



MARLBOROUGH TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC.

RULES FOR WINE BROKERS NZ PREMIER GRADE INTERCLUB COMPETITION 2024

1. INTERPRETATION

- (a) "Match" shall mean a men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, or women's doubles match.
- (b) "Fixture" shall mean the total matches played between two teams.
- (c) "Committee" shall mean the Management Committee of the Marlborough Tennis Association ("MTA").
- (d) "Club" shall mean a tennis club that is affiliated to the Marlborough Tennis Association.
- (e) "Secretary" shall mean the member of the Committee (or administrator) who records all fixture results.
- (f) "Host Team" shall mean the team playing on its own courts or, in the case of the fixture being played at neutral courts, the first team in the Premier Grade Interclub Draw.

2. TEAM ENTRY & MAKEUP

- (a) The composition of the competition shall be made up by teams from the Clubs affiliated to the MTA.
- (b) Teams shall consist of: 6 players (4 men, 2 women, however a female may play in a male position if agreed by the Committee).
- (c) The team entry fee will be set by the MTA who will invoice Clubs after entries close.
- (d) Team entries including a list of team players, must be submitted, on the form provided, to the administrator of this competition by the date advised by the Committee.
- (e) The Committee shall have the right to create or cancel a division, or re-grade any entry or player.

3. FIXTURE DETAILS

- (a) The fixture shall consist of 9 matches:
 - **3 doubles**
 - **6 singles**
- (b) The order of play must be identified on the team result sheet prior to the commencement of the fixture. Players must play in the positions that they are graded for (i.e. a No 1 or 2 graded player cannot play No. 3. singles).
- (c) The number 1 male player must play in the top doubles match. All other doubles combinations are flexible.
- (d) The order of play shall be doubles matches followed by singles matches unless directed otherwise by the Committee.
- (e) Balls will be supplied by the MTA.
- (f) All doubles matches are ITF doubles rules with 2 tiebreaker sets, with no-advantage deuces and a 3rd set super tiebreaker (first to 10 with a 2 point margin), if required
(no advantage – at deuce: play deciding point with the receivers selecting which side to receive)
- (g) All singles matches will be 2 tiebreaker sets, with no-advantage deuces for the first round of fixtures (due to limited light availability) and long-advantage deuces for the second round of fixtures. A 3rd set super tiebreaker (first to 10 with a 2pt margin) will be played if required.

4. COMMENCING TIME

- (a) **All fixtures shall commence at 5.30 p.m.** on the date set down by the Committee.
- (b) If a team does not have enough players to commence all matches by 5.30 p.m. then that team must default the game the late player would have played, unless the approval of the opposing team Captain has been obtained prior to the commencement of the contest.

5. COMPETITION POINTS SYSTEM

- (a) The team winning the greater number of matches shall be deemed the winner.
- (b) Points scoring system as follows:
 - One (1) point per SET won, plus two (2) bonus points for the winning team.
 - A default win earns eighteen (18) points total (9 x 2 sets) and no bonus.
 - There are no points for a bye. Where team(s) are disadvantaged by having a bye (when not all teams in the round had a bye) they will be allocated average points (in the round in which the bye occurred).
- (c) In the case of a draw on matches there will be a count back on sets then games to decide the result. If teams are still tied then the fixture will be deemed a draw and neither team is awarded the bonus point. For the avoidance of doubt a tie-break shall be counted as a game and a super tie-break shall be counted as a set.
- (d) Total team points from the first round will be carried forward and added to second and subsequent round points.
- (e) In the case of a fixture not being completed due to weather, points will be allocated according to the matches completed before rain stopped play. A minimum of five matches must have been completed in order for the fixture result (and the bonus point) to stand. If less than five matches have been completed, the match will be considered a rain-out and no points awarded.
- (f) For the purpose of a countback, defaulted players shall be recorded as 6-0 6-0 wins for the team that did not default. If a player retires while the match is in progress, for the purposes of a countback, the score up till that point shall be recorded and the winning player is awarded the minimum number of games and sets necessary for him or her to attain a score that would otherwise have won him or her the match.

6. PLAYING DATES, POSTPONEMENTS AND DEFERMENTS

- (a) Fixtures must be played on the day set down in the draw.
- (b) Rained out rounds may be replayed dependent on the schedule and the available number of nights – the Committee shall make a ruling on this.

7. DEFAULTED FIXTURES

- (a) Where circumstances make it necessary for a team to default, the Captain of the defaulting team must notify the Captain of the opposing team by midday on the day of the fixture. Failure to notify in time will result in a levy of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) payable by the defaulting Club, collected and dispersed by MTA to the complainant Club.
- (b) Teams defaulting will lose six (6) competition points.
- (c) Where a team fields less than a full complement of players (six players) those players available (which must be a minimum of five - otherwise the match is to be defaulted) will fill the top placed positions in the team. (Teams must notify the Captains of the opposing team of their limited number so a fixture can still take place).
- (d) If an ineligible player is used (e.g. someone who is not a financial member of an MTA affiliated Club) so a fixture can be played, then the opposition Captain must be advised of this before the fixture commences. The matches that this player plays must be defaulted on the score sheet.

8. RESULT SHEETS

- (a) The Captains of each team must fill in a Premier Competition Result Sheet with the name of each player in the correct playing order for each match **before the commencement of the**

fixture. Each sheet must then be given to the opposition Captain. Note: the order of players cannot be altered once the sheets have been filled out.

- (b) The Captain of the winning team must take a readable photo, or a scan, of the result sheet and send that to the Secretary either by txt or email on the night of the fixture. **No score sheet - no points.**
- (c) The Captain of a team that wins a fixture by default must complete a result sheet and send it to the Secretary so those details can be recorded and points allocated.
- (d) Result sheets must be filled out clearly and the players names given in full (i.e. first name and surname). No nick names please.
- (e) Failure to provide 8(b), 8(c), 8(d) could result in both teams losing points earned from the fixture.

9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- (a) The qualification to play in the Premier competition requires that a player be a current financial member of an MTA affiliated Club.
- (b) To be eligible to play in a semi-final or final a player must have played a minimum of one (1) match for the team throughout the season unless the approval of the opposing Captain is obtained.

10. USE OF RESERVE PLAYERS

- (a) Any reserves used must come from the approved, graded, reserves list (or be approved by the Committee).
- (b) Reserves may identify a Club of origin and can play for that Club first and foremost. However, if these players are not asked to play for that Club by the Monday of the week of the match, then they must make themselves available to all teams in the competition and shall play for the first team that requests their services.
- (c) A reserve player must be placed according to ability- i.e. a reserve graded 1 cannot fill in at the number 2 or 3 slot.
- (d) If an ineligible player is used (e.g. someone who is not on the approved list of reserves) so that a fixture can be played, then the opposition Captain must be advised of this before the fixture commences. The matches that this player plays must be defaulted on the result sheet but the points gained in other matches played will still count.

11. DRESS & BEHAVIOUR

- (a) Correct footwear must be worn on grass and hard surface courts.
- (b) Correct footwear referred to in 11 (a) excludes any plastic or match hard soled, ripple-soled or rigid-soled shoe, or any other shoe which could be damaging (including marking) to the court surface. Any player contravening this rule will on notice given by the Captain of the Host team, immediately change into acceptable footwear or forfeit the matches.
- (c) Player behaviour shall comply with the TNZ Player Handbook. Contravention of this code of conduct shall be referred to the Committee in writing by the opposing team Captain. The Committee shall rule on such a matter based on evidence at hand and may make a ruling involving deduction of points or suspension of the player from the competition for a specified time period. A hearing may be convened if the Committee feels it is appropriate.

12. DISPUTES

- (a) Subject to the right of any Club to appeal to the Committee whose decision shall be final and binding, the Committee shall have full power to control the competition and authority to legislate for and determine all matters not specifically provided for by these regulations, to call for and hear comments on any matter pertaining to the Premier competition and to reprimand, fine or disqualify any team or player for a breach of these regulations.
- (b) The Committee shall have the power to alter, annul or vary these rules from time to time.

13. TENNIS NZ MATCH HUB RANKING POINTS

The results from all matches will be recorded on the Tennis NZ Match Hub ranking system.

14. COMPETITION TENNIS BALLS

The official adopted Tennis Ball of the MTA is Head Tour until otherwise advised.

15. COMPETITION FINAL

The final will be played at the conclusion of the round robin competition and will be between the two teams earning the most points by the end of the competition. It will be held at the Forrest Wines Marlborough Tennis Centre.

