



ILLAWARRA SUBURBS LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION LTD.

COMPETITION RULES

SATURDAY AFTERNOON MIXED

Revised by the Match and Grading Committee March 29th.1999

Approved by Council of Management April 20th.1999

Reissued to take effect from the Winter competition 1999

Updated as follows

REFERENCE	CLAUSES INVOLVED	CHG BY	DATE of change
Addendum		JB	Feb 19, 2005
AGM March 21 st 2005	19	JB	May 19,2005
Match & Grading Meeting Aug 9, 2005	18	JB	Aug 16, 2005
AGM April 2 nd 2007	7,19	JEB	Mar 19, 2008
Match & Grading Nov 27 th 2007	25	JEB	Nov 29, 2007
Match & Grading Feb 26 th 2008	30	JEB	Mar 19, 2008
AGM April, 20 th 2009	13	JEB	May 25,2009
Match & Grading Nov 27 th 2007	25	JEB	July 23, 2009
C of Management Aug 18 th 2009	16A	JEB	Sept 7,2009
Match & Grading Feb 26 th 2008	30	JEB	Mar 19, 2008
AGM April 20 th 2009	13	JEB	May 25, 2009
C of Management July 21 st 2009	25	JEB	July 23, 2009
Match & Grading meeting 18 th May 2013	26	JEB	May 27,2013

REFERENCE	CLAUSES INVOLVED	CHG BY	DATE of change
AGM April 7 th 2014	8	JEB	April 28, 2014
Match & Grading meeting 12 th April 2014	26	JEB	June 19, 2014
Match & Grading meeting 29 th Aug 2015	7	JEB	Oct 23, 2015
AGM 2016 held April 10, 2017	22	JEB	May 17, 2017



BALLS ARE APPROVED FOR COMPETITION USE

1. COMPETITION

In accordance with the By-laws the Match and Grading Committee shall with the consent of the Directors and Council promulgate such Competition rules as may be necessary for the conduct of the competition except that, no alteration to the rules governing the mode of play or the point scoring system can be made by the council or council executives without referral to the A.G.M or an extra-ordinary G.M. and it's subsequent approval. All Matches must be played in accordance with the official rules of tennis in conjunction with the competition rules as laid down by the ISLTA Ltd.

Play in the competition shall be on Saturday Afternoons. Entry closing dates, commencing dates and playing dates for new competitions are at the discretion of the competition secretary, with the following exceptions.

- (a) Competitions will be continuous with the next competition commencing as soon as practicable after the finish of the current competition with the December / January break being determined each year at the A.G.M.
- (b) In Saturday afternoon competitions there will be no play on public holiday long weekends except for Anzac Day, when play will be suspended only when it falls on the day i.e. when the 25th. April is a Saturday. Competition play is to be as normal when it falls on any of the other six days of the week.

2. PLAYERS

All players competing must be registered members of the ISLTA. Ltd. and must be affiliated with the organisations as specified by the ISLTA Ltd. at the time of registration.

3. ENTRY FEES

Entry fees to be as determined by the council of management.

4. ENTRIES

All Team Entries for the competition must be on the prescribed form in force at the time of acceptance. All details as required on the form must be filled in correctly. Players are permitted to register with only one team.

5. NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN A TEAM

A team shall not at any time have more than eight players registered unless the additional players are registered under the one day registration rule No.8

6. LATE REGISTRATIONS

Applications for late registrations received after the competition has been graded shall be dealt with by the Match and Grading Committee. Applications for late registrations must be in the hands of the Competition Secretary before the commencement of the match. The Competition Secretary is empowered to grant permission for late registrations over the telephone subject to the decision of the Match and Grading Committee. All applications must be submitted in writing on the prescribed form in force at the time with all details filled in correctly and accompanied by the correct fee as required. All players must be affiliated with the organisations as specified by the association at the time of registration. For applications accepted over the telephone the correct form and fees must be in the hands of the Competition Secretary no later than 48 hrs. after the match is played. When making application for late registration of a player, team secretaries must ascertain and declare strength of such player which must not strengthen the team as determined by the Match and Grading committee. If the information be later considered incorrect, the committee may withdraw the registration of such player and award to the opponents any sets in which such player took part. If the information given is proved to be deliberately false then further penalties may be imposed against the team and / or team secretary and / or the player concerned at the discretion of the Match and Grading Committee.

7. ONE DAY TRANSFERS

One-day transfers from the same or a lower grade are permitted within the same competition. Permission must be obtained from the Competition Secretary before the commencement of the match. Full details **MUST** be submitted in writing on the back of the result card. Teams violating this rule will incur the same penalties as if playing an unregistered player. ***Players transferring to another team under this rule may play any number of matches and may subsequently return to their own team provided they do not play more than two (2) matches for any one team, under this rule, during the current competition.*** Players violating this rule will be automatically deregistered. Matches played under the one-day transfer rule do not count towards making a player eligible for semi-finals, finals or challenge finals in the ***team to which they transferred.***

8. ONE MATCH REGISTRATIONS

A player may be registered for one match only without deregistering any other member of the team. All applications for one-match registrations shall be dealt with by the Match and Grading Committee. Permission for one match registrations must be obtained from the Competition Secretary before the commencement of the match. The Competition Secretary is empowered to grant permission for the one match registration over the telephone subject to the decision of the Match and Grading Committee. Full details must then be submitted in writing on the back of the result card. All players must be affiliated with the organisations as specified by the association at the time of registration. When making application for the one match registration of a player, team secretaries must ascertain and declare strength of such player, which must not strengthen the team as determined by the Match and Grading committee. If the information be later considered incorrect, the committee may withdraw the registration of such player and award to the opponents any sets in which such player took part. If the information given is proved to be deliberately false then further penalties may be imposed against the team and / or team secretary and / or the player concerned at the discretion of the Match and Grading Committee. If a player plays more than two (2) matches with the same team under this rule then the registration becomes a permanent registration and if the team then has more than eight (8) players registered then another member of the team must be deregistered. If a one match registration player subsequently becomes a permanent registration of that team, this one match played as a one (1) match registration will count towards eligibility for semi finals, finals, challenge finals or trophies.

9. COURT HIRE

Teams are to be responsible for maintaining the hire of their court until such time as the whole competition has been finalised. In no circumstances can the location of the home court be changed without prior approval of the match and grading committee.

10. GRADING OF TEAMS

The competition shall be played in grades determined by the Match and Grading Committee, which reserves the right to finally decide in which grade or division any team or individual player shall compete.

11. MODE OF PLAY

A team shall consist of two gents and two ladies. A match shall consist of two ladies, two gents and four mixed twelve (12) point tie-break sets to be played in the following order; one (1) set ladies doubles, one (1) set gents doubles, one (1) set ladies doubles, one (1) set gents doubles and four (4) sets mixed doubles with each pair meeting the opposing pair once. The visiting team has the option of doubling up in the seventh set. This must be nominated before the pairs take to the court for the fifth set otherwise the home team shall automatically play the double up. The home team must nominate its pair for the first mixed set. This choice shall be nominated at the time the set is to be played. The order shall be decision of double up followed by nomination of pair for the first mixed set.

12. DECIDING THE WINNER OF A MATCH

Matches are to be decided by sets, but in the event of sets being equal, by games. Each match will be allotted twelve (12) points. Four (4) to the winning team or two (2) points each for a drawn or unfinished match. In addition, One (1) point is allotted to the winner of each completed set. Half a point is allotted to each team for any sets unfinished or not played.

13. COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY

The starting time for all matches will be 1.00pm.

If a team does not have a pair on the court at the time when play should commence, the other team shall be awarded the first set 6-0, thirty (30) minutes after the starting time the second set shall be awarded 6-0. If the team is unable to proceed one (1) hour after the starting time the match shall be forfeited.

If a player(s) fails to turn up, or is injured during play and no substitute is available, as many sets as possible should be played and only those sets that the missing or injured player(s) would have been involved in should be forfeited.

14. CONTINUITY OF PLAY

Play shall be continuous throughout the match and no interval is permissible, except in the case of inclement weather. Not more than 3 minutes, including a hit-up (there will be no hit-ups after the second set) shall elapse between the conclusion of any set and the commencement of the next set. Teams will be allowed to claim a forfeit if the opposing players are not ready to commence play within 3 minutes of the completion of the previous set.

15. TERMINATION OF PLAY

Play shall cease at the time shown in the fixture book under the heading "FINISHING TIMES ", unless both Captains agree to cease play early due to failing light or inclement weather. If for any reason the match is unfinished, the reason must be stated on the result card.

16. WET MATCHES

The court owner (or the caretaker) is the authority for determining whether or not a court is playable when inclement weather has created a doubt in this regard, but in any case, players cannot be compelled to play in rain.

It is the responsibility of each team to have its players at the court if it is playable. When a firm decision can be obtained within one hour of starting time, from the court owner (or the caretaker) by telephone or other means, this may relieve the teams from actual attendance at the court, but in cases of doubt, actual attendance is necessary.

During a competition round where 50% or more of the matches have not reached a result due to wet weather, then these unplayed or unfinished matches may be set down for play at the completion of the scheduled rounds. This will apply for all matches defined as wet under this rule. When play is abandoned for the day or when time is lost due to rain, please indicate on the card as follows: "Play ceased at.....PM due to rain" or ".....hrsmins of time lost due to rain and/or wet court". Cards received without this notation will not be regarded as wet and, therefore, recorded accordingly.

All unfinished wet matches must recommence at the exact point that wet weather stopped play. In the event that a match is unfinished due to wet weather and the round is not declared a wet round then the match will be declared a draw and points will be allotted as per rule 12. In the continuation of any unfinished wet match a substitute will be allowed for any player who started the match and is unavailable on the date of continuation. Such substitute must be an original registered member of team or a late registration who has played at least two (2) previous matches for that team in the current competition. Permission is not required prior to the match being played, however the opposing team must be informed before commencement of play and the substitution noted on the back of the result card.

This match does not count as a qualifying match for the substitute player.

16A HEAT RULE

1. If at starting time, the temperature, when measured with a shaded thermometer placed over the centre of the net, is above 35 degrees Celsius, play is to be delayed. Should the temperature drop play is to commence.
2. If after 1 hour the temperature is still above 35 degrees Celsius, play is to be abandoned for the day.
3. In the case of a match having commenced and the temperature rises above 35 degrees Celsius, play is to stop and is to be suspended for up to 1 hour. Again if the temperature, after 1 hour, is still over 35 degrees Celsius play is to be abandoned for the day.

If a result for the match is not reached due to heat, the match shall be treated in accordance with rule 16.

Both teams must attend the court to formally agree and must submit a result sheet showing reason for match being incomplete with both team captains' signatures.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in no replay or points being allocated to either team.

17. POSTPONED MATCHES

At the discretion of the Competition Secretary postponed matches will only be allowed under the following circumstances

- (a) In the event of the death or funeral of a registered member of a team involved in the match, or a death or funeral of someone in the immediate family of a registered member of a team involved in the match, occurring immediately preceding the match.
- (b) In the event that the court owner or caretaker declares the court unplayable for any reason other than inclement weather.

NOTE: If the court is declared unplayable due to inclement weather then the WET MATCH rule no.16 applies.

- (c) Other extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Match and Grading Committee.

Application for postponement of a match under 17(a) and 17(c) must be made to the Competition Secretary prior to the match.

Postponed matches will be set down for play on a date at the discretion of the Competition Secretary.

18. ORDER OF SERVICE

The Home team serves first in the first, fifth and seventh sets. The visiting team serves first in the second, sixth and eighth sets. The receiver to choose ends in all but the third and fourth sets, which must be continuous from the first and second sets respectively. Should a tiebreak occur in the first or second sets the team, which served, first in the tiebreak game shall receive in the first game of their following set.

Play is to commence at the opposite end to where the tiebreak game was completed.

19. CHALLENGE HOLDERS - DRAW FOR SEMI-FINALS

The competition shall be decided by the four leading teams in each grade or division playing in the semi-finals, the draw to be 1 v 4, 2 v 3. In the event of two or more teams being equal on points, positions to be decided first by differential of sets won versus sets lost, then by differential of games won versus games lost. Where necessary, percentages will apply. In the case of a team leading at the conclusion of the rounds by at least four (4) points being defeated in the semi-final or final, that team shall have the right to challenge the winner of the final. In the event of a draw in semi-finals, finals and challenge finals, *the match will be replayed.*

20. DECIDING OF HOME AND AWAY TEAMS IN SEMI-FINALS, FINALS AND CHALLENGE FINALS.

Semi-finals, Finals and Challenge Finals as directed by the Match and Grading Committee, shall consist of 8 sets. In Semi-Finals, Finals and Challenge Finals the teams will toss with the winner having the choice of being the home or away team. The order of service will then be as set out in rule 18.

21. COURTS FOR SEMI-FINALS, FINALS AND CHALLENGE FINALS

Semi-Finals, Finals and Challenge Finals are to be played on neutral courts at the discretion of the Competition Secretary. The association shall have the right to use the courts of any teams entered in the competition, but the courts used for these matches shall not be used two matches in succession without the consent of the teams, unless two teams from the same court are playing in these play-offs. Posting of the DRAW at the official publicity display depots will be considered sufficient notice to the teams on which courts such matches are to be played. A penalty may be imposed upon the teams failing to provide a court when called upon, and all members of the team will be considered unfinancial until his or her portion of the amount shall have been paid.

22. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY IN SEMI-FINALS, FINALS AND CHALLENGE FINALS

A player is not eligible to play with a team in semi-finals, finals or challenge finals, unless he or she has played in at least three (3) matches during the competition with such team. In the case of a forfeit or an unplayed wet or postponed match a team may forward a result card to the Competition Secretary as a declaration of such players who would have played in the match and will be counted as a qualifying match.

23. SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS

In the event of a player becoming incapacitated through an injury incurred during the match being played, a substitute who must not have taken part in the match previously, and who is a registered member of the team, will be allowed to continue the match. Play to be resumed from the exact position in which the match stood when the player withdrew due to injury. The substitute must be available within one hour or the sets unplayed shall be forfeited. During the hour, match to continue with sets played out of order if necessary. Notice of such substitution to be noted on the back of the result card. This rule also applies to semi-finals, finals and challenge finals.

24. UNFINISHED SEMI-FINALS, FINALS OR CHALLENGE FINALS

In the event of a semi-final, final or challenge final being unfinished on the day set down, play shall be resumed the following week from the exact position in which the match stood when play was stopped, and on a different court at the discretion of the Competition Secretary.

Substitutes in the continuation of any unfinished match will only be allowed in the following circumstances.

1. Death, injury or sickness of a player due to accident or otherwise.
 2. Other extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Match and Grading committee
- The application for which must be in writing and include documentary proof, and be lodged with the competition secretary before commencement of the match, if this is not possible then permission must be obtained by phone and the written application lodged no later than 24hrs. after completion of the match. Failure to do this will result in the forfeiture of all sets that the substitute takes part in.

25. LODGEMENT OF RESULT CARDS

The players names and the scores of each match shall be entered on a result card which must be signed at the end of the days play by both captains as a true and accurate record of the match. The captain of the winning team or the team leading at the end of the day's play must phone / fax the result by **8.00p.m.** Saturday evening following the match. Result cards from phoned in results must be in the hands of the Competition Secretary no later than 5.00p.m. Tuesday following the match. In the event of a draw or there being no play for any reason other than a forfeit the home team is responsible for forwarding the result and result card to the Competition Secretary. In the event of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit is responsible for forwarding the result and result card to the Competition Secretary. Points will not be allocated to the winning team until the result card is in the hands of the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with the above may result in the team responsible for forwarding the result and result card, losing all their competition points for the match. Points for the other team involved in the match will remain as per rule 12.

26. FORFEITS

(a): In the case of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit will be awarded the maximum winning points, being 12 points for Saturday mixed competition. The result will be recorded as 8 sets 48 games to 0 sets 0 games.

(b): A team withdrawing from the competition, or forfeiting more than two (2) matches, or two (2) matches consecutively, or one (1) match or any part of a match in the 12th, 13th or 14th rounds, or any scheduled wet match or postponed match played at the completion of the scheduled rounds, without satisfactory reason, shall be disqualified, and a fine of \$10.00 may be imposed upon the team and all registered members of such team disqualified until such fine has been paid. All points, sets and games for and against any withdrawn or disqualified team shall be deleted, except if such team is withdrawn or disqualified after completing a full half of the competition. In such cases the points for the completed half will stand. A forfeit shall not stand if the round is declared a washout, unless the appointed court is playable at commencement (start of play) time.

27. BALLS

Matches are to be played with tennis balls approved by Tennis Australia. Three new balls to be provided by the home team for each match. In semi-finals, finals and challenge finals, three new balls are to be provided by the first mentioned team published in the draw, cost of which to be shared by both teams.

28. TENNIS ATTIRE

The correct tennis attire for both sexes should conform to the following guidelines:

Male and Female:

Colour: Any colour is permissible for basic clothing designed, described and designated specifically as tennis attire including cardigans, pullovers, jumpers, caps, hats, eyeshades and tracksuits.

Footwear: These articles must be designed for use on tennis courts and be free of heels, bars, treads and colours which are normally considered injurious to tennis court surfaces.

Men: Sleeved shirts, with collars, tucked into white or cream trousers or shorts. Coloured shorts are permissible.

Women: Skirts, divided or otherwise, shorts or frocks designed, described and designated as tennis attire are permissible.

Not Permitted

1. Slacks or similar garments while playing.
2. Clothing bearing lettering, writing or other illustration obviously designed as advertisements. Provided that piping, small manufacturers motifs and monograms are permissible.
3. Sleeveless singlets for men.
4. Scoops, scamps, stubbies, swimwear or any kind of similarly designed clothing.

29. UMPIRES

Umpires are not compulsory, but where a team insists on umpires and the opposition is not agreeable then that team may supply its own umpires.

- 30. PROTESTS** A team, or any registered member of a team, dissatisfied with the outcome or conduct of a match, set down by the Association, may lodge a protest with the Match and Grading Committee through the Hon. Competition Secretary. Any protest is to be lodged in writing with the Competition Secretary within 48 hours of the completion of the match concerned, with a fee of five (5) dollars. Any such protest must contain the date and printed name and signature of the registered member of the team submitting the protest. A team, or any registered member of a team, who is dissatisfied with the Protest decision of the Match and Grading Committee, may appeal to the Council of Management against the decision. The Appeal must be in writing and must contain the date and printed name and signature of a registered member of the appealing team. Such appeal must be received by the Hon. General Secretary of the Association within one (1) week of receipt of the decision of the Match and Grading Committee and must be accompanied by a fee of ten (10) dollars

31. ELIGIBILITY FOR TROPHIES

A maximum of eight trophies will be supplied to members of winning teams in each division or grade, provided such members have played in at least four matches, or three matches where a bye exists in a grade.

32. TOURNAMENTS

The court of any affiliated team must be made available, if required, for at least one Saturday for any one tournament conducted by the association.

33. PENALTIES

The Match and Grading Committee may at its discretion impose a penalty for any breach of these rules, other than those for which a penalty is already provided. Any appeal

against such penalty should be lodged with the Hon. General Secretary of the Association and accompanied by a fee of \$5.00.

34. MATTERS NOT MENTIONED IN COMPETITION RULES

The council of the association shall have the power to deal with all matters not mentioned in the foregoing competition rules.

Tennis, in common with most sports, involves a certain amount of vigour and can lead to injuries usually of a comparatively minor nature. Persons who play sport voluntarily accept the normal risk associated with their sport.