



Southern Districts Tennis Association Inc. Senior Competition Rules

1. RULES OF PLAY

These Competitions will be conducted in accordance with Tennis Australia's Member Protection By-Law, these rules and regulations and the Tennis Australia Events Disciplinary Policy (each as amended from time to time)

All players competing must be registered members of Southern Districts Tennis Association Inc (SDTA) and Tennis NSW.

2.ARRANGING COMPETITIONS

Competitions governed by these rules are:

- Monday night (ladies doubles)
- Tuesday morning (ladies doubles)
- Tuesday night (men's doubles)
- Wednesday night (unisex singles/doubles)
- Thursday morning (ladies doubles)
- Thursday night (mixed doubles)
- Saturday afternoon (unisex doubles)

Each respective type will be played in grades, according to the relative strength and number of teams entered.

3. ROUNDS OF COMPETITION

All competitions shall consist of two rounds, each team playing home and away matches with every other team. Deferred matches shall not be played.

4. MATCHES AND SETS – Rounds ONLY

Monday Night Women – matches shall consist of six seven point tie-breaker sets, with the tie-breaker to be played at 5 games all.

Tuesday Women – matches shall consist of eight seven point tie-breaker sets, with the tie-breaker to be played at 5 games all.

Tuesday Night Men - matches shall consist of six seven point tie-breaker sets, with the tie-breaker to be played at 5 games all.

Tuesday Women – matches shall consist of eight seven point tie-breaker sets, with the tie-breaker to be played at 5 games all.

Wednesday Night Singles - matches shall consist of four seven-point tie-breaker singles sets, with the tie breaker to be played at six gems all and one pro-doubles set with the tie-breaker to be played at eight games all. All sets are played as sudden death deuce.

Thursday Women – matches shall consist of six seven point tie-breaker sets, with the tie-breaker to be played at 5 games all.

Thursday Night Mixed – matches shall consist of six seven point tie-breaker sets, with the tie-breaker to be played at 5 games all. A match shall consist of two men’s doubles and four mixed doubles.

Saturday Afternoon Uni-six – matches shall consist of six seven point tie-breaker sets, with the tie-breaker to be played at 5 games all.

5. NUMBER OF TEAMS IN GRADES

Each grade shall consist of six or more teams, or lesser number as determined by the Competition Committee, with the four leading teams playing off. These play-offs are to be known as Semi-Finals and Finals.

6. TEAM ENTRY FORM AND FEE

All team entries for the respective 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.

The minimum number of players permitted to be registered is:

Uni-sex Competition	3 players (3 women or 2 women and 1 man or 2 men and 1 women).
Night Competitions	3 players who must be aged 15 and older.
Tuesday Women’s Competition	4 players
Thursday Women’s Competition	3 players

All original registered players who do not play in at least two (2) matches in a six (6) key draw, three (3) matches in an eight (8) key draw and four (4) matches in a ten (10) key draw without an acceptable reason as approved by the Management Committee, the players team will lose the following points:

Uni-sex competition	5 points
Night Competition	5 points
Tuesday Women	6 points
Thursday Women	5 points

Wet matches will not be allowed as matches played, with the exception that play did commence prior of being washed out.

Entry fees to be as determined by the Council of Management and must be paid by week three (3) of the competition. If any players fee remains unpaid, the player's team will be deducted five (5) points per match until the fee is paid.

For players not previously registered with SDTA Inc. a membership application must be completed and attached to the entry form.

7. REFUSAL OF ENTRIES.

The Management Committee shall have the right to refuse the entry of any team or player without assigning a reason.

8. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

Should any person who is not registered play with a team in any competition match, such team will have those points deducted and transferred to the opposing team.

9. GRADE REGISTERED IN

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

10. RESERVES

Reserves or pool players will pay their SDTA membership after player their first match and pay the competition fee after playing three (3) matches.

Each Competition Secretary shall maintain a list of players, for their competition, who are not registered with any team.

Such players shall be referred to as "Pool" players.

Reserve players shall register in the reserve pool too and may replace any player of the same division or higher. Reserve players can play any number of matches in any team, but once they have played four (4) matches in an 8 key draw, three (3) matches in a six key draw in a higher division, the player shall be regarded to that higher division.

The Association shall assign a grade for each "Pool" player which will be the LOWEST GRADE in which that player will be permitted to play.

During competition matches a team may obtain a reserve player to fill in, in, that team from the "Pool", another team in the same division or a lower division. If all avenues have been exhausted, then a request to use another player must be cleared by the Competition Secretary.

11. INJURY REPLACEMENTS.

Should a player on the court become genuinely incapacitated through injury, an injury replacement player may be allowed to continue the match provided that:

- i. The remaining games in the set during which the injury occurred are forfeited by the team whose player has sustained the injury,
- ii. The injury replacement must not have taken part in that type of competition on that day.
- iii. The injured player and their replacement must be detailed on the official form.

12. TENNIS ATTIRE

Players shall present themselves for play in clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire, (cycle shorts may be worn under tennis attire). Clothing shall be designed, described specifically as tennis attire. Footwear shall be designed for use on tennis courts.

NOT PERMITTED

1. Sweat shirts, dress shirts, surf shirts, football shirts.
2. Bermuda shorts, jogging shorts, football shorts, board shorts, walk shorts.

Players not correctly attire in accordance with this Rule will receive one written warning. Further dress violations will result in a deduction of team points. The Management Committee shall be the Arbiter of the Tennis Attire rule.

13. COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION TIMES

- Uni-sex competition 12.30pm to 4:00pm
- Tuesday Women's Competition 9.30am to 3:00pm
- Thursday Women's Competition 9.30am to 1:00pm
- Night Competition 7.15pm to 11:00pm

If one team is not ready to play within 10 minutes of the time set down for the commencement of the match they shall forfeit the first set upon demand. Further sets will be forfeited for each additional 10 minutes until the halfway point, when the match will be forfeited. All matches must be terminated by the specified time except that any

game unfinished at that time shall be completed. Once that game has been completed, play **MUST TERMINATE IMMEDIATELY.**

WET MATCHES

The West Tennis Club Sub-Committee and the Association's court curators are 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. If, due to inclement weather at the stipulated commencement time, the courts are considered to be unplayable and play does not commence within one hour for Mixed and Tuesday Women's Competitions and 30 minutes for Thursday Women's and Night Competitions the match shall be abandoned and the points shared equally between both teams. If both captains agree the match shall be called off earlier, but if both captains do not agree, rules stand. **Note:** If courts are deemed playable and the Captains call off the match, no points will be awarded. Decisions on the fitness of the courts for play shall be made as follows:

- Women's Competition 8.30am
- Night Competition 6.00pm
- Mixed Competition 11.30am

HEAT POLICY

In conditions of excessive heat, after measuring the temperature on the thermometer located on the eastern side of the tournament box and if such is greater than or equal to thirty-five (35) degrees centigrade play may be suspended and the points shared equally.

14. REFUND POLICY

If competition matches are washed out or suspended because of extreme heat the following shall apply:

- i. Where play has exceeded 50% of the sets there will be no refund.
- ii. Where play is less than the above, refund shall be total fee less \$5 per hour (rounded back) since allocated starting time.

15. COURT HIRE

The cost of court hire shall be shared by both teams equally. In Mixed and Women's Competition, teams will be allocated home courts.

16. SUPPLY OF BALLS

Matches are to be played with tennis balls approved by Tennis Australia. Three new balls are to be used for each Mixed Competition match and two new balls are to be used for Night and Women's Competition match with the costs being shared by both teams.

17. ARRANGEMENT OF SETS

In all competition matches, the order of sets shall be played as listed on the competition score cards.

18. TOSS FOR SERVICE

The captains shall toss for the right to serve in the first set and in all matches the serve shall alternate by sets throughout the match.

19. 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 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.

20. UNFINISHED MATCHES

If a match has to be stopped due to inclement weather and at point of stoppage half of the match sets have been completed, it constitutes a match. The points at the point of stoppage shall stand and the remainder of points shared equally.

21. POSTPONEMENTS

Application for postponement of any matches, including Semi-Final and Final matches will not be considered with the exception of a death in the family, which directly affects the playing of any match. Any such request needs to be forwarded to the respective Competition Secretary who will decide when the match can be played.

22. DECIDING THE WINNER OF A MATCH

Matches are to be decided by sets, but in the event of sets being equal by games. If both sets and games are equal, the match shall be declared a tie.

23. ALLOCATION OF COMPETITION POINTS

In a match the winning team will be allotted three (3) points or one and one half (1½) points each for a drawn or unfinished match. In addition, one (1) point is allotted to the winner of each completed set. Half (½) a point is allotted to each team for any sets unfinished or not played.

24. MATCH RESULTS

In Mixed Competition matches, the captain of the winning team shall see that a result form filled in and signed by him/her and the losing captain reaches the Competition Secretary **BY 6.00pm ON THE SATURDAY** of the match.

In Women's and Night Competition the captain of the winning team shall see that a result form, filled in and signed by himself/herself and the losing captain, reaches the Competition Secretary **WITHIN TWO DAYS** following the match.

Failure to comply with the above may result in the team responsible for forwarding the result form, losing all their points for that match.

25. FALSE RESULT FORMS

Where it has been established to the satisfaction of the Competition Secretary that a result card is not a true record of the players who played the match, or of the score of the match, all the players adjudged by the Competition Secretary directly or indirectly may lose all their points for that match.

26. FORFEITS AND WITHDRAWALS

Should a team forfeit in excess of two (2) matches without reasonable excuse, a fine of \$20.00 may be imposed upon the team. A forfeiting team shall within a reasonable time notify their opponent and the court hirer. Where a team withdraws from a competition all matches set down for that team throughout the competition shall be considered a bye. If the team withdraws from the competition during the first round of competition, all points allocated shall be cancelled.

27. GRADE PLACINGS

When two or more teams are level on points after all matches have been played, then the position of such teams shall be determined as follows:

- i. Count of sets between tied teams.
- ii. Count of games between tied teams.
- iii. Count of sets all matches.
- iv. Count of games all matches.

Exception: Where one team has defeated the other team tied twice in the competition.

28. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY IN SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

The teams placed first to fourth, on points, as at the end of competition rounds will proceed to the Semi-Finals.

The team placed first, on points will play the team placed fourth on points and the team placed second, on points will play the team placed third on points.

Undefeated Minor Premiers with a lead of five points or more shall have the right to challenge if defeated in Semi-Finals or Finals.

Semi-Finals and Finals shall be played on a court allocated by the Competition Secretary. The order and number of sets played in Semi-Finals and Finals shall be the same for the competition rounds.

All sets shall be seven point tie-breakers with the tie-breaker commencing **FIVE 5 GAMES ALL**.

If the two teams are level on sets and games at the completion of the match, then the players who played the last set will play a tie-break game, to determine the match winner.

29. COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION TIMES

Commencement and completion times for Semi-Final and Final matches will be the same for normal competition rounds.

30. SUPPLY OF BALLS

Supply of balls will be the same for normal competition rounds.

31. TOSS

The captains shall toss for the right to be the “Home” or “Visiting” team and shall also toss for the right of service.

32. QUALIFICATIONS

A player is not eligible to compete in a Semi-Final or Final unless he or she has played in three (3) matches in the preceding rounds with the same team.

A reserve pool player must play in three (3) matches in that competition, in any team in that division or a lower division.

33. RESERVES

A team may get a qualified reserve to play for them providing the player is from a lower division, except for teams from the lowest division and such player’s team has not reached the Semi-Finals and is not strengthening the team. The Competition Secretary prior to the match must clear any player.

34. 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 Disputes/Disciplinary Committee through the Hon. Association Secretary. Any protest is to be lodged in writing with the Hon. Association Secretary within 5 days 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 Disputes/Disciplinary 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. Association Secretary within 1 week or receipt of the decision of the Disputes/Disciplinary Committee.

35. RULE CHANGES

Any changes in the competition rules will be published in the Association **Bulletin** and as such every player in the competitions will be deemed to have been notified of the said changes.

The 'Bulletin' is published every Tuesday and can be down loaded or picked up at the following places:

- Wests Tennis Club
- Glen alpine Tennis Centre
- Glenfield Tennis Centre
- Glenquarie Tennis Centre
- SDTA web-site – www.southerndistrictstennis.com.au

36. MATTERS NOT MENTIONED IN COMPETITION RULES

The Council of the Association shall have 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.

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