



**ILLAWARRA SUBURBS LAWN TENNIS
ASSOCIATION LTD.
COMPETITION RULES
WEDNESDAY NIGHT 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
Notice of Motion AGM March 27th. 2000	Rule No. 35 deleted	GB	25th.Apl 2000
Match & Grading meeting June 19th.2000	Rules 7, 8, 23	GB	21st.June 2000
AGM March 26th. 2001	7	GB	25th June 2001
Match & Grading meeting June 12 2001	20	GB	25th June 2001
Match & Grading meeting Oct 16 2001	18, 20	GB	21 Nov 2001
Match & Grading meeting May 6 2002	7	JB	20 May 2002
AGM March 21 2005	11, 19	JB	19 May 2005

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 Wednesday nights. 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) There will be no play on public holidays if the holiday falls on the Wednesday.

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 48hrs. 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 the 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. **Teams in the last grade only are permitted to obtain players from one (1) grade higher.** 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 with the same team, under this rule during the current competition. Players violating this rule will be automatically deregistered under the Late Registration rule. 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 higher grade.

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 of the player must then be noted 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 eight (8) game 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 gent's 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.

12. DECIDING THE WINNER OF A MATCH

Matches are to be decided by games, with the team leading on games at 10.30pm being declared the winner and awarded two (2) points. Where games are even one (1) point will be awarded to each team. In the event of a draw in semi-finals, finals and challenge finals, ref to Rule 19

13. COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY

All matches must commence at 7.30 pm sharp

If *either* team does not have a *pair of Ladies* on the court at the time when play should commence, ***the first set shall be awarded 8-0 to the other team, and if thirty (30) minutes after the starting time either team does not have a pair of Gents on the court*** the second set shall be awarded 8-0. 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.

If the teams know that a player or players will be late and both teams AGREE to accommodate their lateness, the set sequence of play in Rule 11 can be changed and recorded in the order in which they are played.

14. CONTINUITY OF PLAY

Play shall be continuous throughout the match and no interval is permissible, except in the case of inclement weather *or court equipment failure*. 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 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 10.30 pm Sharp, with the proviso that any game started prior to 10.30 pm is to be finished provided the lights remain on. If both Captains agree to cease play early due to inclement weather, *court equipment failure* or for any other reason the match is terminated early, 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 completed 5 sets or more due to wet weather, then

these unplayed or unfinished matches will be set down for play at the completion of the scheduled rounds. This will apply for all matches defined as wet under this rule.

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 one (1) point will be allotted to each team

In the continuation of any unfinished wet match a substitute will be allowed for any player who started the match that is unavailable on the date of continuation. Such substitute must be an original registered member of the 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.

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 the 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) If match time is lost due to court equipment failure (eg. lights out) before 10.30pm, the lost time MUST be recorded

on the result card/sheet and the time lost MAY be set down for play after the completion of Round 14.

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

Application for postponement of a match under 17(a) and 17(d) 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.

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, positions to be decided by **the differential of games won versus games lost. Where necessary, percentages will apply.** In the case of a team leading the point score **by one or more points** at the conclusion of the rounds 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 team ranked higher according to the point score shall be deemed to be the winner of the drawn match.

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 result 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 and challenge finals, unless he or she has played in at least four (4) matches during the competition with such team. Where a bye exists in the grade, three (3) matches will be deemed sufficient, but in the case of a forfeit 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. ***One Day Transfers or One Match Registrations played can not be included in the count.***

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. 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 and challenge final being unfinished @ 10:30 pm on the evening of that match, then the team leading on games @ 10:30pm will be declared the winner.

25. LODGEMENT OF RESULT CARDS

(1) The players names and the scores of each match shall be entered on a result card/*sheet* which must be signed at the end of the *night's* 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 night's play must **report** the result **by Phone, Fax or Hand Delivery by 6pm on the Thursday** following the night that the match was played. **Result cards/sheets must be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to arrive at the Competition Secretary's address no later than three (3) days after the match.**

(2) In the event of a draw or there being no play for any reason other than a forfeit the home team is responsible for **reporting and lodging** the result card/*sheet* **as per paragraph (1).**

(3) In the event of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit is responsible for **reporting and lodging** the result card/*sheet* **as per paragraph (1).**

(4) **Points will not be officially allocated to the winning team until the result card/*sheet* is received by the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with the above**

procedures may result in the team responsible for the lodgement of the result card/sheet, losing all their competition points for that match.

26. FORFEITS

(a): In the case of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit will be awarded ***two (2) points and 40 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 during the second half of the competition and the first half of the competition is fully completed. In such cases the points for the first 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 manufacturer's 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 Wednesday night 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.