

Hills Tennis Association Inc

Rules of Match and Play

Season 2019/20

Contact relevant Committee (Senior, Junior, Midweek, Night Tennis) if you have any queries or require assistance.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Application of these Rules

The Senior Activities (SAC), Junior Activities (JAC), Night and Midweek Committees have authority to interpret these rules and to allow exemptions for their relevant competitions. They also have the power to determine appropriate penalties for breach of these rules. This can include informal/formal warnings, demerit points, forfeiture of sets, suspension, exclusion from tennis venues and report/referral to SA Police. The decisions of the relevant Committees shall be final.

Any changes to these rules by the Management Committee will be forwarded to Club Secretaries at least two weeks prior to the start of the season.

1.2 Rules of Tennis, Appropriate Behaviour and Tennis Etiquette

All matches shall be conducted under the ITF's [Rules of Tennis](#) and Tennis Australia's [Tennis Etiquette](#) Guidelines and [Matches played without a chair umpire](#) matches.

Players must not carry or consume alcohol or illicit drugs on any courts within the Hills Tennis Association.

Off court interference – These disturbances are NOT permitted:

- Spectator interference
- Coaching
- Unfair comments made within earshot of players
- Unsporting behaviour e.g. clapping double faults/hitting the ball into the net etc
- Support for one player that intimidates the other player.

Please notify the relevant committee of any breaches of the above rules.

1.3 Safeguarding Children & Special Needs Players

The HTA supports and promotes Tennis Australia's Safeguarding Children Guidelines. The HTA is an inclusive Association and where any Rules of Match and Play appear to be inconsistent with the requirements of special needs players, then common sense should prevail, and appropriate action taken with mutual agreement between players, parents and supervisors at the time. Any queries can be referred to the relevant committee.

2. Registration & Affiliation

Clubs will affiliate with Tennis SA by the due date each year and will register all relevant people (including players, Hot Shots, fill-ins, volunteers, committees, life members) on the **My Tennis** online registration software, so that they become insured.

Penalty: Forfeiture of all sets played after 1st November in the current season for those players not registered on My Tennis-

3. Team Nominations

Team nominations are to be sent to the relevant committee by the date specified. A player cannot be nominated more than once within one competition type.

Additions to a nominated team during the season must be sent through to the relevant committee for approval, with a cut-off date of January 31 of the current season. If the player is considered significantly above the standard of that division, permission may not be granted for them to join the team.

Penalty: Forfeiture of sets played by the player in breach of the above rule

4. Competitions

4.1 Junior Competition – Saturday mornings

In emergencies, players may play in both junior 8.30am and 10.30am timeslots.

Orange Ball Competition (mixed) – players aged 8 & under as at 30 September of the current season. This is a modified competition. Coaches should assist in determining player eligibility for orange ball. No player aged 6 and under is permitted to play without an “Exceptional Talent Permit” from the JAC. No finals will be played and premiership points will not be awarded.

Match Format - first to 4 games wins. Games to be "sudden death" deuce. No tie breaks.

Green Ball Competition (mixed) – players aged 10 & under as at 30 September of the current season – provided they have achieved the skills as per the **Beginners Skills Checklist**. Coaches should assist in determining player eligibility. Players aged 10 and under cannot play in the yellow ball competition without an “Exceptional Talent Permit” from the JAC. These divisions will play finals.

Match Format - First to 6 games wins.

Green and Orange ball age restrictions are guidelines only. Older players can play in these divisions if they aren't ready to play in the Yellow Ball competition.

Yellow Ball Competition (boys & girls separate) - players aged 17 and under as at 30 September of the current season.

Match Format – (Boys Div 1-7, Girls Div 1-5) – one set to 6 games (tiebreak at 5 all).
(Boys Div 8+, Girls Div 6+) – first to 6 games wins (no tiebreaks played).

4.2 Senior Saturday Competition

Traditional Competition

Doubles - best of 3 sets (tiebreaker at 6 all for first 2 sets, then a match tiebreaker as the third set if needed).

Singles - Division 1 Men and Women: best of 3 sets (tiebreaker at 6 all for first 2 sets, then a match tiebreaker as the third set if needed).

Singles – Division 2 Men and Women – one set to 9 games. Tiebreaker at 8 all.

Singles – all other Divisions – one set to 6 games. Tiebreaker played at 6 all.

Doubles Competition

Teams to be made up of 2 men and 2 women plus 2 other players of either gender. Players to play in order of merit regardless of gender. Twelve sets to be played for the match. Each rubber is a 6-game set, tiebreak at 6-all.

4.3 Night Tennis

Each rubber is a 6-game set, tiebreak at 5-all.

4.4 Midweek Competition – Tuesday mornings

Each rubber is a 6-game set, tiebreak at 5-all. Match pairings as follows:

- 1&2, 3&4 play 2 sets
- 1&3, 2&4 play 1 set
- 1&4, 2&3 play 1 set

No finals are played in the midweek competition - the team finishing highest on the premiership table at the end of the minor round will be deemed Premiers.

Tiebreaks:

All set tiebreaks shall be standard 7-point tiebreaks (first to seven points with a margin of two). Where specified, a Match tiebreak shall be a 10-point tiebreak (first to ten points with a margin of two).

5. Provision of Courts, Equipment & Facilities

Each Club must ensure their courts and facilities are safe. Please advise the relevant Club in writing if there are any safety concerns, with a copy also being sent to the HTA.

Clubs shall provide at least 2 courts per match, unless exempted by the HTA. Extra courts are to be utilised if available. Facilities shall be ready for play at least 15 minutes prior to matches. Nets are to be in good condition and net straps fitted. One squeegee per 2 courts to be available.

Home teams shall provide balls for matches.

- All Div 1 Seniors matches – 8 new balls per match.
- All Seniors Divs 2 and below & Night Tennis – 4 new balls per match
- Juniors - 4 balls per match. New balls must be used for Division 1 matches. All other divisions are to use either new or tight balls with visible brands.

6. Match Information and Entering Results

Clubs will enter their players into teams in League Manager before the first match of the season. All player names must be entered for each match every week. After a one month “breaking in” period, any player name missing from the match result, one week after the match has been played may lose two premiership points per occurrence (at the discretion of the relevant Committee). Clubs who are having difficulty with any aspect of using the software can email Tennis Australia via htatracker@hta.asn.au for support.

6.1 Match Information

All fixtures can be found on Match Centre (leagues.tennis.com.au).

6.2 Match Scoresheets

Senior Saturday – Scoresheets to be printed from Match Centre (leagues.tennis.com.au).

Juniors - Scoresheets as provided by the HTA.

Scoresheets (including those for abandoned matches) must be correctly filled in and signed by both Supervisors/Captains. They must be produced within 48 hours if requested.

6.3 Entering Results

Home teams are required to enter match results by 6pm Sunday after the match. Away teams to confirm matches by 9pm Tuesday night. Night Tennis matches to be entered within 48 hours of the match. Matches not confirmed within a week of the match will be automatically confirmed by the HTA.

A penalty of \$20 per home match not entered will apply.

7. Restrictions on Players

A player may:

Play for 2 teams from their club in the same division, but only if they are a regular number 3 or 4 player in that division. All players may cross between teams for the first 4 weeks only. Fill-ins may fill in for any team, but once they have played 5 matches for one team, that is deemed to be their regular team.

A female player may:

Play in the men’s competition if, at the discretion of the SAC (taking playing statistics and ranking into account) they are deemed too strong for the women’s competition. This permit may be granted to a female player who approaches the SAC to play in the men’s competition. The number of females playing in the men’s competition will be reviewed annually and depending on the circumstances, all existing permits may not be automatically granted for the following season.

A player may not:

- play for more than one club in the same competition without written clearance from the player's former Club.
- Play in more than one senior match in each series of matches.
- Play for more than one tennis Association in the same series of competitions during a season.

Clarification 1: Players playing in an Association deemed to be an extension of the HTA (excluding Metro League) will be permitted to fill in for a HTA club (Division 1 only) a maximum of 3 times per player per season. This applies to the lowest 2 players as per the nomination form. Permission for any other player to fill back to the HTA must be expressly given by the SAC/JAC. Only one player per higher Association is permitted to play back to HTA per week. Order of merit must be followed at all times. These players are not eligible to play HTA finals under any circumstances.

Clarification 2: HTA club players may fill up to another Association a maximum of 3 times per player per season, provided order of merit is adhered to.

Clarification 3: Where the HTA is seen as an extension to another Association, players may fill-in between the 2 Associations, provided written permission has been given by both the outside Association and by the relevant HTA Committee.

Clarification 4: Junior players participating in the EDTA Friday night competition are exempt from the above.

Penalty: Forfeiture of all sets played by the player.

8. Other Tennis Association participation

Prior written permission from the HTA must be obtained no later than 2 weeks before the close of HTA nomination dates if clubs wish to participate in a competition within another Association – for both winter and summer competitions.

For summer competitions, if nominating to a higher Association, nominations must be for Division 1 only (or a division deemed stronger than the highest relevant HTA division by the SAC/JAC). A copy of the nomination form for the other Association, showing all intending players' names is to be submitted to the SAC/JAC.

Penalty for breach of the above conditions – 4 premiership points deducted from the highest like-division in the HTA competition for each breach of this rule.

9. Conduct of Matches

9.1 Match Times

Junior Saturday: matches 8.30am-10.30am and 10.30am-12.30pm. Matches must finish at these times unless there are vacant courts available. If part-way through a set, play will cease at the end of the game (not set) currently in progress.

Senior Saturday afternoon matches 1.00pm. No sets to be started after 6.00pm.

Night matches 7.00pm.

Midweek matches 9.15am.

Players to be present at least 15 minutes before the scheduled starting times.

Junior Matches: Any team not ready to play (either singles or doubles) by the above start time **will forfeit all sets not completed** by the appointed finishing time.

Senior Saturday & Midweek Matches: Any player not present and ready to play 30 minutes after the start time above, unless by consent of the opposing Captain, shall forfeit the first set they were scheduled to play. Flexibility must be shown where a team has 5 or 6 players.

Night Matches: Any team not ready to play one set 15 minutes after the start time, shall forfeit that set.

9.2 Match protocols

The match scoresheet must be fully completed before players take to the court. Warmups are to be of a maximum 3 minutes. Home teams to provide morning (Midweek) and afternoon (Senior Saturday) tea.

An umpire must be provided if requested by a player. The person to umpire will be via mutual agreement of both captains/supervisors.

10. Team Members on the Day & Order of Merit

10.1 Team Members

SENIOR Traditional: A Fifth/Sixth Player may be used, provided order of merit is followed.

SENIOR Doubles: Up to 8 players may be used in any 6-player competition provided the order of merit is maintained and the playing positions are filled by equal numbers of men and women, plus 2 of either gender. (i.e. 3 men and 3 women plus 1 or 2 of either gender)

A minimum of 8 playing positions must be filled by men and 8 must be filled by women with the remaining 8 being filled by either gender.

JUNIORS: A fifth player is permitted to play.

Penalty for breach - Forfeiture of Match

Injured/Sick Player: may be replaced by a fifth/sixth/substitute player, provided no player plays more than the maximum sets allowed per player. A substitute player may be called upon but must be ready to play within 30 minutes of the player retiring.

If a team has a bye or gives or receives a forfeit, a club must not play any player in a division lower than where that player usually plays.

10.2 Order of Merit

Players must play in order of their ability, in relation to the other players in their team. This is primarily, but not solely, determined by the player's match results. Clubs deemed to have players playing out of order of merit will be required to provide a written explanation to the relevant Committee. A penalty may be applied.

Junior and Senior Traditional Competitions: - Doubles: The number 1 singles player MUST play in the first doubles (if they are in fact playing doubles on that day).

Penalty: All sets played by in the wrong order will be forfeited.

10.3 Changes in Order of Merit

Minor Rounds only: - A player can only move one **relative position** per week. In all cases players must observe the order of merit. (See Appendix 1 for an explanation of "One Relative Position per Week").

For permission to move a player more than one relative position the Club shall apply to the relevant Committee, giving full particulars and reasons for such proposed changes.

Penalty: All sets played "out of position" by a player who has been moved more than one relative position in one week may be retrospectively forfeited.

10.4 Forfeiting Whole Matches

Forfeiting a match should only take place once all other avenues have been investigated. Senior teams may negotiate to play matches outside of scheduled match times to avoid a forfeit – please notify the SAC. Junior teams affected by the Heathfield High School International Volleyball Championships may also reschedule matches to avoid a forfeit.

A Club forfeiting a match shall advise the opposing Club Coordinator (Senior, Junior, Night, Midweek) at least 2 hours before the start of the match. All Junior matches must be notified no later than 9pm on Friday evening.

Any team which forfeits three matches will be deemed to have retired from the competition.

A fine of \$100 will apply for any team withdrawing/retiring from the competition

10.5 Forfeiting Sets/Rubbers

If any set needs to be forfeited, the team must forfeit the lowest position. If the forfeit needs to occur after play has commenced and the scoresheet has been completed, then sets forfeited will be those that the forfeiting player would have played providing the player is present at the venue at match start time.

11. Cancelled, Unfinished or Abandoned Matches

11.1 Hot Weather Cancellations

Junior morning, Senior Saturday & Midweek matches will be cancelled if the forecast temperature is 36°C or above for Mt Barker the night before the match. Cancellations of Friday night Junior competitions will be notified via the HTA website by 4.30pm Friday. Night Tennis matches will not be cancelled.

11.2 Wet Weather – Abandoning Matches

All players are to attend their scheduled match. Supervisors/Captains may agree to abandon a match, provided it is later than **half an hour** (Juniors and Night Tennis) and **one hour** (Senior Saturday and Midweek Tennis) after the starting time.

Any team without all players present at match start time or with players leaving a match before the above times shall forfeit those sets and/or the match.

Supervisors/captains should use every endeavour to complete the match. No person can be forced to play on wet or slippery courts. If Supervisors/captains disagree on abandoning a match, reports in writing, are to be lodged to the relevant Committee within three days of the match.

Penalty: Forfeiture of sets by team without sufficient players

11.3 Emergency Services Duties

A match affected by a player required for emergency services duty will be abandoned. If it is a finals match, it shall be replayed as per rule 13.2.

12. Premiership Points and Tables

12.1 Determination of Winning Team

This is based on rubbers, then sets, then games. If these are equal, the match shall be drawn. Match tiebreak sets (where used) are counted as 1 set and 1 game when tallying final results.

12.2 Allocation of Points for Matches

Doubles & Midweek: Four points for a win, plus one point for each rubber/set won.

Traditional, Juniors & Night: Three points for a win, one point per rubber/set won.

12.3 Points Allocation for Drawn, Abandoned or Cancelled Matches

Points for drawn/incomplete/abandoned matches will be split evenly between the teams. Points will be awarded for any sets completed. No points will be allocated for HTA cancelled matches.

12.4 Allocation of Points to Teams Affected by Programme Changes

Teams which move division due to a regrade will be allocated an average of points of the **division to which they are moving**.

12.5 Premiership Tables

Points ratio will be used to determine ladder positions. Premiership tables will be based on the allocation of points as per rule 12.2. After that, tables will be determined by matches won, then rubbers won, then sets won, and then games won.

13. Finals

Higher ranked teams will have home court advantage for all Junior and Night Finals, and for Semi and Preliminary Finals for Seniors. If insufficient courts, venues will be determined by the relevant Committee. Senior Grand Final venues will be determined by the SAC.

In finals, doubles will be played first then singles in order of 4, 3, 2, 1.

13.1 Eligibility for Finals

Saturday Junior & Senior matches: Players must meet **BOTH** of the following to qualify for finals:

- Has played five matches in the team in which the player wishes to play finals; **and**
- Was nominated (originally or subsequently approved as per Rule 3) in the team in which the player wishes to play finals.

A player shall not be permitted to play in finals matches in a division lower than that in which they have played the majority of matches.

Clubs will forward team lists for Finals (showing all intended players and order of merit) to the relevant committee two weeks prior to finals. Once approved, only players on distributed lists, or who are subsequently approved as emergency players are permitted to play finals.

Penalty: Forfeiture of all sets played by a player who contravenes this rule.

13.2 Finals Matches – Unfinished or Cancelled

All unfinished/cancelled finals matches must be completed before the next round of finals and should be played with the same players as recorded on the original scoresheet.

Junior matches will be rescheduled to the Sunday morning following the final at 9am. Senior matches can be rescheduled with the agreement of both Captains to a time and venue approved by the relevant Committee but no later than the Wednesday immediately following the finals match. If teams are unable to agree, the relevant Committee will determine this.

Night Tennis teams are to agree on a suitable night to reschedule the final - within a week of the original scheduled Grand Final. If neither team is available to complete the Grand Final match, the Night Committee will award the match to the team finishing highest on the premiership table.

13.3 Drawn Finals Matches

All players must stay at the court until a match result has been reached. If a player is absent and the match is drawn, no substitute player can be used and the relevant tie break doubles game will be forfeited.

Juniors, Saturday Traditional and Night Tennis: The 1st and 2nd doubles as listed on the scoresheet will each play a tie-break game (not set). The winning team shall be the team aggregating the most points in these tie-break games and, if points are equal the team who won the 1st doubles tie-break game wins the final.

Saturday Doubles: Players 1&2, 3&4, 5&6 (ie Rubbers 6, 7 & 11) will play a tie break game (not set) each. The team winning the most tie break games will be declared the winner. The same players must be used as in the original rubbers.

14. Submissions to Committees & Additional Information

All initial communication MUST go through the Club's relevant coordinator or secretary. These policies and documents are available for further information if required:

- ITF's Rules of Tennis - <https://www.itftennis.com/media/277603/277603.pdf>
- Tennis Australia's Code of Behaviour - <https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/TA-Code-of-Behaviour-Tournaments-and-Weekly-Competitions.pdf>
- Tennis Australia's *Matches Played Without a Chair Umpire* document - <http://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Rules-for-matches-without-chair-umpire-2013-latest.pdf>
- Tennis Australia's *Etiquette* - <http://www.tennis.com.au/learn/rules-and-scoring/etiquette>
- HTA Foot Faults Policy - <https://1drv.ms/w/s!Amrn9MMTJMPSkiUstHkAyZEuUF9J>
- Beginner Skills Checklist (JAC) - <https://1drv.ms/w/s!Amrn9MMTJMPSkiLTRzX8ft4fQXIF>

15. APPENDIX 1: One Relative Position Explanation

The “One Relative Position Per Week” Rule

An explanation by example

Refer to Rules 1.1, 5.1.1, 5.2, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.9.5

WEEK n

DIVISION 3	Adam
	Bill
	Charles
	David
DIVISION 4	Evan
	Fred
	George
	Harry

This example shows team compositions over a 2-week period.

At the top is the team list for Week n.

Beneath are possible team lists for the following Week n+1.

Complying lists are shown with a ✓, lists that infringe the rule are shown with a ✗. An explanation is provided below each option.

(Hopefully, the alphabetical order of names may help.)

WEEK n+1

DIVISION 3	Adam
	David
	Charles
	Evan
DIVISION 4	Fred
	George
	Harry
	Ian

✓ Charles and David have simply swapped positions in the order of merit (i.e. 1 relative position). Because of Bill's absence, players below him have moved up.

DIVISION 3	Adam
	Charles
	Bill
	Evan
DIVISION 4	Fred
	Harry
	George
	Ian

✓ Bill and Charles have simply swapped positions in the order of merit (i.e. 1 relative position). So have George and Harry. Because of David's absence, players below him have moved up.

DIVISION 3	David
	Evan
	Fred
	George
DIVISION 4	Harry
	Ian
	John
	Ken

✓ The absence of Adam, Bill and Charles have forced others to move up several positions. However, no relative positions have changed.

DIVISION 3	Adam
	Bill
	Charles
	Fred
DIVISION 4	Evan
	George
	Harry
	Ian

✓ Evan and Fred have simply swapped positions in the order of merit. David's absence has forced players to move up. The line between divisions doesn't impose additional restrictions.

DIVISION 3	Adam
	David
	Bill
	Evan
DIVISION 4	Fred
	George
	Harry
	Ian

✗ David has infringed. He can't go above both Bill and Charles (even though Charles isn't playing this week). That change needs to be made over 2 weeks. David's sets are forfeited.

DIVISION 3	David
	Adam
	Evan
	Fred
DIVISION 4	George
	Harry
	Ian
	John

✗ David has infringed again. He can't go above Charles, Bill and Adam in 1 week (even though Charles and Bill aren't playing. David's sets are forfeited.

16. APPENDIX 2: Five Player Rule interpretation

Senior Doubles 5 -Player Rule interpretations

Each player must play only 1 set within each Rotation.

Position	Order of Merit	Rotation 1 Mixed	Rotation 2 1&2, 3&4	Rotation 3 1&3, 2&4	Rotation 4 1&4, 3&3	Total Sets Played
1	Pauline	1	1	1	1	4
2	Leanda	3	2	2		3
3	Sally	4	3		2	3
4	Louise			3	3	3
	Louise			4		
5	Von	2	4		4	3
		4	4	4	4	16

The examples I have given below show several acceptable ways to achieve your aim of having 1 player play 4 sets while the other 4 players each play 3 sets. There are many combinations and permutations that are acceptable. The important thing to remember is that 1 player must stand out of each of the 4 Rotations, and that no 1 player is permitted to play both sets within a single Rotation.

First decide who is going to stand out of each Rotation. Then the rest is easy!!! If you use a grid like this to first decide who is standing out of each Rotation you can then simply fill-out your scoresheet by referring to the position number that each player will play in each of the 4 Rotations.

Position	Order of Merit	Rotation 1 Mixed	Rotation 2 1&2, 3&4	Rotation 3 1&3, 2&4	Rotation 4 1&4, 3&3	Total Sets Played
1	Pauline	1	1	1	1	4
2	Leanda	2	2	2		3
3	Sally	3	3		2	3
4	Louise	4		3	3	3
5	Von		4	4	4	3
		4	4	4	4	16

Position	Order of Merit	Rotation 1 Mixed	Rotation 2 1&2, 3&4	Rotation 3 1&3, 2&4	Rotation 4 1&4, 3&3	Total Sets Played
1	Pauline	1	1	1	1	4
2	Leanda		2	2	2	3
3	Sally	2		3	3	3
4	Louise	3	3		4	3
5	Von	4	4	4		3
		4	4	4	4	16