

BY-LAWS FOR PENNANT MATCHES
(Revised August 2004)

1. The BTA Senior Pennant Competition shall be conducted by the Bendigo Tennis Association (hereinafter referred to as the BTA) for Clubs in which the personnel of teams will consist of registered players of those Clubs and shall be in accordance with the following By-Laws, subject to such alterations and additions thereto as may, from time to time be made by the Pennant Committee of the BTA.

ENTRY FEE

2. A team nomination fee as from time to time determined by the BTA, must be paid to the BTA by the commencement of the competition. If the fee remains unpaid, the Pennant Committee may impose penalties of 4 match points per team per week.

NUMBER OF TEAMS IN SECTION

3. The number of teams permitted to enter any section in the Association's Pennant Competition shall be determined by the BTA Pennant Committee (hereafter known as the Committee). No change in entries will be made except with the consent of the Committee.

COURTS

4. All matches shall be played on courts as determined by the BTA.

TROPHIES

5. The trophies for winning teams and second placed teams shall be determined from year to year by the Committee

CLOSING DATE FOR TEAM ENTRIES

- 6a. The date fixed for the closing of entries for the Summer Pennant Competition shall be determined by the Pennant Committee.
- 6b. Each Club entering a team or teams shall submit to the Association the full details of the proposed players and the section/s suggested. The Committee shall have the right of deciding in which section any team shall play. Each Club shall have the right of appeal to the Committee on a decision of grading and notice of such appeal shall be lodged in writing with the Executive Officer of the BTA within 3 days from the date of notification of team grading. Notification shall be deemed to take place at the conclusion of the grading meeting. It is the responsibility of teams and Clubs to find out grading results.
- 6c. Teams which finish in the last two places in the previous season are the first to be downgraded, and teams which finish in the first two places are the first to be upgraded, unless in the opinion of the Committee this would be detrimental to the competition. If any team defaults or withdraws after grading, the Club will be fined \$100.00.

PLAYERS PLAYING DIFFERENT SECTIONS

- 7a. Players are only allowed to play in one section per round and will lose all points in the second match if a player competes.
- 7b. A player having played **six** matches in any one team shall not play with another team in the same section or in a lower section. A player may play in a higher section, but once having played six matches at this higher level shall only be eligible to play in that or a still higher section for the remainder of the season.
- 7c. Any junior player (17 years and under as at December 31, of the initial year of the playing pennant season) not named on the Section 1 Entry Form or nominated a Section 1 player by the Committee, may play up to and including 9 games in Section 1 before disqualification from a lower section.

ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR COMPETITION

- 8a. To be eligible to play in the competition, each nominated player must be a bona-fide member of the club submitting nominations, ie. have satisfied the requirements for Club membership.
- 8b. Any team which plays a person who is playing, in the same season, in another Association, will lose all points in the matches in question and incur a monetary fine determined by the Committee unless prior permission to play was obtained from the Committee.

ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR FINALS

- 9a. No player shall be eligible to play in finals matches unless such a player has played at least three Pennant matches with his/her Club, subject always to the provision of Rule 7b.
- 9b. A team wishing to play a qualified Emergency player **in a final** must seek prior approval from the Committee to play that emergency player if he/she has played in a higher Section during the current Season.

CLEARANCES

- 10a. No player shall be permitted to have more than one clearance after playing with the Club during the season or to play with more than two Clubs in the Pennant Competition in the same season.
- 10b. All applications for clearances must be made in writing on the correct form and endorsed by the Secretary of the Club the player is leaving, and if required be supported by personal representation. All applications must be completed in full and in the hands of a Pennant Committee member prior to the commencement of play.
- 10c. No clearance shall be granted to any player to transfer from one Club to another unless he/she is a financial member of the Club he/she wishes to leave.
- 10d. Any player refused a clearance by his/her Club shall have the right to appeal to the Committee whose decision shall be final.
- 10e. All clearances close as at December 31 of the current season of play.
- 10f. If a clearance is shown later to be invalid, the Committee may refuse to recognise all sets in which the player in question played.

METHOD OF SCORING IN PENNANT MATCHES

- 11a. Two points shall be allocated to the team winning the match. An additional point per set shall be allocated for each set won by either team.
- 11b. For Section 2 (Sat.) and all Midweek grades, the team winning the most games shall be deemed to have won the match. In the event of games being equal, the team with greater number of sets shall be deemed the winner of the match. If both games and sets are equal, the 2 points allocated for the match winner shall be shared equally.
- 11c. For Section 1 (Sat.) the team winning the most rubbers shall be deemed to have won the match. In the event of rubbers being equal, the team with greater number of sets shall be deemed the winner of the match. In the event of sets being equal, the team with greater number of games shall be deemed the winner of the match. If rubbers, sets and games are equal, the 2 points allocated for the match winner shall be shared equally.
- 11d. In the event of a bye occurring in the draw for a particular section, the team with the bye shall receive half of the possible points, ie. for nine sets, 5.5 points.

MATCH FEES

- 12a. A 'per week' match fee shall be paid by each team as set by the Committee. Match fees must be paid weekly. Match fees include the provision of Balls for Pennant play by the Association. Grand Final day shall be free of match fees to the teams competing.
- 12b. In the event of a Club fielding a team short of players, that Club will be liable for the payment of their full team fee plus opposition fees equivalent to absent players.

ABANDONMENT OF MATCHES

- 13a. The Committee shall have control over the abandonment of all matches (whether because of rain or other conditions). If a member or members of the Committee are present at a Venue that person or persons will have full power to decide if matches are to continue, or be abandoned. Captains may appeal to the Committee member(s) and normally would not be asked to play if steady rain is falling, or if the court surface is too wet for play. Normally a match will be abandoned at the discretion of the Committee member(s) if the time lost is likely to cause difficulty in completing the match. If the Committee member(s) are not present, Captains must contact a member or members of the Committee.
- 13b. Matches may be abandoned by the Committee if the air temperature measured on site reaches 38 degrees [celsius]. Abandonment will remain at the discretion of the Committee and will only be considered once the temperature has been reached.
- 13c. If a match is abandoned, one point will be awarded for each set won, and points for all incomplete sets will be halved, in addition each team will receive a further one point, except where the match has reached the point where one team has won sufficient rubbers/games to be declared winner. In that case it will receive the two points for the match win.
- 13d. Fees - if a match is not commenced no fees are payable. If a match is incompleting the team fee payable will be on a pro rata basis **per person per set commenced** for all Sections (Sat.only). ***Four points per team will be deducted for any balls not returned or returned balls not being those issued on that day.***

TEAM LISTS

- 14. For all matches, captains of opposing teams shall exchange team lists prior to the commencement of play.

ORDER OF PLAY

- 15a. In all competitions (except section 1) the playing positions in the team must be maintained throughout the match except for the mixed sets.
- 15b. Order of sets played would usually be in the order set out on the score card unless otherwise detailed or agreed to by both of the opposing Captains.
- 15c. In all sets and in all sections (except section 1) the twelve point Tie Break shall be played **at six games all** in six game sets and at **eight games all** in eight game sets.

- 15d. Section 1 will play a twelve point tiebreak at six games all in six game sets, at seven games all in eight game sets and play an eighteen point supertiebreak as a deciding 3rd set in all 3 set singles matches.
- 15e. The playing positions in section 1 must be followed as shown on the teams nomination form that was submitted at the beginning of the season. Any team breaching this playing positions condition will forfeit any points gained from relevant matches on the day of competition.
- 15f. Teams wishing to change the order of players on their nomination form must apply in writing to the Committee whos decision will be final.
- 15g. Mixed doubles matches in section 1 will see the number 1 lady play with either the number 1 or number 2 man and the number 2 lady play with either the number 3 or number 4 man.

SUBSTITUTED PLAYER

- 16. A player injured during a match or hit up, who is unable to continue, may be substituted for the remaining rubbers, but must forfeit the rubber that the player was participating in when injured.

TIME OF MATCH COMMENCEMENT

- 17a. All matches shall be played on the day and venue fixed by the Committee.
- 17b. Unless special permission of the Committee has been first obtained for another commencement time, Saturday matches shall commence at 1.00 pm and Midweek matches shall commence at 10.00 am. Hitups must be completed by 5 minutes after scheduled commencement times.
- 17c. Any team not on the court and ready to play within ten minutes of the appointed commencing time shall forfeit the first set. The forfeiture of the second set shall be thirty minutes from that of the first set. Thereafter, forfeits shall be claimed at ten minutes intervals. Forfeits may be claimed throughout the match if a set is not started within ten minutes of the completion of the previous set. The Committee members may order the forfeiture or abandonment of sets
- 17d. In the advent of a late arrival and a player not being ready to commence that set, the said player has the grace of one further set before a forfeit can be claimed.
- 17e. In the event a team has to forfeit a set/match, that team will be liable for the payment of that set/match for both their own team and the opposing team. This payment is on a pro rata basis for all sections.

PLACES AND DATES FOR PLAY

- 18. No alterations shall be made to the places and dates set down. Should a match not be played on the day arranged, then the team in default shall be deemed to have been defeated, provided, however, that the question as to whether a team is in default or not shall be decided by the Committee. The Committee may alter a venue in an attempt to avoid abandonment of play.

FORFEITS

- 19a. A Club forfeiting a match without notifying the BTA Executive Officer before 5.00 pm on the day before the match, shall be liable to a fine equivalent to the Association's loss (due to the forfeit).
- 19b. A Club notifying the forfeit of a match prior to 5.00 pm of the day before the match shall be liable to a fine equivalent to the full match fee due for that team.
- 19c. Any team with an incomplete player list (forfeited player/s) must forfeit the lowest playing position/s first. ie First forfeited position is No.4 player, second forfeited position is No.3 player and so on.
- 19d. In the event of both teams forfeiting prior to match commencement, no points shall be awarded to either team. Refer rule 19a or 19b for match fees payable.

FINALS SYSTEM

- 20a. In all grades the finals shall be played between the top four teams at the end of the ordinary round matches.
- 20b. Finals matches hall be played as follows (Saturday only):

Week 1 Semi - Final 1: Team 1 –v- Team 2 Semi - Final 2: Team 3 –v-Team 4
 Week 2 Preliminary Final: Loser Semi - Final 1 –v- Winner Semi - Final 2
 Week 3 Grand Final: Winner Semi - Final 1 –v- Winner Preliminary Final

- 20c. In the event of a semi-final match in Week 1 being washed out, the match shall be replayed the following week. Under this circumstance the finals system shall revert to 2 weeks (i.e. Week 2: 2-v-3, 1 –v- 4, Week 3: Grand Final). In the event of week 2 being washed out, the team higher on the ladder shall be deemed the winner of the match. In the event of the Grand Final being washed out, the team deemed to be the winner of second semi-final shall be deemed the winner of the pennant.
- 20d. Every endeavour will be made to play Grand Finals including alteration to playing days and venues.
- 20e. In the event of a four team competition the two leading teams after the ordinary rounds have been decided may be required to play off in a Grand Final only.
- 20f. In the event of a drawn final match, a further set shall be played for a result. The deciding set shall be a mixed doubles, the combination of the mixed pair being selected by the Captain. In a men's or a women's competition any two players may be selected. In a singles competition any one player may be selected.

PROTESTS BY CLUBS

21. All protests and dispute shall be dealt with by the Committee and whose decisions shall be final. Teams must notify the opposing team captain on the day of the match, and lodge the protest in writing to the Committee within 48 hours of the completion of the match in question. Protests, disputes or irregularities relating to finals must be brought to the Committee's attention and signed by the complainant's Club Secretary within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

COURT BEHAVIOUR

- 22a. The Tennis Victoria Code of Behaviour shall apply for all players. Players found guilty of violating this code will be cautioned, fined or suspended. Whilst any such fines remain unpaid, the player in question will be ineligible to play except where an appeal is pending.
- 22b. Players not involved in a set must be on the outside of the fences.

APPEALS TO BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

23. No appeals against the decision shall be allowed except where new and relevant information is produced. The Board of Management shall not arbitrate on any appeal, but if after a hearing considers the matter serious enough, it may refer the matter back to the Committee with recommendations or set up an independent (not tennis players or officials) Appeals Committee.

PAYMENT OF FINES

24. Any Clubs not paying the amount of any fine (inflicted by these By-Laws) to the BTA within one month after notification of such fine, shall be reported to the Board of Management which shall have the power to disqualify such club.

REGULATION TENNIS DRESS

25. Correct tennis attire only permitted. Men - recognised acceptable tennis shorts (above knee) and shirts (colours permitted). Women - recognised acceptable tennis wear. Only non-marking footwear permitted.

SCORE CARDS, BALLS AND MATCH FEES

- 26a. It is the responsibility of the winning team to ensure that the score card is completed in full, ie. section, team colour, date, starting time and venue and returned (with balls) to the Coca-Cola Complex by 7.30 pm on the night of the match. If the score card is not completed a loss of 2 points is incurred. Failure to return score card and balls to the appointed venue will result in the loss of four premiership points.
- 26b. All match fee money envelopes containing the correct amount of money must be returned to the Coca-Cola Complex on the day of the match. Failure to do so may result in the loss of four premiership points.

NUMBER OF BALLS TO BE USED PER MATCH

27. This will be determined from time to time by the Committee.

QUESTIONS ARISING AS TO THE INTERPRETATION OF BY-LAWS

- 28a. Any questions arising as to the interpretation or construction of these By-Laws shall be decided by the Committee.
- 28b. All matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as adopted by the State body to which the BTA is affiliated, the interpretation of which shall devolve upon the Committee.

APPLICATION OF RULES

29. The foregoing rules are and shall be the Rules of the BTA and shall apply to all Associated Clubs from year to year until altered, amended or revoked. To be effective any alterations, amendments or revocations must be approved by the Committee and ratified by the Board of Management.

EMERGENCY PLAYERS

- 30a. Players not being registered members of a team (ie. not appearing on a team nomination form) are eligible to play for any team as an emergency, subject to By-Law 7b, but excluding By-Laws 1 and 8a.
- 30b. Emergency players must be of a standard not higher than that of the player being substituted as determined by the Committee.
- 30c. Emergency players should be clearly indicated by (E) following their name on the score card.
- 30d. Any Registered member of a team may act as an emergency player for any Club in a higher grade only for a maximum of three matches per Season.
- 30e. Emergency players must play in a position of the team relevant to the standard of other team members.

PRE SEASON/MID SEASON MEETINGS

31. All teams entering the Competition must provide a representative at the pre-Season meeting and any mid season meeting organised by the Committee. Any team failing to attend will be penalised 8 points.

ADDENDUM FOR MIDWEEK PENNANT (Revised September 1999)

- **All Pennant By-Laws apply to midweek Pennant unless altered as per this addendum**
 - **Where applicable read 'Midweek Match Committee' in place of 'Pennant Committee' or 'Committee'**
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- 8B. Applies to Midweek Competitions only. Players playing in BTA Midweek Pennant may compete in another Association's Weekend or Night Pennant.
- 13d. If a match is uncompleted the team fee payable will be \$5.00 per team per set commenced for all Grades (ie. \$2.50 / player)
16. A player injured during a match or hit up, who is unable to continue, may be substituted for that set and the remaining sets as long as no hold-up to play is incurred. Play can continue from the point of withdrawal with no penalty.
- 20b. First semi-final 3 v 4
Second semi-final 1 v 2
Preliminary final Winner of first semi-final v loser of second semi-final
Grand final Winner of preliminary final v winner of second semi-final
- 26a. Completed score cards, balls and match fees to be returned to venue determined by the Committee
- 26b. as per ammended 27a (above)
- 30d. Not applicable
31. Not applicable