

Illawarra Suburbs Lawn Tennis Association Ltd.

COMPETITION RULES



Monday Morning Unisex Competition

Revised by Competition Secretary – October 2023

Revised by the Committee – October 2023

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Re-issued to take effect - resumption of Summer 2023/2024 competition

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1. COMPETITION

In accordance with the By-Laws the Match and Grading Committee shall, with the consent of the Directors and Council, alter such Competition rules as may be necessary for the running of the competition.

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 Mondays from 9:30am to 12:30pm at Caringbah and from 10am to 1pm at Rockdale. Entry closing dates, commencing dates, and playing dates for new competitions are at the discretion of the Competition Secretary, with the following exception/s.

(a) There will be no play during NSW School Holidays or on public holidays if the holiday falls on the Monday.

2. PLAYERS

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

3. ENTRY FEES

Entry fees to be as determined by the council of management and are required to be paid in full to the Competition Secretary prior to the commencement of the competition.

There shall be no refund of entry fees once grading of competitions has been completed.

4. ENTRIES

All Team or Individual entries for the competition must be on the appropriate 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 (8) players registered unless the additional players are registered under the one-day registration rule No.8

6. COMPOSITION OF A TEAM

A team can consist of all females, all male, or any combination of male/female players.

If there is a late registration after the competition has commenced, this player should not strengthen the team already graded.

7. 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 via email or phone subject to the decision of the Match and Grading Committee. All applications must be submitted in writing on the appropriate 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 organisation as specified by the association at the time of registration. For applications accepted via email or phone 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.

8. ONE DAY TRANSFERS (*players from within the competition & player pool*)

One day transfers from the same or a lower grade within the same competition are permitted. Prior permission must be obtained from the Competition Secretary prior to the match and the details MUST be noted on the result sheet. One day transfers from the grade immediately above within the same competition are ONLY permitted for the lowest grade in the competition. Teams violating this rule will incur the same penalties as if playing an unregistered player. Players transferring to another team under this rule 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 and will have to apply to be re-registered 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 grand finals.

It is the responsibility of team captains or other members of the team to organize their own one day transfers, either from another team or the player pool.

9. ONE MATCH REGISTRATIONS (*players from other competitions*)

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 registration 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 via email or phone subject to the decision of the Match and Grading Committee. Full details of the player must then be noted on the result sheet. All players must be affiliated with the organisation 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 is at the discretion of the committee and if the team then has more than eight (8) players registered then another member of the team must be deregistered. Matches played by any player under this rule DO count towards eligibility for semi-finals or finals & trophies.

10. COURT HIRE

Matches will be played at court locations determined by the Competition Secretary at the commencement of each competition. The cost of court hire is included in the Competition Entry Fee.

11. BALLS

Matches are to be played with Tennis Balls provided by the Association. Three (3) new balls are to be collected by the Home Team (or first mentioned team in Semi-Finals and Finals) from the specified box at the Tennis Centre Pro Shop (or caretaker at other locations) prior to the commencement of the match. At the completion of the match the used balls can be returned to the competition secretary or purchased at a nominated cost determined by the competition secretary. The cost of the match balls is included in the Competition Entry Fee.

12. 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.

13. MODE OF PLAY

Each match will consist of two teams of three (3) players.

A match shall consist of six (6) eight (8) game doubles sets to be played in the following order:

The home team shall first write their team members' names on the Score Sheet in any chosen order in positions 1, 2 & 3.

The home team is the team listed first on the Competition Draw.

After viewing the home team's order, the away team shall then write their team members' names on the Score Sheet in any order in positions 1, 2 & 3. The format of play will then be:

HOME TEAM PLAYERS		AWAY TEAM PLAYERS
1 & 2	V	1 & 2
1 & 3	V	2 & 3
2 & 3	V	1 & 3
1 & 3	V	1 & 2
1 & 2	V	2 & 3
2 & 3	V	1 & 3

14. DECIDING THE WINNER OF A MATCH

Each match is awarded sixteen (16) points. The winner of each set (reaching five (5) games or more) will be awarded **two (2) points**. If sets finish at four (4) games all, each team will be awarded **one (1) point**. If any sets are not played or unfinished (a team has not reached five (5) games), each team will be awarded **one (1) point** each.

Matches are to be decided by games, with the team reaching 25 games or more being declared the winner and awarded **four (4) points**. When neither team reaches 25 games by 12:30pm **two (2) points** will be awarded to each team.

Semi-finals and finals – refer to Rule 24.

15. COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY

All matches must commence at **9:30am** sharp at Caringbah and **10am** sharp at Rockdale.

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 8-0, thirty (30) minutes after the starting time the second set shall be awarded 8-0. If the team is unable to proceed one (1) hour after the starting time the match shall be forfeited.

If more than 3 sets are forfeited, the sets are forfeited as 5-0 (not 8-0). See rule 26.

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.

16. 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 each player has played a 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.

Exception: Player #3 from the home team has the option of taking a five (5) minute (absolute maximum) break at the completion of the third (3rd) set.

17. TERMINATION OF PLAY

Play shall cease at **12:30pm** sharp at Caringbah and **1pm** sharp at Rockdale, with the provision that any game commenced prior to the finish time is to be completed. If both Captains agree to cease play early due to inclement weather, or for any other reason the match is terminated early, the reason must be stated on the result sheet.

18. ORDER OF SERVICE / CHANGING ENDS

The order of service shall be home team serves first in sets 1, 3 & 5 and away team serves first in sets 2, 4 & 6. The receiving team shall choose ends in each set.

Each pair will play four (4) games at one end and then change ends for the following four (4) games.

18.1 ONE ADVANTAGE DEUCE

The one advantage format is to be played in all games. If deuce is reached for a second (2nd) time, a single point is played to decide the game. The point is known as “game point” and the receiving team will have the choice as to which side the point is played. This decision is to be immediate.

19. DRAW FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

The winner of the competition shall be decided by the four teams leading on points in each grade or division playing in the semi-finals. In the event of two or more teams being equal on points at the conclusion of the rounds, their relative positions shall be decided by the total games won during the competition minus total games lost during the competition. In the event of this also being equal, percentages of games won will be used.

The draw for semi-finals will be (A) 1 v 4 (loser is eliminated)
(B) 2 v 3 (loser is eliminated)

The draw for the final will be (C) Winner (A) v Winner (B)

In the event of a draw in Semi-Finals and Finals the team who finished higher at the completion of the rounds will be declared the winner. One spare week has been allocated in case of rain washing out the Finals (less than 4 sets played). In this case, the Finals will be played the following week.

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

Semi-Finals and Finals as directed by the Match and Grading Committee, shall consist of six (6) sets.

In Semi-Finals and Finals the opposing captains shall toss for the option of choosing whether their team will be the home or away team.

21. COURT ALLOCATIONS

Courts will be allocated by the Competition Secretary. At times they may need to be altered by the Centre Manager and/or Caretaker. Semi-Finals and Finals, where possible, will be played on neutral courts at the discretion of the Competition Secretary unless two teams from the same court are playing each other. Posting of the DRAW on the Association's web site (www.islta.com.au) or emailed to Team Secretaries will be considered sufficient notice to the teams on which courts such matches are to be played.

22. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY IN SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

A player is not eligible to play with a team in semi-finals or finals, unless the player 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.

In the situation where regrading of teams occurs following the completion of the first round where a bye does not exist in the initial draw but exists post regrading. A player in the initial part of the draw must play at least four (4) matches to qualify. A player who joined a team post regrading must play at least three (3) matches to qualify.

23. SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS

In the event of a player being unable to complete a match due to one of the reasons listed below 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 Monday Competition, will be allowed to continue the match. Play to be resumed from the exact position in which the match stood when the player withdrew. The substitute must be available within thirty (30) minutes, or the sets unplayed shall be forfeited. Notice of such substitution to be noted on the result sheet.

Acceptable reasons:

- Injury
- Illness
- Family emergency

Notes:

The substituting player must be a registered member of the Monday competition.

If the injury/illness occurs late in the match and there is insufficient time to complete the match, any unplayed sets or games are to be forfeited.

If substituting during Semi-Finals or Finals, the substituting player must be a registered member of the team and eligible to play in that match.

The match should continue if waiting for a substitute to arrive and will follow as close as possible the set order on the result sheet.

24. UNFINISHED SEMI-FINALS OR FINALS

At least four (4) sets must be completed in Semi-Finals and Finals to be classified as a completed match. If a match is not finished due to time or weather after four (4) or more sets have been completed, the team leading on points in the match will be declared the winner. In the event of equal points, the team leading on games will be declared the winner. In the event of a draw or less than 4 sets being completed, the team who finished higher at the completion of the rounds will be declared the winner except for the Final. If the first date for the Final is weather affected (less than 4 sets completed), the match will be completed the following week. If the following week is also weather affected (less than 4 sets competed over the 2 weeks), the winner of Semi-Final (A) will be declared the winner.

25. LODGEMENT OF RESULT SHEETS

The players' names and the scores of each match shall be entered on a result sheet. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that the sheet has been completed correctly. One player from each team on the day must sign the result sheet. The captain of the winning team or the team leading at the end of the day's play must email, phone or text the result sheet to the Competition Secretary no later than 6pm on the day of play. In the event of a draw or there being no play for any reason other than a forfeit, the home team is responsible for lodging the result sheet to the Competition Secretary. In the event of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit is responsible for lodging the result sheet. Failure to comply with the above may result in the team responsible for lodging the result sheet losing all their competition points for that match.

26. FORFEITS

- (a) If a team needs to forfeit a match, it is the responsibility of that team to contact the opposition's team secretary and the Competition Secretary in advance to advise them.
- (b) In the case of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit will be awarded the maximum winning points, being 16 points. The game's score will be recorded as 30-0 which is to say that each of the six sets forfeited were won 5-0.
- (c) Any team receiving a forfeit will still have the opportunity to use the court allocated for that match and undertake practice/social tennis.
- (d) A team considering withdrawing from the competition should first contact the Competition Secretary to discuss options that may enable the team to complete the competition.
- (e) A team withdrawing from the competition, or forfeiting more than two (2) matches, without satisfactory reason, shall be disqualified. 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.

27. TENNIS ATTIRE

The correct tennis attire 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, 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.

Male: Sleeved shirts and shorts or trousers, described and designated as appropriate tennis attire.

Female: Skirts, divided or otherwise, shorts or dresses designed, described and designated as tennis attire.

28. UMPIRES

Matches are played without a chair umpire. Players are responsible for making calls on his/her side of the net. If in doubt the player must give the benefit of the doubt to his/her opponent. The server is to call the score before each first (1st) serve. The complete list of basic principles when playing a match without a chair umpire are available on the Tennis Australia website www.tennis.com.au

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.

29. 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. 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.

30. 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 (4) matches, or three (3) matches where a bye exists in a grade.

31. TOURNAMENTS

In the event that courts are unavailable at any time due to a tournament, the Association reserves the right to transfer the matches to other courts / centres. If this occurs, substitute courts will be provided by the association for the match.

32. 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 a penalty should be lodged with the Hon. General Secretary of the Association.

33. REFRESHMENTS

It is each player's responsibility to bring their own drinks and snacks.

34. WET WEATHER

The Centre Manager, 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 prior to starting time, from the center manager, 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.

In the event of rain interrupting play, players must remain at the court for a period of thirty (30) minutes, as conditions may clear enabling play to resume. However, if the court surface begins to pool or hold water, players should abandon play. If conditions do not clear after thirty (30) minutes, play is deemed to be cancelled for the day.

When play is abandoned for the day or when time is lost due to rain, please indicate on the result sheet as follows:

"Play ceased at (insert time) due to rain, or (insert time) lost due to rain and/or wet court".

Unfinished wet matches must recommence at the exact point that wet weather stopped play.

34.1. EXTREME WEATHER

HEAT

Special considerations exist where excessive heat occurs on a particular day and the following procedures are to be implemented on such days.

After commencement of the match and in the interval between sets it is ascertained that the temperature is **over 35 degrees Celsius** both teams must formally agree to abandon play and must submit a result sheet showing a reason for the match being incomplete.

SMOKE

If smoke is present, it is recommended that the source is determined to ensure that the smoke is not toxic, not likely to worsen or is not due to a fire in the vicinity. If the smoke presents any danger, through reduction in visibility or ability to breathe properly, then play must be suspended or abandoned for the day.

Both teams must formally agree and must submit a result sheet showing the reason for the match being incomplete.

Matches abandoned due to extreme weather conditions will not be replayed. Any unplayed sets shall be recorded as 4-4 and any incomplete sets shall be recorded as the exact score when play ceased. The additional four (4) points will be shared by the two (2) teams.

34.2. WET MATCHES (see rule 34)

Only the first two (2) complete round wet matches/unfinished (less than 4 sets completed) matches will be replayed or completed at the end of the scheduled rounds. Any further wet matches/unfinished matches in the competition will not be replayed or completed and the points will be shared. Matches abandoned due to wet weather conditions will not be replayed if at least half of the round is completed. Any unplayed sets shall be recorded as 4-4 and any incomplete sets shall be recorded as the exact score when play ceased. The additional four (4) points will be shared by the two (2) teams.

If a match is called off or abandoned due to wet weather, both teams are required to submit a list of players set down to play on that day. This list will be sent to the Competition Secretary by the end of the designated day's play.

36. CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR

All players have a responsibility at all times to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour. Unsportsmanlike conduct, verbal abuse, physical abuse, audible obscenity, abuse of racquet, balls or equipment will not be tolerated.

37. 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 vigor and can lead to injuries usually of a comparatively minor nature. People who play sport voluntarily accept the normal risk associated with their sport.

Unless otherwise specified in these rules, standard ITF (International Tennis Federation) tennis rules apply. The complete Rules of Tennis are available on the ITF website www.itftennis.com and should be read in conjunction with these rules.