

SOUTHERN TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC.

SENIOR MATCH BY-LAWS

Current as at 25th September, 2012

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1. INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 In these By-Laws, unless the contrary appears: “Association” means the Southern Tennis Association Inc.; “Match Committee” means that committee so named, appointed or purporting to act in accordance with the Constitution of the Association.

2. TEAM COMPOSITION

- 2.1 Teams in divisions shall variously comprise either both men and women or men only or women only, as determined at the Annual General Meeting.

3. CLEARANCES AND PERMITS

3.1 Clearances

- 3.1.1 Any player wishing to transfer from one club within the Association to any other club within the Association must first obtain a clearance from the club for which he/she last played. Any Financial player not playing within the last two years does not require a clearance.

Any player wishing to transfer from one Club within the Association to another Club within the Association after December 31st in any season must obtain a clearance from the Club for which they last played, the clearance also requiring ratification by a formal Match Committee meeting.

Any player transferring into this Association from another Association from one season to the next season does not require a clearance inwards, subject to the player not appearing on the Tennis SA Inc. Blacklist. A player appearing on this list does require a clearance from their previous club.

Any player who commences a season playing in any other Association and then wishes to transfer to Southern Tennis Association during that season requires a clearance from their previous club.

Any player cleared to play for another Club cannot be cleared again in the same season unless approved by Senior Match Committee.

- 3.1.2 A copy of that clearance must be received by the Association Senior Recording Secretary no later than 7.00 p.m. preceding the match in which the player participates. The Association Senior Recording Secretary will confirm the clearance.

3.1.3 In the event that a clearance is not granted by the Club for which the player last played, there shall be a right of appeal to the Match Committee, whose decision shall be binding.

3.1.4 All clearances shall be processed within 7 days of being received by the Senior Recording Secretary.

Penalty: Any Club permitting an uncleared player to represent the Club in matches shall, in addition to any other penalty, forfeit the match.

3.2 **Permits**

3.2.1 Any player desiring to play tennis in a Division higher than his/her Club can offer must request a permit from his/her Club, and forward the permit to the Club for which he/she intends to play. The permit must be received by the Association Senior Recording Secretary preceding the match in which the player participates. The Association Senior Recording Secretary will confirm the permit. A permit will be valid for the current season only.

Penalty: Any Club permitting a player without a permit to represent the Club in matches shall, in addition to any other penalty, forfeit the match.

3.3 **Registration**

3.3.1 Seniors shall be registered with the Senior Recording Secretary prior to their first match, or on the team sheet of their first match played. Registration consists of a player's name, address and telephone number.

3.3.2 A Club shall forfeit all sets played by unregistered players.

4. **WEATHER CONDITIONS**

4.1 Matches will be automatically cancelled when the Saturday maximum temperature for the city of Adelaide)as shown on the Beureau of Meteorology website as at 7.30am) is 37 degrees or higher.

Where a match is cancelled, Clubs cannot submit team sheets for finals qualification purposes except in the final three (3) rounds.

4.2 In the event of the weather being unfavorable for play due to rain it shall be the responsibility of the opposing captains to agree on cancellation. If conditions prevent play for a period of sixty minutes, or earlier by agreement between the captains, the match shall be abandoned. Each team shall submit their result sheet, duly signed by each captain, if all players listed are present at the programmed

match venue. Where team sheets have been submitted, the match will count for finals qualifications for all players.

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4.3 Completed score sheets including all sets and games completed shall be submitted to the Senior Recording Secretary. No points shall be awarded for cancelled matches however sets and games completed shall be counted.

4.4 Completed score sheets including all sets and games completed shall be submitted to the Senior Recording Secretary. No points shall be awarded for cancelled matches however sets and games completed shall be counted.

5. TENNIS ATTIRE

Players shall dress and present themselves for play in clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire.

6. PLAYER CONDUCT

6.1 All members of Clubs which are members of the Association, when engaged in any activity concerning the Association, shall act with decorum at all times, and shall not act in a manner calculated or likely to reflect adversely on the Association. Any such person may be reported to the Match Committee of the Association who may deal with the matter as they see fit.

6.2 Reports of any substantial breach shall be made via their Club Secretary to the Association Secretary within three days.

6.3 Any Club contravening any of these Rules, or whose team or member contravenes any of these Rules, shall in addition to any other penalty herein prescribed, be liable to a penalty of \$10 for a first contravention and for a second or subsequent contravention against the rule, a penalty of \$20. Action will be taken by the Association Secretary with regard to imposition of fines. In default of payment no premiership points may be accrued by the offending Club until the fines are paid.

6.4 Any Club willfully contravening any of these Rules, or refusing to comply with any decision of the Match Committee may be summoned to appear before Management Committee and be dealt with as Management Committee sees fit.

7. MATCH RULES - MINOR ROUND

7.1 BALLS AND COURTS

7.1.1 Only balls as adopted at the Association Annual General Meeting may be used.

7.1.2 Each home team shall supply four(4) new balls for each single sex and mixed doubles match.

7.1.3 The number of programmed courts for the minor round for single sex and mixed doubles teams is one and a half (1.5) courts and combined teams three (3) courts.

7.1.4 All courts shall be used for programmed competition matches and under no circumstances shall courts be used for any other purpose.

Penalty: Club shall lose all Senior matches and any premiership points.

7.2. RE-GRADING

7.2.1 Senior Match Committee may re-grade any team to a higher or lower Division providing that re-grading is in effect prior to the commencement of Round 5.

7.3. ORDER OF MERIT

7.3.1 Order of Merit means that players are ranked in order of their ability, in relation to the other players from their club, who are playing in the same Competition.

7.3.2 Order of Merit shall be determined primarily, but not solely, by the player's recorded match results. Clubs deemed to have players playing out of Order of Merit will be required to provide a written explanation to the Senior Recording Secretary. A penalty may be applied.

Singles: Players shall play in Order of Merit.

Doubles: Doubles pairings shall be listed in Order of Merit.

Mixed Doubles: Doubles pairings may be listed in any order.

7.3.3 Prior to the Grading Committee meeting at the commencement of the season Clubs must submit all teams with players listed in Club and team Order of Merit.

7.3.4 Fifth Player: may be used in Singles. The "fifth player" must be named on the team nomination and must be nominated in Order of Merit.

Penalty: Any player or doubles pairing deemed to have player out of order shall forfeit those sets.

7.4 **EXCHANGE OF LISTS**

- 7.4.1 Each captain shall provide the captain of the opposing team, on the prescribed form, a list of their team players numbered consecutively, showing both doubles and singles players in order of merit prior to the commencement of the first match.
- 7.4.2 Where a team sheet is altered without the approval of the opposing team captain, the team making the unauthorized alteration shall forfeit all sets involving that alteration.

7.5 **ORDER OF PLAY**

- 7.5.1 All matches shall commence at 1 p.m. The first set must be commenced by 1.15 p.m.
- 7.5.2 All twilight matches shall commence at 5.30 p.m. The first set must be commenced by 5.45 p.m. All players must be present by 6.30 p.m.
- 7.5.3 Where practical, doubles matches shall be played prior to singles. Doubles to rotate every second week whenever practical. Order of singles play is to rotate each week, wherever practicable, commencing with the first single playing first.
- 7.5.2 Any change in order of play shall be agreed to by team captains. The spirit of the competition shall be that all sets shall be completed and the rotation order of play may be altered to ensure continuous play is maintained on all programmed court (s).

7.6 **MATCH FORMAT**

- 7.6.1 In the combined or single sex competition, each player shall play one doubles match and one singles match.
- 7.6.2 In the mixed doubles competition each player shall play one doubles match with a partner of the same sex and another doubles match with a partner of the opposite sex.
Where a team consists of an additional player, one player will play a double only and one player will play a single only. In the mixed doubles the additional players will play either a double or mixed double only and no more than 3 male or 3 female players may be used.
- 7.6.3 Doubles matches in single sex and combined teams shall comprise of two six game tiebreak sets, with a tiebreaker (first to win 7 points with an advantage of 2 points) played at six games each. If score is 1 set each a super tie breaker (first to 10 with a 2 point advantage) shall be played. Singles shall comprise a set of 9 games, with a 12 point tie breaker played at 8 games each. The winning team shall be awarded 1 rubber, 2

sets and number of games won. 1 point for each rubber and 4 points for a win.

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- 7.6.4 Matches between mixed doubles teams shall consist of men's and women's double and two mixed doubles which will be the best of three sets, with a tie-breaker played at six games each. (first to 7 points with an advantage of 2 points). If score is 1 set each a super tie-breaker (first to 10 points with a 2 point advantage) shall be played.
- 7.6.5 In every completed match, the team winning more rubbers shall win the match. In the event of the rubbers being equal, then the number of sets won shall determine the winner, and if both sets being equal, then the number of games won shall determine the winner and if rubbers, sets and games are equal a draw shall be recorded.
- 7.6.6 In minor round matches 4 premiership points and 1 point per rubber shall be awarded to the winning team, or in the event of a draw 2 points and 1 point per rubber shall be awarded to each team..
- 7.6.7 During the minor round, no sets in singles or rubbers in mixed doubles shall commence after 6.30 p.m.

7.7 UNFINISHED MATCHES

- 7.7.1 In unfinished matches during the minor round, the score at the completion of play on the day will be the final score. A team having an unattainable lead shall be the winning team. *Where matches are undecided no points will be awarded to either team,*

7.8 FORFEITS

- 7.8.1 The spirit of the competition shall be that all sets shall be completed, and the rotation order of play may be altered to ensure continuous play is maintained on the programmed court(s).
 - 7.8.1.1 A team may claim a forfeit of all sets involving a player who is not in attendance at the match venue by 3 p.m.
 - 7.8.1.2 If continuous play on the programmed court(s) cannot be maintained the offending team shall forfeit sets in accordance with the rotation order specified in By-Law 4 4.3 4.3.1
 - 7.8.1.3 During the finals series in the mixed doubles competition programmed court rules shall commence from 2 p.m. as long as play is maintained on one court from 1.15 p.m.
- 7.8.2 Any player not in attendance and prepared to play on any available programmed court within 10 minutes of being required shall forfeit the set(s).

- 7.8.3 Any player who refuses without reasonable excuse to commence play on being requested to do so after a three minute hit up, is liable to forfeit the set(s).
- 7.8.4 All forfeits must be recorded on the score sheet together with the reason for the same.
- 7.8.5 If it is found that any Club has not contested any match or part of any match without reasonable excuse, then that Club shall forfeit that match and matches of all teams in lower divisions, or any other penalty to be determined by the Disputes Committee.
- 7.8.6 In the event of a player failing to arrive at the match or becoming unfit to play, after the exchange of lists and commencement of play that player shall forfeit the allocated set or sets.
- 7.8.7 If a Club finds it necessary to forfeit any sets or matches because of lack of players, then sets or matches shall be forfeited in ascending order, commencing with the team in the lowest division within the Club. However, a Club may forfeit a higher team if that Club does not have a team in the Division immediately below.
- 7.8.8 In the event of a Club forfeiting a match, every effort must be made by that Club to advise the opposing Club as early as possible.
- 7.8.9 *A team receiving a match forfeit shall receive the maximum number of Rubbers, sets and games. teams must submit a team sheet in the event of receiving a forfeit.*

7.9 **UMPIRES**

- 7.9.1 Central umpires shall be provided at the request of any participating player in any set, and shall be responsible for scoring and calling all lines.

7.10 **GENERAL**

- 7.10.1 No player shall participate in more than one minor round match programmed for the same round.
- 7.10.2 The order of serving for each singles set and doubles match shall be determined by the tossing of a coin or any other method mutually acceptable to the participating players.
- 7.10.3 The height of the net shall be 0.91 metres at the centre, where it shall be held down taut by a strap not more than 50 mm wide.

8. RESULT SHEETS

- 8.1 The Association will supply standard score sheets to each Club. The score sheets will be clearly and correctly filled out, in duplicate by each team with all particulars (including player surnames and first given names) required to accurately record results of each set played during the match, together with the results of the match. The Management Committee of the Association may, from time to time, notify Clubs in writing of additional particulars required to be included on score sheets, in which event every such particular must be included on the score sheets.
- 8.2 Every score sheet shall be signed by the captain of each team.
- 8.3 Score sheets (in duplicate) must be submitted by each Club and received by the Association Senior Recording Secretary no later than 7.00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the match. In respect of last minor round and finals matches, score sheets must be submitted and received by no later than 12.00 noon on the Sunday following the match.
- 8.4 Where any detail is not completed on the score sheet and the player(s) cannot be identified then those set(s) shall be forfeited.
- 8.5 The home team shall record the match result on Results vault program no later than 11pm on the Monday Night immediately following the Saturday night,
Penalty- any team not complying with clause shall forfeit the match.
- 8.6 If any regrading within that division is done competition points will be reset.

9. PLAYER MOVEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

- 9.1 Any reference to any act of qualification shall relate to a single season and to Senior matches only.
- 9.1.1 A player is tied to a colour if they play 4 matches in that team. If a club has more than 1 team in that division. However any player nominated in lower division can play for any team in a higher division without being tied to any team in a higher division during the minor round.
- 9.1.2 After playing four (4) matches, no player, irrespective of whether or not that player is available, may move above or below more than one other player, for each subsequent programmed match.
After playing four (4) matches in the mixed doubles competition a player may move from the player's last division to the Club's next higher or lower division, for each subsequent programmed match.

- 9.1.3 In the event of any such Club having more than one team in a division players in such teams shall, for the purpose of this rule, be considered to be of equal position with the Club.

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- 9.1.4 If a higher Division team of a Club is not playing, players who played in that team in its previous match shall not play in a lower division team of the club. Players who have been promoted in the previous match to fill an absence by regular players may return to their previous position.
- 9.1.5 At the discretion of the Senior Recording Secretary any player's name may, during the course of the season, be submitted to the grading committee for regarding. The grading committee has the power to order a player to play at a certain level or higher.
- 9.1.6 Should two Clubs provide players for the same team, it shall be the responsibility of the Club whose player cannot play to arrange a replacement.

Penalty: Any Club contravening these rules shall, in addition to any other penalty, forfeit the match.

All of the Senior Match By-Laws will apply for all teams of this type, in the same manner as a team from a single Club.

Penalty: Any Club contravening these rules shall, in addition to any other penalty, forfeit the match.

10. PREMIERSHIP DETERMINATION

- 10.1 At the conclusion of the programmed minor round matches, a finals series will take place in each division, involving the four teams finishing with the most premiership points in each division, if premiership points are equal the highest positions will be decided in the following order- highest number of matches won, highest number of rubbbers won, highest number of sets won, highest number of games won, lowest number of rubbbers lost, lowest number of sets lost, lowest number of games lost. If still even a playoff shall decide the position.
- 10.2 Where a division has a bye situation the final positions shall be decided by dividing the premiership points by the number of matches played.
Where a division has teams which have been re-graded, teams withdrawn or teams added, the finals positions shall be decided by dividing the premiership points by the number of matches played in the division they have been re-graded to.
- 10.3 The teams finishing third and fourth will play off in the first semi-final.
The teams finishing first and second will play off in the second semi-final.

The winner of the first semi-final will play the loser of the second semi-final in the preliminary final.

The winner of the preliminary final will play the winner of the second semi-final in the Grand Final.

10.4 All finals matches must be played until there is a result.

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BY-LAWS – FINALS SERIES

11. MATCH RULES

11.1 BALLS AND COURTS

11.1.1 During the semi-finals and preliminary finals of all divisions the higher placed team on the premiership table shall play on their home courts, or courts designated by the home team. All Grand Finals shall be played at a neutral venue, to be decided by Match Committee.

11.1.2 Each single sex team shall provide six new balls. Each mixed team shall provide four new balls.

11.1.3 Number of programmed courts for finals series to be allocated by the Match Committee.

11.2 ORDER OF PLAY

11.2.1 Where practical, doubles matches in the Singles competition shall be played prior to singles commencing with the second doubles and then the first doubles. Order of singles play will commence with last single, Number 4 players, followed by next singles in ascending order.

11.2.1 Where practical in the mixed doubles competition, single sex doubles are to be played first followed by the second mixed doubles and then the first mixed doubles.

11.3 UNFINISHED MATCHES

11.3.1 *Finals series matches must be completed within the following week, that is mutually agreed by both teams. Grand final to be completed by the Sunday week.*

11.3.2 In a final series if a match is drawn in the singles competition then the singles players will all play a tie-breaker. The winner will be the team with the most ties won, if equal then the most points won. If teams are still equal then the doubles play a tie-breaker and if still equal on tie breakers and points won then singles and doubles tie-breakers will be repeated until a result is achieved.

In a finals series where a mixed doubles competition match is drawn, the mixed doubles will play a tie-breaker and the winner will be the team with the most ties won, if equal then the most points won. If ties are equal then the men's and ladies doubles will play a tie-breaker and the

winner will be the team with the most ties, if equal then the most points won. If still equal then the mixed doubles and men's and ladies doubles tie-breakers will be repeated until a result is achieved.

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11.4 FORFEITS

11.4.1 The spirit of the competition shall be that all sets shall be completed, and the rotation order of play may be altered to ensure continuous play is maintained on the programmed court(s)

11.4.1.1 All matches shall commence at 1 p.m. The first set must be commenced by 1.15p.m.

11.4.1.2 A team may claim a forfeit of all sets involving a player who is not in attendance at the match venue by 3 p.m.

11.4.1.3 If continuous play on the programmed court(s) cannot be maintained the offending team shall forfeit sets in accordance with the rotation order specified in By-Law 1 1.2 1.21

11.4.1.4 During the finals series in the mixed doubles competition programmed court rules shall commence from 2 p.m. as long as play is maintained on one court from 1.15 p.m. Any player not in attendance and prepared to play on any available programmed court within 10 minutes of being required shall forfeit the set(s).

11.4.2 Any player who refuses without reasonable excuse to commence play on being requested to do so after a three minute hit up, is liable to forfeit the set(s).

11.4.3 All forfeits must be recorded on the score sheet together with the reason for the same.

11.4.4 In the event of a player failing to arrive at the match or becoming unfit to play, after the exchange of lists and commencement of play that player shall forfeit the allocated set or sets.

11.4.5 If a Club finds it necessary to forfeit any sets or matches because of lack of players, then sets or matches shall be forfeited in ascending order, commencing with the team in the lowest division within the Club.

11.5 UMPIRES

11.5.1 Central umpires shall be provided at the request of any participating player in any set, and shall be responsible for scoring and calling all lines.

12. RESULT SHEETS

12.1 Every score sheet shall be signed by the captain of each team.

- 12.2 Score sheets must be submitted by each Club and received by the Association Senior Recording Secretary. In respect of last minor round and finals matches, score sheets must be submitted and received by no later than 12.00 noon on the Sunday following the match.

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13. PLAYER MOVEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

- 13.1 *No player may participate in the finals for any division unless that player has played a combined total of four or more matches in that division or a lower division of that competition, for the same club.*
- 13.2 Where a Club has more than one team in a single division, any player who represents one of these teams during the finals series is tied to that team when playing in that division for the remainder of the finals series.
- 13.3 No player who has played more than two-thirds of the programmed minor round matches in a higher division may participate in any finals series match in any lower division. Where a bye situation occurs within a division, programmed minor round matches does not include byes.
- 13.4 Any player who has played in a finals series match in a higher division shall not be allowed to play in a finals series match in a lower division unless such a player acted only as a reserve for the higher division.
- 13.5 Each Club competing in the finals series shall furnish to the Association Senior Recording Secretary, team lists of players (including reserves) in singles and doubles order of merit, required for the finals series. Mixed Doubles teams are required to have named the players (and reserves) in order of merit. A fifth qualified player may be used in finals series to change the double or mixed doubles combination of any submitted team but must play singles in order of merit as per the originally submitted team. Any change must be authorized by the Senior Recording Secretary. Once Association approval has been given no changes will be allowed for further finals matches, unless due to the unavailability of players. Players can only be listed for one competition

The list must be received by the Association Senior Recording Secretary no later than 6.00 p.m. on the Sunday preceding the first finals matches.

- 13.6 In exceptional circumstances a club may apply, through the Senior Recording Secretary, to play an unqualified player however that player must have competed in at least 2 matches in the senior or junior competition during the current season. That player must be of the same or lesser standard than the player they are replacing and shall be ratified by the match committee. This applies only to the clubs lowest division.

or lesser standard than the player that they are replacing and shall be ratified by Senior Match Committee.

Penalty: Any Club failing to submit teams in accordance with these rules, or playing players in positions other than as approved, shall in addition to any other penalty, forfeit the match

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14. HOT WEATHER

14.1 Matches will be automatically cancelled when the Saturday maximum temperature for the city of Adelaide)as shown on the Bureau of Meteorology website as at 7.30am) is 37 degrees or higher..

14.2 Finals series matches must be completed within the following week, mutually agreed by both teams. Weather permitting.