

**MARLBOROUGH TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC.
RULES FOR PRESIDENT'S GRADE INTER-CLUB COMPETITION**

2023-2024 season

1. INTERPRETATION

- (a) "Rubber" shall mean an individual men's, women's or mixed doubles match.
- (b) "Fixture" shall mean the total matches played between two teams.
- (c) "Club" shall mean a tennis club that is affiliated to the Marlborough Tennis Association.
- (d) "Committee" shall mean the Management Committee appointed by the Marlborough Tennis Association to arrange and control competitions and decide matters arising from the interpretation of these Rules.
- (e) "Recording Secretary" shall mean the member of the Committee who records all fixture results.
- (f) "Home Team" shall mean the team playing on its own courts or, in the case of the fixture being played at neutral counts, the first team in the President's Grade Inter-club Draw.

2. TEAM ENTRY & PLACEMENT

- (a) The composition of President's Grade shall be made up by teams from clubs, who after promotion/relegation, had teams in that grade at the end of the previous season. Where a Club enters a new team or teams, then the team or teams entered shall be placed in the highest grade where a vacancy occurs, after taking into consideration the respective standard of that team or teams.
- (b) Teams may be entered in Presidents Grade provided that the Club concerned is prepared to offer courts when required for fixtures to be played. Teams to be made up of at least 2 men and 2 women aged 19 years and over on 1 October of the new season.
- (c) The number of teams accepted for the competition will be limited by the number of courts available. Two (or three depending on the number of teams in the division) full rounds will be played on a round robin basis. Automatic Promotion/Relegation will not take place at the end of the first round, but the MTA reserves the right to do so if it sees fit in any particular circumstance.
- (d) The team entry fee will be set by the Marlborough Tennis Association Committee.
- (e) Team entries, including a list of team players, must be submitted on the form provided to the Secretary of the Association by the date prescribed by the Committee. This Committee shall have the right to create or cancel a division, or re-grade any entry.

3. FIXTURES DETAILS

- (a) Teams will consist of 2 Men and 2 Women. Each person in the team plays one men's or women's doubles and one mixed doubles (4 Rubbers in all).
- (b) Each team must supply one pair of NEW **Head Tour** Tennis balls. If good quality balls are not provided and are unacceptable to the opposition, then these games are to be defaulted.
- (c) In the mixed doubles the top ranked pair must play the top ranked pair of the opposing team (if players do not have a ranking the strongest pair from each team must play each other).

4. **COMMENCING TIME**

- (a) All fixtures shall commence at 6.00 p.m. on the date set down by the Committee.
- (b) If a team does not have enough players to commence two matches by 6.15 p.m. then that Team must default the two games 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 rubbers shall be deemed the winner.
- (b) Points scoring system as follows: Winning team 1 point plus 1 point for each rubber won (4 or 5 points). Losers 1 point for each rubber won (1 point). Two-All Draws to be decided on count back of games with the winner getting 1 point plus 1 point for each rubber won (3 points) and the loser getting 1 point for each rubber won (2 points). If a Tie on Count Back occurs then each team gets 1/2 point plus 1 point for each rubber won (2.5 points).
- (c) Total team points from the first round will be carried forward and added to second round points. Promoted/Relegated teams will receive double points in the second round.
- (d) If a Team is promoted/relegated part way through a round, then that Team's points will be calculated by averaging points from fixtures played in the new division and applying those points at the end of the round for the fixtures missed.
- (e) If at the end of the first round, two teams finish either at the top or bottom of their grade with equal points, then the winner of the fixture between those two teams will be deemed to be the top placed team.

6. **PLAYING DATES, POSTPONEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENTS DUE TO WEATHER**

- (a) Fixtures must be played on the day set down in the draw. If fixtures have commenced and are interrupted through rain when partly played, then the adjourned fixture must be completed by the last week of the current round. Finding a suitable date is the responsibility of the 2 captains. If the fixture is NOT completed then points will be awarded for the completed rubbers only (no bonus points).
- (b) The Committee has the power to approve a change in players in uncompleted rubbers prior to the time set down for the replaying of the fixture.
- (c) Any uncompleted rubber shall recommence at the score recorded at the time of the postponement except in a rubber where a replacement player has been made in which case the rubber will start anew.
- (d) If a fixture has to be postponed due to weather then it is the Committee's responsibility to set the new date for that fixture to be played.

7. **DEFAULTED FIXTURES**

- (a) Where circumstances made 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.
- (b) Clubs failing to comply with Rule 7 (a) shall be charged a levy of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) with this levy to be collected and dispersed by the Association to the complainant Team.
- (c) Where a team fields less than a full complement of 4 eligible players, then the eligible players available will fill the top placed positions in the team. (If less than 4 players are available, the team Captain must notify the opposition Captain of their limited number so a fixture can still take place).
- (d) A team may use any ineligible fill-in (see note 9e) so that a fixture can be played, but the opposition Captain must be advised of this before fixture commences. The rubbers that the fill-in plays must be defaulted 9-0 on the score sheet.
- (e) A team that defaults 3 fixtures in a season will be withdrawn from the competition for the rest of the season.

8. RESULT SHEETS

- (a) The Captain of the winning team must deliver the completed result sheet either to the tennis office or post into the MTA letterbox (to the left of the front gate at the Marlborough Tennis Club) on the team sheet provided for the purpose, showing results of all rubbers played. These sheets are to be handed in **within 24 hours** following the fixture so that results can be published. **No score sheet – no points!** Alternatively, it can be scanned and emailed to admin@mtatennis.co.nz.
- (b) The Captain of a team that wins a fixture by default must complete a score sheet and deliver it to the office or MTA postbox at the Marlborough Tennis Club so those details can be recorded and points allocated. Or, it can be scanned and emailed to admin@mtatennis.co.nz.
- (c) A penalty of one point may be deducted from the points total of any team filing incorrectly completed team sheets.
- (d) In division one and two the captain of the winning team must record the result on Tennis New Zealand's MatchHub grading system.

9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS AND FILL-INS

- (a) The qualification to play in the President's Grade competition requires that a player be a "bona fide" active member of a Club for at least seven (7) days standing prior to the fixture.
- (b) Once a player has played **three** fixtures for one team, they automatically become a member of that team. Once in a team a player can not play for another team more than twice. A player can not be a member of two teams.
- (c) A player, who has played three fixtures in a higher grade, or grades, must stay in that grade, and be reclassified by the Committee before being eligible to play in a lower grade. For example, a player who has filled in once in division one and twice in division two can no longer reserve for division three and below without seeking reclassification from the Committee.
- (d) To be eligible to play in a promotion/relegation fixture a player must have played in at least **two** prior matches for the team participating in the promotion/relegation fixture, with the right of the match Committee to rule in extenuating circumstances.
- (e) Teams will be penalized (no points awarded) if they use:
 - i. a player under the age of 19 on 1 October;
 - ii. a player who is not a registered, financial member of a Marlborough Club;
 - iii. a player from a team in a higher division, or a reserve who has already played three times for a higher division;
 - iv. see also clause (f) below.If such a player is used it is the Captain's responsibility to record it on the Results Sheet. Matches may be played but it will be defaulted 9-0 to the opposition.
- (f) Teams have five opportunities to use members of another team or club (in the same or lower division) as a fill-in before being penalized. When such a fill-in is used it is the captain's responsibility to note it on the result sheet. On the sixth occasion that a member of another team or club is used the team will be penalized and those matches defaulted.
- (g) A fill-in with no conditions attached is someone from your own club, ideally off your club's reserves list, who is not a member of another team. Captains need to remember that if he or she calls on the same person three times they then automatically become a member of their team.

10. DRESS CODE & BEHAVIOUR

- (a) Correct footwear must be worn at a grass venue and also on all hard surface courts.
- (b) Correct footwear referred to in 10 (a) excludes any plastic or rubber hard soled, ripple-soled or rigid-soled shoe, or any other shoe which could be damaging 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 forfeiture of rubbers.

- (c) Any player guilty of offensive or insulting behaviour or any behaviour which distracts or inconveniences other players at the same venue, may if he/she persists in such behaviour after being warned by either team Captain, be suspended from the competition, and his/her team penalised by forfeiting the rubber.

11. **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 competitions 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 President's Grade competition and to reprimand, fine or disqualify any team or players for a breach of these regulations.
- (b) The Association Committee shall have the power to alter, annul or vary these rules from time to time.

12. **COMPETITION SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS**

- (a) At the conclusion of the round robin competition there will be semi-finals for divisions with six or more teams and then finals for all divisions.
- (b) Semi-finals will be played as follows:
 - i. Team One vs Team Four
 - ii. Team Two vs Team Three
- (c) The final will be played between the winners of the two semi-final matches. If a team reaching the final can not field a team on the date set down for the Finals then its place will be given to the next highest ranked team from the round robin competition.
- (d) Semi-finals will be played at the home venue of the higher ranked team or a venue decided by the committee in consultation with that team. Should a club have more teams in semi finals requiring a home venue than courts available, the committee will decide the venues for those teams. Finals will be played at the Marlborough Tennis Centre.
- (e) If a semi-final or final match ends in a draw on both matches & game count back the teams shall play a deciding match on the night as follows:
 - i. One match only to be played.
 - ii. Match to consist of one super tie-breaker to 10 points – win by 2.
 - iii. Format to be a mixed doubles – each team shall play its preferred mixed combination.

