two days to avoid the loss of two points by the team responsible. If the result or advice to the Record Secretary is not received within seven days of the match the remaining points that would have been allocated to the winning team will also be forfeited.
- 3.11 A team that receives a forfeit from the team it is due to play will receive ten match points, and it will be deemed to have won the match by 48 games to its opposition's 18 games.
- 3.12 **No alterations to results entered into TROLS will be made without a copy of the result sheet duly signed by both captains being provided to the Record Secretary within seven days of the match result. This applies to any aspect of the score sheet – player order, incorrect scores, reversal of result etc.**

4 FINALS PLAY

- 4.1 Apart from Grand Finals, which are played at the courts chosen by the Committee **usually at a central location**, all other **Semi & Preliminary** finals shall be arranged to be played on the home courts of the teams finishing higher on the ladders.
- 4.2 Finals matches will be played on the days nominated in the relevant fixture. In the event that any a semi and/or preliminary finals match cannot be played or completed owing to inclement weather opposing captains must make every effort to complete the match prior to the next Thursday.
- 4.3 **Scheduled finals matches that are not commenced or are incomplete due to inclement weather shall be finalised at the venue of the higher finishing team or at any other venue determined by mutual consent, commencing at 1.00 pm or at any other time by mutual consent.**
- 4.4 If an alternative date and time prior to the next Thursday cannot be agreed upon, the unfinished **or unstarted** Semi-final, Preliminary final or **Grand final** will be awarded to the team finishing higher on the ladder providing that they have made a genuine attempt to play the unfinished match, and have not used this By-Law to avoid **obtaining a match result.**
- 4.5 **Once any Semi-final, Preliminary or Grand final match is re-scheduled due to inclement weather, the team finishing higher on the ladder shall advise the Record Secretary of the scheduled venue and time for the match. In the event of a rescheduled final due to inclement weather if a team changes its playing structure, any unfinished set which included the replaced player the remaining games will be forfeited, and the replacement player can commence to play any further sets if available.**

5 SUBSTITUTES

- 5.1 Where in any match a player is prevented through illness, accidental disablement or any other good and sufficient reason from commencing a set then after notifying the opposing team captain a suitable eligible substitute player may commence that set in place of the player prevented from competing. If a player cannot continue playing in a set, the opposition will win the set by eight games to the number of games already won by the pair unable to complete the set.
- 5.2 The substitute must be ready to play within 30 minutes of notification being given to the opposing captain.
- 5.3 A player once replaced cannot take any further part in the match.
- 5.4 If a team is short of only one player, a match can be played having only as many sets as can be played by the available players.

6 INCLEMENT WEATHER

- 6.1 When the temperature reaches 32° Celsius either captain can call for play to be terminated. Unfinished sets and sets not started will be drawn.
- 6.2 Also, any player can cease play when the same temperature is reached. The set he/she is then playing in and the remaining sets will be drawn.
- 6.3 If the temperature later drops to below 32° Celsius, play can then proceed if all parties are willing.
- 6.4 When the weather forecast of the evening of the Wednesday immediately prior to the playing of matches states that the temperature will be 35° Celsius or higher on the day of play, then the Committee has the authority to cancel all matches to be played on the day of play.
- 6.5 The home team can cancel or call off play if the courts are unfit for play.

7 PLAY DELAYED

- 7.1 If it is not possible to commence play by 2.00 pm, **or within one hour of scheduled commencement of an agreed early start match**, then the match shall be abandoned.
- 7.2 If a match is not completed by 5.00 pm, then play shall cease and competition points allocated on the basis of results to that stage with any remaining points to be shared unless one team is in an unbeatable position and, thus, will receive winning match points. Any game in progress at 5.00 pm shall be completed,

8 PROTESTS

- 8.1 Protests on any matter must be lodged with the Record Secretary in writing within seven days of the match concerned or within seven days of becoming aware of any matter affecting the team and/or the club. Any matter requiring the attention of the Record Secretary will be resolved by the Grading Panel or the General Committee depending on the circumstances involved.

9 PROMOTIONS AND RELEGATIONS

- 9.1 Promotions, if any, and relegations, if any, will be determined by the Grading Panel. **As the Grading Panel has access to a wide range of detailed player information including player doubles UTR's the Grading Decisions are final. No appeals or protests will be accepted regarding any Grading Decisions.**

10 RULES – TENNIS AUSTRALIA

- 10.1 All play in this Association is subject to the **Rules of Tennis as determined by the International Tennis Federation and endorsed by** Tennis Australia, plus the above By-Laws.
- 10.2 **It is expected that while players shall play according to the Rules & Bye-Laws, at all times players shall abide by the principles of good sportsmanship.**
- 10.3 **Penalties for any breach of the above By Laws, or any other matter, shall be determined by the Record Secretary, in consultation with members of the Grading Committee and/or General Committee. Penalties, if applicable, may be levied against players, teams or clubs, as applicable.**
- 10.4 **Where any matters are not covered by the Rules of Tennis or the above By Laws, the MMTA General Committee shall have final determination.**

11 FINES

- 11.1 **Where a team entry is withdrawn less than 7 days before scheduled grading determination, that club or team shall incur a fine of \$50.00 in addition to the team entry fee.**
- 11.2 **Where a team is withdrawn after grading, including during the home & away matches, that club or team shall incur a fine of \$50.00. Any team forfeiting three matches in a season shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the season's competition and shall also be subject to a \$50.00 fine.**
- 11.3 **Fines must be paid to the MMTA prior to, or at the time of submitting teams for next season. Club and/or team entries for future seasons will not be accepted if fines remain unpaid.**

TROLS (Tennis Results On-Line System) is a website designed to host a match result system (on-line result entry, and ladders with match details) found at <https://trols.org.au/metro/index.php>