

# WAVERLEY MIDWEEK MENS TENNIS

## Guidelines Issued January 2024

### **A – GRADING OF PLAYERS & TEAMS**

Our competition does not have a senior's age restriction but 'younger' players may incur a biased grading that 'pushes' their team into a higher section.

In Section 1 there is no restriction on how many A graded players can be included, if they are listed on the Team Entry Form.

Captains must seek written approval for an emergency to become a permanent team member once they have played 3 games. Once approved, with conditions or otherwise, such players may play in finals.

### **B - GUIDELINES FOR USE OF FIVE & SIX MAN TEAMS**

- The team sheet is to be completed before play. This is critically important if playing 5 or 6 because of the need to get pairings correct.
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> players must try to have a warm-up prior to, or quickly during, set change over.
- It is not intended that this guideline should restrict a team from bringing in a replacement player during a match under the long-standing player injury/sickness replacement rules.

### **C – LENGTH OF SETS - OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ALL SECTIONS**

All sets are to 8 games with tiebreaker at 7-all, but by agreement between captains, on a set-by-set basis, they may be –

- Shortened by using 'one point deuce deciders.'
- Played as first to 6 games with 5 all tiebreakers. Results entry - Add 2 games to each: 6-4 is 8-6.

### **D – FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN A DESIGNATED MEN'S COMPETITION**

The Sub-Committee has continued approval of female participation. This means that females may be included as listed team members, play as emergencies, and participate in finals subject to all other guidelines.

### **E - EMERGENCIES - HOME & AWAY MATCHES**

- When an emergency is required by a team the onus is on the team captain to make every effort to obtain a suitably graded emergency who is of a lower standard or at best equal in standard to the replaced person.
- Obtaining a player from a higher section to play as an emergency should be seen as a last resort & only after Sub-Committee approval.
- Opposing captains are strongly encouraged to report within 24 hours whether, in their opinion, an emergency has strengthened the opposition team.
- The Sub-Committee will review match results promptly after they have been posted.
- If an emergency has played, an assessment will be made, based on the match results, as to whether the emergency may have strengthened the team.
- In the event of negative assessment the Sub-Committee will communicate with both Captains and invite written submissions before considering any adjustment to match results or future restrictions applying to the emergency player. Advice of the final decision will be relayed to both captains.

The objective of this guideline is to ensure no advantage is obtained by playing an emergency. Any balance of probability will be exercised in favour of the opposing team.

It is hoped that our good record of avoiding forfeits, wherever possible, will continue.

Record detail of emergencies & substitution under Emergencies &/or Comments on the Score Sheet.

### **F - QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS FOR FINALS**

Players listed originally on Team Entry, or added by Sub-Committee, must play at least three matches to qualify for finals.

If a team does not have sufficient qualified players, they may apply in writing, with reasons, for approval to play an emergency.

MWM Sub-Committee decision to conditionally approve or reject a replacement will take account of the above team strengthening guidelines and err on the downside.

## **G - EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING COMPLETION OF FINALS SERIES**

The Sub-Committee may defer Grand Finals one week due to weather or other reasons confirmed as reasonable. Other Finals matches will not be deferred, and the highest ranked team will progress.

## **H – DEALING WITH HOT DAYS**

In the event of forecast morning temperatures approaching 30°C captains should assume that sets will be first to six game sets rather than eight.

A range of other additional modifications can be agreed between captains prior to or during the morning -

- Commence play at an earlier time.
- If all four players agree at start of set, play to 6 games.
- If captains agree prior to start of set - [a] play 'one-point deciders' at deuce and [b] make any other modifications that are deemed to help complete matches on hot days, minimise discomfort & risk to player health.

**If a local area temperature reading rises to 30°C play should cease at the end of any game in progress.** This decision may only be changed if all four players in the set express a desire to continue for an agreed period before further review.

The home team should ensure that cool water is available & captains/fellow players encourage extra consumption.

## **I – MEMBERSHIP OF A CLUB**

As a guideline we look to having all participating players being members of a club that is affiliated with Tennis Victoria. This policy supports the club-based structure of tennis in Victoria but also provides sports cover insurance for all participants. Our policy facilitates movement of players between clubs, but this is subject to individual club rules that may require team members to join that club as full members or as “mid-week members”.

## **J – 9.30 AM STARTING TIME**

In continuing with this later starting time we wish to stress the importance of being “on the court and ready to go”. There is no 15-minute grace period after 9.30am.

It is **not** acceptable to arrive at 9.30 am. Should you be delayed at all, phone the club or your captain.

It is a reasonable request that “short sets” [see C above] be played if finishing time is likely to be 1.00 pm or later due to a late start. There have been complaints about late finishing – captains & players are to be sensitive to this. The competition is a two-court competition, thus there is no further time allowance to commence the second set.

## **K – WET COURTS**

Every effort is to be made to enable play to take place, even if some delay is necessary.

Goodwill is required relating to preparing courts and deciding if play can proceed.

Teams should not have motives beyond common sense and safety in deciding whether to proceed with play.

Captains may agree at any time to accept a ‘Wash-out’.

## **L – HOME TEAM PROVISION OF LIGHT LUNCH**

Whilst there remains caution about this post Covid, we do want to encourage presentation of a light lunch, but with each team having the right to manage the occasion in a way that they feel comfortable with.

The Sub-Committee feels strongly that the social aspect opportunity offered by our competition is a close second to the health benefits flowing from the physical activity that we enjoy.

## **Further Comments**

Waverley Tennis MWM competition continues to have the objective of attracting players of all standards as well as expanding the overall number of participants. We desire to adopt rules and make decisions which add to overall player satisfaction which is predominantly dependent on having players of similar standard playing with and against each other. It is recognised that individual preference, long term friendships and player availability sometimes makes this a challenging task.

Except where otherwise specified Waverley Weekend Tennis By-Laws will apply, please refer to [www.waverleytennis.asn.au/waverley-by-laws.html](http://www.waverleytennis.asn.au/waverley-by-laws.html)

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