



HILLS LADIES TENNIS RULES

6th June 2022

Eligibility and Responsibilities

Players are bound by the rules of Tennis. Good sportsmanship should always prevail.

Match Format

Each team consists of four (4) players for each match. A minimum of one (1) team member must play in each round. The other three (3) players may be pool or borrowed players from the same or lower division.

The match consists of 8 sets of doubles. Sets are the first to 6 games. If a set reaches 5 games all a tiebreaker game, first to 7 points with an advantage of 2 points, is played.

The Score Card is to be completed by both teams before commencement of play with the visiting team to nominate players first. Home teams are to supply at least two (2) new balls (Tennis Australia approved), result card and pay the court hire fees. Home teams are also required to supply morning tea.

The opening pairs will toss to determine the choice of serve. From then on the choice of serve will alternate. The order of play may be varied by mutual agreement of both captains.

Format A, B or C - to be decided at the beginning of the competition. Majority rules for each division, where the vote is split 50/50 then the format will not change from the prior competition.

Start and End of Play

Play is to commence at 9:30am and cease by 3.30pm. The exception to this rule is for semi finals and finals. See full rule under **Finals Qualification and Format**.

Start of play should not be delayed unless there are exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. The request/reason for delaying the start time must be explained to and accepted by both teams. Every effort should be made to avoid any forfeits caused by an agreed to late start, neither team should be disadvantaged.

For a normal 9.30am start of play any team without the nominated pair ready to play at the time set down to start will forfeit the first set. A further set will be forfeited for each additional ten minutes until thirty minutes have elapsed from the designated starting time when the match will be forfeited. At the discretion of both Captains set/s that were unable to be played (forfeited) earlier in the day CAN be deferred until after the completion of set 8, provided there is sufficient time prior to 3.30pm. Good sportsmanship should prevail.

Rules as at 6th June 2022

If a team has only three players instead of the required four players please consider playing the first six sets of Format A. This means that for the team with three players, the missing number four player is replaced in sets 2, 4 and 6 by one of the three players (set 2 by player 2, set 4 by player 1 and set 6 by player 3). Sets 7 and 8 are forfeited to the team with four players.

Match Points

Match/Finals Points: Twelve (12) points are awarded – one (1) point for each set won plus four (4) bonus points allocated as :- two (2) points for winner on games and two (2) points for winner on sets. If sets and/or games are even then relevant bonus points are shared. The point for a set is halved if the set is incomplete or not started. If there is no clear winner on sets and/or on games then the relevant bonus points are shared.

Note: If a team has won five (5) or more sets they are awarded the bonus two (2) points for winner on sets. If neither team has won five (5) or more sets the bonus two (2) points for winner on sets is shared.

Result Cards

Result cards must be complete, legible and signed by both team captains (or designated match captain). It is the winning team's responsibility (or home team in the event of a draw or undecided match) to send the result card to their Division Contact.

All games/sets played should be recorded on the card including forfeits. If forfeits are due to an injury then brief details of the injury should be recorded on the card.

Result cards for the last round of the competition & semi-finals/finals **MUST** be submitted within 24 hours and phoned through to your Division Contact.

Wet Weather

Team captains are responsible for checking the condition of the court but it is the responsibility of the court owner/manager to decide if the court is playable or not. If the court is declared playable by the court owner/manager, then both teams must play.

Wet Weather - Start of Play

Both teams must be at the home court by 9.30am ready to start play as soon as the court is playable.

If play has not commenced by 10am the match is abandoned.

If a match has commenced and there is a stoppage in play due to inclement weather, the match can be called off after 30 minutes, or earlier if both captains agree to stop.

If a match is called off due to wet conditions the home captain has to submit a result card or advise their Division Contact in case the match needs to be rescheduled as a **wet match.**

If 50% or more of the teams commence play, a wet match will **not be called. Teams that commenced/completed play will retain their points, teams that did not commence play will share the match points equally.**

Defining a Wet Match

If less than 50% of teams commence play the match will be designated a wet match.

- Teams that completed the match will retain their points and they do not play the scheduled wet match.
- Teams that commenced play but did not complete the match will complete the match when it is rescheduled unless both captains agree to share the remaining points. Play will resume from the point when play was previously stopped.
- Teams that did not commence the match will play the scheduled wet match.

Note:

- ALL wet matches will be played, in the order that they occurred, at the end of the competition.

For competitions with 6 and 8 team divisions, wet matches will be played after match 14.

- If a designated wet match is rained out it will not be rescheduled.

Excessive Heat - Good sportsmanship and common sense should prevail at all times

At the start of any set, if the temperature is **34C** then play will **NOT** begin unless **ALL** players agree.

Where a humidity reading is available then this should be factored in along with the ambient temperature reading. **Note that an ambient temperature of 34C and humidity of 50% has an equivalent effect on the body to an *actual temperature* of 38C.**

If during play any player is affected by the heat and the *actual temperature* is deemed to be at least 34C, then the set should be stopped without forfeit.

During play, if a player is affected by the heat and the *actual temperature* is deemed to be less than 34C and all other players are able to continue play then the set should be forfeited. Playing of subsequent sets may continue if all players involved in these sets agree.

If both captains, after discussion with their team members, decide that heat is a factor play may cease without forfeit to either team.

How/where do we measure the temperature? A thermometer situated on court, not in direct sun, with sensor 1 metre from the surface of the court, eg under the umpires stand in the shade.

Heat stress is a serious health risk. High intensity exercise in a hot environment, with the associated fluid loss and elevation of body temperature, can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, and in extreme cases, death. High humidity significantly increases the likelihood of heat stress.

Symptoms are - fatigue, nausea, headache, confusion or light-headedness.

Late Team Membership

Team membership will remain open for the competition. Your Division Contact must be advised for grading approval before their first match. Failure to gain approval for a player prior to their first match could result in the loss of match points.

If a player is subsequently considered by the Division Contact to be of a standard that significantly improves the teams overall standard above their current graded division, then points won for those sets will be lost and the player's membership in that team will be rejected for the duration of the current competition.

Pool Players & Borrowed Players

The current pool player list (names, contact details & grading) can be found on the web site. A pool player may only play for the same team three times in the competition. Under exceptional circumstances, a team may request a Division Contact to approve a pool player playing more than three times without joining their team. Pool players may only play in their graded divisions, or higher.

During competition rounds a team may borrow from other teams as required. Borrowed players can be from the same division or a lower division. A player can only be borrowed two (2) times by the same team. Generally team captains should make these arrangements.

Teams may use up to three players per match in any combination from eligible pool players or borrowed players. Pool and borrowed players must be recorded on the result card.

Note - A team may use a player who does not normally play in our competition once only.

Substitute Players

If a player becomes incapacitated through injury or illness during a match, a substitute player will be allowed. This player may be a team member, pool player or borrowed player. Unfinished games in a set where a player cannot continue will be forfeited. If the substitute player is not on hand and play cannot be continuous, each set concerned shall be forfeited. Once again, good sportsmanship should apply. All injury and substitution details are to be written on the result card.

Finals Qualification and Format

Semi Finals and Finals are scored the same way as round matches – see Match Points.

The normal 3.30pm end of play does not apply. Play continues until there is a winner.

If any Semi Final or Final match does not commence, or is interrupted due to wet weather or excessive heat, it will be completed the following week or as soon as weather permits.

All players including Pool players must have played two (2) competition rounds in the team and be registered in the team prior to the semi finals. Wet and Excessive Heat matches where play has not commenced will not be considered.

All teams must prepare their team's order 1-4 on a piece of paper which is presented prior to the toss for a home and an away team. A toss of the coin will take place firstly to determine the home team and secondly for the choice of first service. Each team will write on the result card their order of play from the prepared order of play presented on arrival. Each team will share the cost of the court and balls and provide a plate of morning tea.

For 8 team divisions the Final series will comprise a semi final 1v4 and 2v3 with the winners proceeding to the final.

For 6 team divisions only finals 1v2 will be played.

In the Final Series - if at the end of the 8th set teams are tied/drawn (equal on sets and equal on games) a Super Tie Break (first to 10 points with a majority of at least two points) will be played. Teams can nominate any two players to play the Super Tie Break. A toss of the coin is to determine who serves.

All final series result cards must be submitted to the relevant Division Contact within 24 hours.

Prize money is awarded to both the winner and runner-up.

Substitute Player in Semi/Final

Substitution in a Final series match will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances when beyond the control of the affected team and after referral to the relevant Division Contact. **The Division Contacts will select all substitute players.**

A substitute will be a player, of similar standard, from any team in the same division (provided that team did not qualify for the semi finals), or a Pool player.

Where two (2) substitutes are required for either a Semi Final or a Final, the two players can be from any team in the same division (provided that team did not qualify for the semi finals) and/or Pool players of similar standard.

A maximum of two (2) substitutes will be permitted. Substitute player/s will be decided by the Division Contacts and relevant Captains.

If play is interrupted or postponed during the Final series, and a team cannot field the same team to complete the match, a substitute can play. The substitute may be a team member, a player from any team in the same division (provided that team did not qualify for the semi finals) or a Pool player of similar standard, selected by the Division Contacts.

Any substitution in a Final series match must be clearly noted on the result card.

Match Forfeit

Should a team forfeit a match the opposing team will be awarded the games and points as for a completed match. A forfeiting team should notify their opponents as soon as possible if it is unable to field a team.

Withdrawal from Competition

Should a team withdraw after commencement of the competition, all points awarded to date for their matches will be cancelled unless a full round has been completed (then those points will stand) and a revised points table will be published. The team must contact their Division Contact detailing the circumstances that led to the team's withdrawal.

Return in New Calendar Year

The competition will recommence on the Thursday of the first full week of school for public schools.