



**Tweed District Tennis Association**  
**By Laws and Rules for the Conduct of Competitions**

These By-Laws and Rules and amendments to the By-Laws and Rules shall be ratified by the TDTA.

**ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS**

**1. COMPETITIONS CONDUCTED UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE TDTA ARE:**

Saturday Mixed (**Senior**)  
Tuesday Ladies  
Thursday Night Men's  
Saturday Mixed (**Junior**)  
Friday Night Junior Pennants

2. Team Nominations will be accepted from affiliated and financial clubs.
3. No player will be allowed registration with the Association unless he or she is a financial member of an affiliated club and Tennis New South Wales or affiliated body. Before the start of the competition, clubs will supply the TDTA Secretary with a list of all financial members & each member's Tennis New South Wales or affiliated body membership number.
4. To qualify for entry in the TDTA Closed Championships, a player must play approximately 75% of scheduled matches in an Association competition during the 12 months prior to the Championships. A club may nominate a player deemed a genuine supporter of the club and ask the Association for an exemption to this rule. The final acceptance of such players will rest with the Association.
5. To be eligible for the District Training Squads, juniors must play approximately 75% of scheduled matches in a TDTA competition in the 12 months prior to selection. Final acceptance of members shall rest with the TDTA Junior Branch sub-committee.
6. The appropriate sub-committee of the TDTA will conduct competitions where possible.
7. The sub-committees, consisting of a chairperson, secretary and competition recorder and up to three other members will be elected by the members of the association playing the relevant competition and confirmed by the TDTA AGM. At least one member of each sub-committee should attend all TDTA monthly meetings.
8. The competitions will be conducted as set out in the attached TDTA Competition Rules. These by-laws & rules will only be changed at the TDTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at a Special General Meeting (EGM) as per Model Rules for Incorporated Associations.
9. The competition sub-committee and the Junior Branch sub-committee will be responsible for organising team entries, grading teams, conducting the draw and the resulting competition. The sub-committees will be responsible for keeping the TDTA fully advised.
10. Any appeals, protests, problems, arising from any of the Competitions will be dealt with by the relevant sub-committee. Unresolved issues will be submitted to the TDTA for resolution. Clubs and Teams may appeal sub-committee decisions with written submissions to the TDTA.
11. Clarification and interpretation of the by-laws and rules is at the discretion of the TDTA.
12. All matches will be played in accordance with the rules of the game of tennis.

These By-Laws and Rules ratified by the TDTA AGM held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012 supersede all previous By-Laws and Rules and are to be used by all competitions under the control of the TDTA.

# COMPETITION RULES

## Method of Play – Seniors

### 1.1 Team Composition, Starting Time & Match Order Play

Saturday Mixed, Tuesday Ladies, & Thursday Night Mens team compositions, starting times & match play order to be determined by individual competition sub-committees & ratified by the TDTA at the commencement of each competition. The starting time will be on the draw of each competition. The team composition will be on the nomination form of each competition. The match play order will be on the result sheet of each competition.

### 1.2 Court and Balls

The home club will provide (1) one court and (2) two new balls approved by TNSW.

### 1.3 Match Fees

The home team will collect the match fees. The fees of the visiting team will be uniform and set at the TDTA AGM.

### 1.4 Umpires

The use of umpires is up to the team captains. If undecided, the match will be umpired.

## Method of Play – Juniors

### 2.1 Teams

Saturday Mixed - The competition team will comprise two (2) girls and two (2) boys. Teams may comprise three (3) girls and one (1) boy, or three (3) boys and one (1) girl where a shortage of players occurs. Same gender teams may participate provided all players are part of the nominated team or from a lower grade.

Friday Night Pennants - The competition team will comprise three (3) players of any gender.

### 2.2 Starting Time

Prior to commencement of each competition the starting time will be determined by the TDTA. The starting time will be advised on the draw of each competition.

### 2.3 Match Play Order

Saturday Mixed – Top doubles (number 1 ranked and any other player) & bottom doubles, followed by singles 1, 2, 3 then 4. Singles order of play may change if agreed by both team supervisors.

Friday Night Pennants - 2 & 3, 1 & 3, 2 v 2, 1 v 1, 3 v 3, 1 & 2.

### 2.4 Court and Balls

Saturday Mixed - The home club will provide two courts and four sound balls approved by TNSW.  
Friday Night Pennants - All matches to be played at the same venue, decided upon by the Junior Branch sub-committee. Balls provided by the Junior Branch sub-committee.

### 2.5 Match Fees

The home team will collect the match fees. The fees of the visiting team will be uniform and set at the TDTA AGM.

### 2.6 Umpires

Saturday Mixed – Doubles will be self umpired. Singles matches will be umpired.  
Friday Night Pennants- Matches are to be self umpired.

### 2.7 Finals

Saturday Mixed – If there is a washout in finals, the higher placed team will progress.

Friday Night Pennants - If there is a washout in finals, the higher placed team will progress.

### 2.8 Grand Final

Saturday Mixed - At the discretion of the Junior Branch sub-committee, the grand final for all Saturday junior matches will be held at the one venue, which will alternate between the clubs that have sufficient courts to do so.

Friday Night Pennants – If there is a washout in a Grand Final, the match is to be completed on a date to be set by the Junior Branch sub-committee. Teams must use the same players if the washed out match had begun.

### 2.9 Delegates

Saturday Mixed - At least one delegate of each club represented in Saturday Junior Competition must attend monthly Junior Branch sub-committee meetings.

## ALL COMPETITIONS

### Order of Play

#### 3.1 Team Order

Before the match begins, the home team will nominate its players first, in order, on the result form, followed by the visiting team.

#### 3.2 Changes to the Order of Sets

Order of Play may be changed if captains agree. (In the interests of the game, the TDTA urges teams to adopt a flexible approach to try to ensure the match is played).

## **Forfeits**

### **4.1 Absent Players**

Teams with any player/s absent will forfeit all sets in which those players would normally have played.

### **4.2 Late Start**

Any team failing to commence on time will forfeit one set every 15 minutes until the match commences. If no eligible player/s from the team is/are ready to play within 45 minutes of the scheduled commencement time of the match, the opposing team may claim the match on a forfeit.

### **4.3 Notification**

The forfeiting team must notify the opposing team at the earliest possible time of the situation.

### **4.4 Consistent Forfeits**

A team consistently forfeiting matches will be called upon to explain the circumstances to the TDTA. If deemed necessary, disciplinary action will be taken.

## **Results**

### **5.1 Matches**

The results of matches will be determined on sets won. Games will be considered only when sets are equal. Tiebreaker will be played at five-all. Junior matches will be decided on games.

### **5.2 Match Conditions**

Where conditions are unsuitable for play to commence, the home team captain shall contact the opposing team captain.

Where conditions are unsuitable for play to continue, a match may be terminated by either team, however mutual agreement is preferred.

### **5.3 Interrupted Matches**

If a match is stopped by rain, points will be awarded for all sets that are completed.

Points for unfinished sets and the match points will be divided equally if the match result is undecided. If a team is in an unbeatable position, that team will receive the two match points. Subject to the availability of courts, lights, payment and agreement by captains, play may continue after nightfall.

### **5.4 Wet Weather**

If the home team claims "wet weather" and other teams play at the venue, the home team will receive nil points, and the opposition team will receive all match points, unless the recorder receives confirmation that the court was too wet for play.

### **5.5 Deferred Matches**

A match may be deferred by agreement between captains but must be played before the scheduled date of the first semi-final; otherwise, the match will be declared a draw. The competition recorder must be advised of the deferral before the next scheduled match.

### **5.6 Points Score**

Points will be awarded as follows: One (1) point for each set won; two (2) points to the match winner, drawn and wet matches equal points; bye no points.

### **5.7 Returning Result Sheets**

The result form correctly completed with all the necessary details is the responsibility of the winning team, and must be received by the Recorder before the next scheduled match.

### **5.8 Incorrect or Late Result Sheet**

In cases where result forms are received by the recorder that are not correctly completed, or late, the offending team is to be notified of the errors. If the problem continues, the recorder is to report the matter to the relevant committee, which may deduct points from the offending team.

## **Nominations, Grading & Eligibility**

### **6.1 Team Entries**

On or before the closing date for team entries set by the TDTA, Clubs will submit to the sub-committee Secretary, a completed team entry form together with a list of all reserves. Teams of four players are limited to six nominated players. Teams of three players are limited to four nominated players. All other players will be graded as floating reserves. Changes to team nominations and team members may be accepted at the discretion of the relevant Grading Committee on or before the grading committee meeting.

### **6.2 Team Grading**

Grading will be carried out at the relevant grading meeting. The Minor Premiers and Grand Final winners from previous competition will be favourably considered for a higher division if the original teams are nominated.

### **6.3 Team Members**

- a) The team grade designates the player's grade for the relevant competition.
  - b) Once graded a player may not play in a lower division.
  - c) Once graded a team member may play twice in total for other club teams in their division and twice in total in a higher division.
- Upon playing three matches in total in other club teams or a higher division, a player cannot play in their original team or division during the competition.

d) Once graded a team member may play four times in total for **home club** teams in their division and four times in total in a higher division.

Upon playing five matches in total for home Club teams or a higher division a player cannot play in their original team or division during the competition.

#### **6.4 Floating Reserves**

(a) Clubs shall submit a list of floating reserves to the grading sub-committees with the team nominations.

(b) Reserves will be graded and the recorder for each competition will compile a list of TD floating reserves together with their contact numbers to be used by any club when necessary.

(c) A Floating reserve upon playing four matches for any team becomes a team member & must become a financial member of that team's Club.

(d) A floating reserve, upon becoming a team member, is then governed under rule 6.3 Team Members.

(e) A new floating reserve not on the original floating reserve list must become a financial member of an affiliated Club & Tennis NSW or affiliated body before the playing of their third match, otherwise the teams they play in will lose all points gained for sets that player plays in.

#### **6.5 Non Graded Players**

If a player not graded plays in a team, competition points will not be awarded for sets played until the competition sub-committee or the TDTA monthly meeting has given approval. If approval is refused, points for sets played by the defaulting player will be awarded to the opposing team.

#### **6.6 Injury**

Once play has commenced, no substitution will be allowed due to injury in the match.

#### **6.7 Team Withdrawal**

Once a team has been graded in a competition and withdraws, members of the team are ineligible to take further part in that competition unless approved by the TDTA.

### **FINALS-**

#### **7.1 Format**

The four (4) leading teams will play off at the conclusion of the scheduled round as follows-

Major semi-final: 1 v 2 Minor semi-final: 3 v 4

Final: loser of (a) v winner of (b)

Grand Final: winner of (a) v winner (c).

#### **7.2 Court Location**

Semi-finals and preliminary finals will be played on the home court of the team finishing higher at the end of the scheduled rounds. Teams may mutually agree to play at another venue with approval from the TDTA.

Grand Finals in all divisions will be played at the one venue. The TDTA may either allow clubs to host the Grand Final in rotation or hire any venue with profits gained dispersed to the Club participating in the competition.

#### **7.3 End of Season Drawn Result.**

If teams are equal on points the order of play in the semi-finals will be determined by a count-back of games.

#### **7.4 Player Eligibility**

(a) A nominated team member or reserve must play a minimum of three (3) matches for the team in the scheduled rounds to be eligible to play in the finals. This is reduced to two (2) matches if only one round is played.

(b) Players nominated for washed out matches or forfeits will not qualify under point (a) unless the recorder received written confirmation nominating the players by the next scheduled match.

(c) If players eligible under rule 7.4(a), are not available, lower grade players from the same club may be used as a replacement in the finals, subject to the approval of the competition sub-committee. Team members from other Clubs are ineligible.

(d) In the lowest division, unqualified players of the same standard and from the same club may be used subject to the approval of the competition sub-committee.

#### **7.5 Order of Play**

(a) In finals, team captains will nominate their order of play confidentially and give it to the home team captain to be entered on the score sheet before the match begins.

(b) If there is a draw, a tiebreak will be played by the players on the court playing the last set.

#### **7.6 Washouts**

(a) In unfinished finals matches, no substitute will be allowed to replace a player who took part in the original day's play unless specifically approved by the competition sub-committee.

(b) If there is a washout in the semi finals or finals, the match must be completed before the next scheduled final. Where teams cannot mutually agree to complete the match, the TDTA shall determine the result.

(c) If there is a washout in the grand finals, where teams cannot mutually agree to complete the match the TDTA shall determine the result.

#### **Protests**

See By-Law 10.

Written protests must be lodged with the TDTA secretary and the competition recorder must also be notified before the start of the next scheduled round.





