



RULES FOR DIVISION 1 PREMIER GRADE INTER-CLUB COMPETITION 2023

1. INTERPRETATION

- (a) "Match" shall mean an individual men's, women's singles, women's, mixed or men's doubles match.
- (b) "Fixture" shall mean the total matches played between two teams.
- (c) "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.
- (d) "Recording Secretary" shall mean the member of the Committee (or administrator) who records all fixture results.
- (e) "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 Premiers Grade Inter-club Draw.

2. TEAM ENTRY & MAKEUP

- (a) The composition of the competition shall be made up by teams from the Clubs affiliated to the Marlborough Tennis Association.
- (b) Teams shall consist of: 4 players (players 1-3 of any gender and player no.4 being a female).
- (c) The Team entry fee will be set by the MTA.
- (d) 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. The MTA will invoice the Clubs for the entry fees.
- (e) This Committee shall have the right to create or cancel a division, or re-grade any entry.

3. FIXTURE DETAILS

- (a) The fixture shall consist of 6 matches:
 - **2 doubles**
 - **3 singles**
 - **1 women's singles**
- (b) The order of play must be identified on the team 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 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 Marlborough Tennis Association.
- (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 long-advantage deuces and a 3rd set super tiebreaker (first to 10 with a 2pt margin), 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 twelve (12) points total (6 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 three matches must have been completed in order for the fixture result (and the bonus point) to stand. If less than three 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 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) Teams defaulting will lose four (4) competition points.
- (c) Clubs failing to comply with Rule 7 (a) shall be charged a levy of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) with this levy to be collected and dispersed by the Association to the complainant Club.
- (d) Where a team fields less than a full complement of players (four players) those players available (which must be a minimum of three - 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).
- (e) 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 fixture commences. The matches that this player plays must be defaulted on the score sheet.

8. RESULT SHEETS

- (a) The Captains of opposing teams must fill in an individual Premier Competition score sheet with the name of each player in the correct playing order for each match **before the**

commencement of the fixture. Note: the order of players cannot be altered once the team sheets have been filled out and handed to opposition Captains.

- (b) The Captain of the winning team must take a readable photo of the score sheet and text to the MTA organiser of the competition on the night of the fixture [to be advised]. **No score sheet - no points**
- (c) The Captain of a team that wins a fixture by default must complete a score sheet and deliver it to the Marlborough Tennis Association 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)
- (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 contacted and 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 fixture commences. The matches that this player plays must be defaulted on the score sheet but the points gained in other matches played will still count.

11. DRESS & BEHAVIOUR

- (a) Correct footwear must be worn at 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 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 Premier competition and to reprimand, fine or disqualify any team or players for a breach of these regulations.
- (b) The Committee of the Association shall have the power to alter, annul or vary these rules from time to time.

13. TENNIS NZ MATCH HUB RANKING POINTS

- (a) The results from all Inter Club matches will be recorded on the Tennis NZ Match Hub ranking system.

14. COMPETITION TENNIS BALLS

- (a) The official adopted Tennis Ball of the Marlborough Tennis Association is Head Tour until advised otherwise by the Association.

15. COMPETITION FINAL

- (a) The Final of the Premier Competitions will be played at the conclusion of the round robin competition.
- (b) Finals will be played as follows:
 - (a) Team One vs Team Two
 - (b) Team Three vs Team Four
- (c) The finals shall be played at the Forrest Winery Marlborough Tennis Centre.

