

**JUNIOR COMPETITION**  
**BY-LAWS AND MATCH REGULATIONS**  
**Updated 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 These By-Laws and Match Regulations once adopted shall not be repealed, or altered, nor added to without notice of motion given at least 21 calendar days before a meeting of the Macedon Ranges Tennis Association (MRTA) General Committee called to deal with the repeal, alteration, or addition to the By-Laws and Match Regulations.
- 1.2 If any rules are deemed to cause hardship to a club, that club has the right of appeal to the MRTA General Committee for relief.
- 1.3 Ignorance of the rules shall not be regarded as an excuse for any breach thereof.
- 1.4 The MRTA is affiliated with Tennis Victoria and the Victorian Country Tennis Association (VCTA). The order of precedence for the application of By-Laws and Match Regulations is MRTA, VCTA, then Tennis Victoria.
- 1.5 All clubs affiliated with the MRTA shall have public liability cover including, but not limited to, that which is provided by the VCTA through Tennis Victoria. All fees deemed by the VCTA to be payment for such cover should be forwarded to the VCTA by the due date nominated by the VCTA. Any club not forwarding such payment shall be suspended from all MRTA activities until payment is received.
- 1.6 All players competing in MRTA-organised competitions agree to abide by the MRTA Code of Conduct. Non observance shall incur penalties as deemed fit by the Junior Match and Permit Committee within the guidelines provided in the MRTA Code of Conduct.

**2 COMPETITION/GRADING**

- 2.1 All associated clubs shall supply to the Junior Match and Permit Committee a list of teams to be entered in the competition. Each team entry shall comprise a list of names of regular team members and emergencies and shall be submitted on the official team entry form provided on the MRTA website. Team entries which comprise players of differing club affiliation can be submitted as Combined Club Teams. All team entries must state whether the team is a Club Team or a Combined Club Team. The Junior Match and Permit Committee shall determine the home court location for each Combined Club Team, after consultation with the relevant club Junior Coordinators if required. The home court club will then be responsible for the administration of the Combined Club Team.
- 2.2 All clubs are required to submit their team registration fees, as specified by the MRTA, together with their team entries for each season. Clubs not paying these fees prior to the commencement of the season will be liable for a penalty as determined by the MRTA General Committee of up to, but not exceeding, 50% of the total registration fees due that are still outstanding at the start of that season. Team registration fees for Combined Club Teams shall be paid by the nominating clubs at proportional rates. For Combined

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- Club Teams, the penalty for late fees shall be paid by each constituent club in proportion to the number of players from that club registered in the team.
- 2.3 The Junior Match and Permit Committee will grade teams in accordance with these By-Laws. The Junior Match and Permit Committee will use all information available to them when grading teams/players, including results from previous seasons.
  - 2.4 In any section, except the top section, the teams playing in the previous grand final will be promoted to the next highest section unless unable to field a satisfactory team, or other circumstances make this inappropriate. In any section, except the bottom section, the two teams finishing lowest after home and away matches will be relegated to the next lowest section unless a club fails to field an appropriate team, or other circumstances make this inappropriate.
  - 2.5 The Junior Match and Permit Committee shall provide a fixture of matches for the season between competing teams in each section. Matches shall be played as set out in the MRTA fixture. The Junior Match and Permit Committee shall arrange matches so that all teams in a section play all other teams in that section an equal number of times.
  - 2.6 Only courts that have been approved by the MRTA shall be used in competition.
  - 2.7 When submitting teams, clubs shall allow a minimum of 1.5 courts per team.
  - 2.8 Correct tennis attire, consistent with the MRTA Dress Code, must be worn at all times during matches. Non-observance may incur game penalties imposed by the Match and Permit Committee, as defined in the Dress Code.
  - 2.9 The home team shall supply one pair of new balls and one pair of used balls in good condition per match.
  - 2.10 Each club must provide at least one adult supervisor per team to supervise matches and to ensure that play is as continuous as practicable. For sections C1 and below, each team is to provide one adult umpire. For sections B3 and above, umpires are not required unless requested by any team member.
  - 2.11 The Junior Match and Permit Committee may vary the level at which umpires are required to be provided as they see fit.

### **3 FORMAT – SUMMER & WINTER COMPETITION**

- 3.1 The default format of play shall be Format No. 5 for the two lowest sections and Format No. 4 for all other sections. Prior to the start of a season, the Junior Match and Permit Committee may select another format from the following list.

#### **Format No. 1 – Teams consist of two boys and two girls.**

Play shall be in the following order:

- 1st Boys Singles
- 1st Girls Singles
- 2nd Boys Singles
- 2nd Girls Singles
- Boys Doubles
- Girls Doubles
- 1st Mixed Doubles

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2nd Mixed Doubles

**Format No. 2 – Teams consist of three boys and three girls.**

Play shall be in the following order:

1st Boys Doubles

1st Girls Doubles

2nd Boys Doubles

2nd Girls Doubles

3rd Boys Doubles

3rd Girls Doubles

1st Mixed Doubles

2nd Mixed Doubles

3rd Mixed Doubles

**Format No. 3 – Teams consist of two boys and two girls.**

Play shall be in the following order:

Boys Doubles

Girls Doubles

1st Mixed Doubles (1st boy and 1st girl)

2nd Mixed Doubles (2nd boy and 2nd girl)

3rd Mixed Doubles (1st boy and 2nd girl)

4th Mixed Doubles (2nd boy and 1st girl)

**Format No. 4 – Teams consist of four players (any combination of boys and girls).**

Play shall be in the following order:

1st Doubles (players 1 and 2)

2nd Doubles (players 3 and 4)

1st Singles

2nd Singles

3rd Singles

4th Singles

3rd Doubles (players 1 and 3)

4th Doubles (players 2 and 4)

**Format No. 5 – Teams consist of four players (any combination of boys and girls).**

Play shall be in the following order:

1st Doubles (players 1 and 2)

2nd Doubles (players 3 and 4)

3rd Doubles (players 1 and 3)

4th Doubles (players 2 and 4)

5th Doubles (players 1 and 4)

6th Doubles (players 2 and 3)

**Format No. 6 – Teams consist of six players (any combination of boys and girls).**

Play shall be in the following order:

- 1st Doubles (players 1 and 2)
- 2nd Doubles (players 4 and 5)
- 3rd Doubles (players 1 and 3)
- 4th Doubles (players 4 and 6)
- 5th Doubles (players 2 and 3)
- 6th Doubles (players 5 and 6)
- 7th Doubles (players 1 and 4)
- 8th Doubles (players 2 and 5)
- 9th Doubles (players 3 and 6)

**Format No. 7 – Teams consist of three players (any combination of boys and girls).**

Play shall be in the following order:

- 1st Singles
- 1st Doubles (players 2 and 3)
- 2nd Singles
- 2nd Doubles (players 1 and 3)
- 3rd Singles
- 3rd Doubles (players 1 and 2)

- 3.2 Players in grades A and B must play in relative ranked order.
- 3.3 Ranked order may be changed at the season midpoint only and the team re-submitted to the Junior Match and Permit Committee by listing the new order on the back of the first official score sheet for the second half of the season.
- 3.4 Participants in finals matches must play in the relative ranked order of either the first or second half of the season. Whichever ranked order is chosen for the first finals match played by a team must be used for any other finals match played by that team in that season.
- 3.5 Players playing in a position below their relative ranked order will be penalised by the loss of all games won by that player.

**4 PLAYERS/ELIGIBILITY**

- 4.1 To be eligible to play in the Summer competition, players must be under 18 years of age on September 30<sup>th</sup> of the year the Summer competition starts.
- 4.2 To be eligible to play in the Winter competition, players must be under 18 years of age on April 30<sup>th</sup> of the year the Winter competition takes place.
- 4.3 No player shall play in any team competing in an event organised by the MRTA unless he or she is a financial member of an affiliated MRTA club, has the approval of the Junior Match and Permit Committee and is a registered player with Tennis Victoria.
- 4.4 No player shall play with any club unless he or she is a financial member of that club. Members of a Combined Club Team must be financial members of their nominating

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- club. Similarly, no player shall play with a Combined Club Team unless he or she is a financial member of one of the constituent clubs for that Combined Club Team.
- 4.5 No player shall play with more than one club in the MRTA in the same season. Members of a Combined Club Team are eligible to play for their nominating club in the same section or above. Combined Club Team players must give first priority to playing for their Combined Club Team.
  - 4.6 A player cannot play below the grading allocated by the Junior Match and Permit Committee.
  - 4.7 If in need of an emergency player, teams may use any player from any team in their club from the same section or below. A Match and Permit Authority (M&P Authority) is not needed in this situation. Where clubs have more than one team in a particular section, refer to section 4.12 of the By-Laws regarding eligibility.
  - 4.8 A Combined Club Team may use a player from any team in their section or below, from any of the constituent clubs, as an emergency player. Similarly, a Club Team may use a player from a Combined Club Team (for which their club is a constituent club) in their section or below, as an emergency player. An M&P Authority is not needed in these two situations. Notwithstanding the above, neither a Club Team or a Combined Club Team may use a member of the opposing team of the day, including members not playing on the day.
  - 4.9 Teams may also use players from their club, or one of the constituent clubs in the case of Combined Club Teams, who are not registered to play for a team in that season as an emergency player. In this case, an M&P Authority must be obtained and recorded on the official score sheet as described in section 4.10 of these By-Laws. The M&P Authority then remains valid for the rest of the season. Any emergency player used must be a financial member of the applicable club in accordance with section 4.4 of these By-Laws.
  - 4.10 Emergency players' names, usual section (if any) and M&P Authority details (name of Match and Permit Committee member granting the Authority) must be written on the official score sheet that is submitted to the Junior Statistician. Teams failing to do this will be penalised in accordance with section 4.17 of these By-Laws.
  - 4.11 An emergency player must be eligible in accordance with sections 4.1 and 4.2 of these By-Laws, as applicable.
  - 4.12 Where a club has more than one team in a particular section, a player may play up to and including three matches in a team before being ineligible to play in other teams in that section. Once a player has played four or more matches for a team, they are ineligible to play in any other team in that section. This By-Law applies to both Club Teams and Combined Club Teams.
  - 4.13 If a player, upon sustaining an injury during a set, is unable to continue play within 15 minutes of sustaining the injury, then the opposing team shall be deemed to have won all remaining points in that set.
  - 4.14 For the purpose of these By-Laws, injury is defined as any condition that renders the player unable to continue play.
  - 4.15 In the event that a player sustains an injury, an emergency player may be used in subsequent sets. An emergency player may only be used if that player is eligible under these By-Laws.

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- 4.16 Once the determination has been made that an emergency player is required, the emergency player must be available to play within 45 minutes unless both captains agree otherwise. Where possible, play of sets shall continue in the order shown on the score sheet until the arrival of the emergency player. If necessary, sets may be played out of order to minimise the delay caused by waiting for the emergency player.
- 4.17 Any team playing a player or players whose eligibility does not comply with these By-Laws shall be penalised by the loss of all games in every set in which the ineligible player or players takes part.

### **5 COMMENCEMENT/COMPLETION OF MATCHES**

- 5.1 All matches shall commence at 8.30am for the Summer competition. Matches may commence earlier by prior agreement of the two team managers.
- 5.2 All matches shall commence at 9.00am for the Winter competition. Matches may commence earlier by prior agreement of the two team managers.
- 5.3 Matches may be re-scheduled to play at any time prior to the scheduled time with the agreement of all members of both teams concerned.
- 5.4 At its discretion, prior to the commencement of a season, the Junior Match and Permit Committee may reschedule an entire section to a night session in order to alleviate court congestion. In this instance, matches are to commence at 6.00pm, or earlier by prior agreement of the team managers, and a minimum of two courts are to be provided for each match. No club is to be disadvantaged should the use of lights become necessary. The Junior Match and Permit Committee will give notice to all clubs of this change at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 5.5 The home club is to ensure that the venue is open and courts are ready for play at least 15 minutes prior to the advertised starting time for the match. Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation for not achieving this shall incur a \$25.00 fine at the discretion of the Junior Match and Permit Committee.
- 5.6 Where more than one court is available for playing a match, then the extra court capacity must be used. However, only two sets shall be played concurrently unless both captains agree to do otherwise.
- 5.7 Where a team is unable or unwilling to commence play 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, sets shall be forfeited in the following manner. One set shall be forfeited initially for each available court (up to and including two courts) and then one set shall be forfeited for every 20 minutes thereafter for each available court (up to and including two courts). Sets shall be forfeited in accordance with the order of play.
- 5.8 Unless team managers agree to continue the match, matches not completed by 12.00 noon in the Summer competition shall be declared a draw unless one team is in an unbeatable position in which case that team will be declared the winner. If matches are discontinued, sets being played at 12.00 noon shall be completed but no new sets shall be started. Points for any sets won before play is discontinued shall still be awarded in accordance with By-Law 6.9. No premiership points will be awarded for sets not completed by 12.00 noon.
- 5.9 Unless team managers agree to continue the match, matches not completed by 12.30pm in the Winter competition shall be declared a draw unless one team is in an unbeatable

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position in which case that team will be declared the winner. If matches are discontinued, sets being played at 12.30pm shall be completed but no new sets shall be started. Points for any sets won before play is discontinued shall still be awarded in accordance with By-Law 6.9. No premiership points will be awarded for sets not completed by 12.30pm.

### **6 RESULTS**

- 6.1 Both captains shall complete the team sheet prior to the commencement of each match. Players shall play each set in the nominated order and in accordance with the order of play on the score sheet. Notwithstanding this, sets may be played out of order with the agreement of both captains.
- 6.2 Results shall be recorded on the official score sheet available on the MRTA website at [www.mrta.org.au](http://www.mrta.org.au). The results on the score sheet must show particulars of each set played including names of each player and must be signed by both captains.
- 6.3 Any player whose name appears on a score sheet received by the Junior Statistician will be deemed to have played in that match.
- 6.4 For sections B1 and lower, sets shall be first to six games with no advantage or tie-breaker.
- 6.5 When playing doubles in sections A3 and higher, sets shall be first to six games with no advantage or tie-breaker. When playing singles in sections A3 and higher, standard sets shall be played. That is, the first player(s) to reach six games with a two game advantage or, if that does not occur, seven games with a two game advantage, shall be the winner. If a set reaches six games all, a standard 12 point tie-breaker shall be played to determine the winner.
- 6.6 The team winning the greatest number of games in a match shall be the winner and shall receive two premiership points.
- 6.7 In the event of the games being equal, the team winning the greatest number of sets shall be the winner and receive two premiership points.
- 6.8 In the event games and sets are equal, the match will be declared a draw and each team will receive one premiership point.
- 6.9 In addition to the premiership points awarded for a win or draw, one premiership point shall be awarded to each team for each set won by that team.
- 6.10 The winning teams are responsible for ensuring that score sheets are in the hands of the Junior Statistician no later than the Wednesday following the match. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of two premiership points unless a reasonable excuse is received by the Junior Statistician.
- 6.11 Winning teams must lodge results electronically on the MRTA website no later than 6.00pm on the Sunday following the match. Failure to do so will result in an automatic penalty of two premiership points unless a reasonable excuse is received by the Junior Statistician.
- 6.12 If results are not lodged, or errors in the lodged results are not identified, within a period of one week following the match, the currently published version of the premiership ladder will stand as correct.

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- 6.13 In the event of an incomplete or incorrect score sheet being received by the Junior Statistician, the winning team will be penalised two premiership points for second and subsequent offences. For first offences, the Junior Match and Permit Committee will notify the Secretary of the offending club by telephone or email and give them a sequence number for the offence. This sequence number shall be recorded by the Junior Match and Permit Committee as evidence that the club has been advised.
- 6.14 In the event of a match being abandoned, the home club must ensure the score sheet is received by the Junior Statistician and that the result is lodged electronically by the due time.
- 6.15 Each team is responsible for lodging individual player statistics electronically by 6.00pm on the Sunday following the match.

### **7 INCLEMENT WEATHER – RAIN, HEAT, FIRE**

- 7.1 In the event of inclement weather, teams must attend the courts where matches are scheduled. Matches are to be abandoned if no play is possible by one hour after the scheduled start time. Matches may be abandoned prior to this time by the mutual agreement of both team captains.
- 7.2 If a match is not played owing to rain, heat or fire, the match shall be declared a draw and all available premiership points for the match shall be shared equally between the two teams. If a match is started but then discontinued owing to rain, heat or fire, the match shall be declared a draw unless one team is in an unbeatable position in which case that team shall be declared the winner. Premiership points for any sets won before play is discontinued shall still be awarded in accordance with By-Law 6.9. Premiership points for sets not completed when a match is discontinued shall be shared equally by the two teams.
- 7.3 On days of extreme heat, the managers of each team shall measure the temperature in the centre of the court out of direct sunlight. Should the temperature be 34 degrees Celsius or higher, no play shall take place. If a match is commenced and there is a perception of an increase in temperature during the course of the match, the temperature may be re-measured prior to the commencement of a new set. Should the temperature at this time be 34 degrees Celsius or higher, play is to cease. Play can be halted at any time by mutual agreement of the team managers.

### **8 FORFEITS**

- 8.1 In the event of a team not having the required number of players to form a full team, then the team shall forfeit such sets as the absent players would have participated in.
- 8.2 In the event of a match forfeit, the team receiving the forfeit shall be deemed to have won all games in the match.
- 8.3 A fine of \$20.00 shall be imposed on, and payable by, any Club Team or Combined Club Team forfeiting a match. For Combined Club Teams, the fine shall be paid by each constituent club in proportion to the number of players from that club that are registered in the team.
- 8.4 A fine of \$100.00 shall be imposed on, and payable by, any Club Team or Combined Club Team withdrawing from the competition after grading has been finalised at the Junior Match and Permit Committee meeting convened to grade teams. For Combined

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Club Teams, the fine shall be paid by each constituent club in proportion to the number of players from that club that are registered in the team. All matches on the fixture applying to the team concerned, including those already played, will be deemed a bye and the ladder adjusted accordingly.

### **9 FINALS**

- 9.1 At the end of the home and away matches, the four teams leading on premiership points shall enter the finals round which shall comprise Semi-Final, Preliminary Final and Grand Final matches as defined in Format A or Format B below. Format A will be used unless specified otherwise before the start of the season.

#### **Format A**

First Semi-Final - 3rd team vs 4th team

Second Semi-Final - 1st team vs 2nd team

Preliminary Final - loser Second Semi-Final vs winner First Semi-Final

Grand Final - winner Second Semi-Final vs winner Preliminary Final

#### **Format B**

First Semi-Final – 1st team vs 4th team

Second Semi-Final – 2nd team vs 3rd team

Grand Final - winner First Semi-Final vs winner Second Semi-Final

- 9.2 In the event of teams being equal on premiership points at the end of the home and away matches, the premiership ladder, and therefore the teams that will play in the finals round, shall be decided on percentage. Percentage is defined as the ratio of games won to games lost multiplied by 100.
- 9.3 The Junior Match and Permit Committee shall have absolute discretion to determine the location of all finals. The Junior Match and Permit Committee shall take into consideration the playing of multiple finals at central venues, playing at the venue of the umpires, and other considerations that may arise from time to time.
- 9.4 A player who has not played in at least three home and away matches with their club or, in the case of a Combined Club Team their constituent club, shall not be eligible to play in a finals round match. Matches played for a Combined Club Team count as having been played for the relevant constituent club.
- 9.5 A player may only play finals round matches for one team in one particular season. This rule shall not apply if a player is required to play in a finals match in a higher grade than the one in which he or she normally plays.
- 9.6 An emergency player may be used so long as that player satisfies the normal player eligibility rules.
- 9.7 Each team playing in a finals match is to provide one pair of new balls for the match.
- 9.8 In the event of a finals round match not being completed due to inclement weather, the match shall be recommenced from the last completed game. The recommenced match shall be played on a day mutually agreed by the opposing sides which shall be on or before the same day the following week. The location of the recommenced match shall remain the same unless the Junior Match and Permit Committee advise otherwise.

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- 9.9 In a finals match, in the event that at the end of play teams are equal on both games and sets, then the match shall be decided by a standard 12 point tie-breaker played by the last doubles/mixed doubles pairs as stated in the order of play.
- 9.10 No umpire is required for sections A1 to B3. The host club is to supply a supervisor to ensure that play is as continuous as practicable. A team member may request, and shall be provided with, the intervention of the supervisor or the provision of an umpire should a problem arise.
- 9.11 Umpires are to be provided for sections C1 to D3. This will normally be set out as follows but may be varied by the Junior Match and Permit Committee.

### **For sections comprised of six teams:**

The team finishing fifth on the premiership list shall umpire the Second Semi-Final.

The team finishing sixth on the premiership list shall umpire the First Semi-Final.

The team losing the first Semi-Final shall umpire the Preliminary Final.

The team losing the Preliminary Final shall umpire the Grand Final.

### **For sections comprised of seven teams:**

The team finishing sixth on the premiership list shall umpire the Second Semi-Final.

The team finishing seventh on the premiership list shall umpire the First Semi-Final.

The team finishing fifth on the premiership list shall umpire the Preliminary Final.

The team losing the First Semi-Final shall umpire the Grand Final.

### **For sections comprised of eight teams:**

The team finishing seventh on the premiership list shall umpire the Second Semi-Final.

The team finishing eighth on the premiership list shall umpire the First Semi-Final.

The team finishing sixth on the premiership list shall umpire the Preliminary Final.

The team finishing fifth on the premiership list shall umpire the Grand Final.

### **For sections comprised of nine teams:**

The team finishing eighth on the premiership list shall umpire the Second Semi-Final.

The team finishing ninth on the premiership list shall umpire the First Semi-Final.

The team finishing seventh on the premiership list shall umpire the Preliminary Final.

The team finishing sixth on the premiership list shall umpire the Grand Final.

### **For sections comprised of ten teams:**

The team finishing ninth on the premiership list shall umpire the Second Semi-Final.

The team finishing tenth on the premiership list shall umpire the First Semi-Final.

The team finishing eighth on the premiership list shall umpire the Preliminary Final.

The team finishing seventh on the premiership list shall umpire the Grand Final.

Clubs that are required to umpire junior finals must provide two umpires per court consisting of one adult and one other adult or junior player per court. The names of the umpires in attendance are to be added to the reverse of the score sheet that is submitted to the Junior Statistician.

Clubs failing to provide the required number of umpires will be subject to a fine not exceeding \$50.00.

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- 9.12 In addition to normal umpiring duties as required by the rules of tennis, umpiring teams and host supervisors shall acquaint themselves with the MRTA Code of Conduct and the penalties for breaches of that Code. They shall also be responsible for ensuring that:
- Matches commence on time
  - Score sheets are completed by each team
  - Each team provides two new balls
  - Results are recorded correctly as sets are completed
  - Court maintenance is carried out between sets as appropriate
- 9.13 In addition to other recognised responsibilities, finals players are expected to:
- Ensure courts are correctly cared for
  - Ensure facilities are not damaged and are left in at least as good a condition as they were found in
  - Abide by umpires' decisions

### **10 PROTESTS**

- 10.1 All disputes and protests shall be dealt with by the Junior Match and Permit Committee, at a special meeting which shall be called for that purpose.
- 10.2 All protests must be submitted in writing and must be in the hands of the Junior Match and Permit Committee by 10.00am on the Wednesday following the match.
- 10.3 The President and Secretary of the protesting club must sign all protests.
- 10.4 Protests considered by the Junior Match and Permit Committee to be frivolous will incur a penalty of \$50.00.