

COUNTIES TENNIS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

RULES GOVERNING PLAY IN INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS 2011 – 2012 SEASON

1. (a) Competition shall mean the whole Interclub Series in any one grade for the season.
(b) Match shall mean any individual singles or doubles match.
(c) Contest shall mean the total matches between one club and another club or between two teams of the same club in any one grade or division of a grade.
(d) Home team shall mean the team playing on its own courts, or if neither team is playing at home, or if both teams are playing at home, the first named team in the draw.
2. The Association shall conduct competition and grades as decided by the Board of Management.
3. The numbers of players and the mix of men and women in each grade shall be decided by the Association each year in respect of each grade.

For the current season, this shall consist of 4 singles players for Grades 1 –4 and 6 singles players for Grades 5 –7. Teams may contain an extra player and be played in accordance with rule 6. (c).

4. (a) The matches in Grade 1 shall be played on a Friday night (or other night by mutual agreement) with singles being the best of three 12 point tie breaker sets and doubles shall be the best of two 12 point tie breaker sets and where each player has won one set, a super tie breaker (18 point) shall decide the match.
(b) The matches in Grades 2 and 3 shall be singles being the best of three 12 point tie breaker sets and doubles shall be the best of two 12 point tie breaker sets and where each player has won one set, a super tie breaker (18 point) shall decide the match.
(c) The matches in Grade 4 shall be the best of two 12 point tie breaker sets, where each player has won one set, the match shall then be decided by a 12 point tie breaker.
(d) The matches in Grade 5 shall be the best of 17 games, ie the first player to reach 9 games. Where each player reaches 8 games, the match shall be decided by a 12 point tie breaker.
(e) The matches in Grade 6 and 7 shall be the best of 11 games, ie the first player to reach 6 games.
(f) Grade 7 is designed for Year 6 and below players in their first year of play but discretion for older players or those who have already played to be assessed based on ability. Able to serve from the service line for the first four weeks of the competition, double bounce allowed for the first four weeks and pee-wee balls to be used. The Organiser can shorten or extend these timeframes, based on the individual players' abilities.

5. The following balls will be used in each grade:
 Grade 1 – new Wilson US Open or Australian Open
 Grade 2 – new Wilson Us Open or Australian Open
 Grade 3 – new Wilson Championship
 Grade 4 – good used balls (label must be visible)
 Grade 5 – good used balls (label must be visible)
 Grade 6 – good used balls (label must be visible)
 Grade 7 – Pee-wee balls (label must be visible)

Each team shall supply one ball per singles player.

6. The matches shall be:
 - (a) Each player shall play one game of singles.
 - (b) Each player shall play one game of doubles (mens, ladies or mixed).
 - (c) If a team contains an extra player, they may play one game of singles or one game of doubles only. The extra player must be written on the team sheet and be played in the correct graded order.
 - (d) A team may play a non-affiliated fill-in player in the correct order by paying a \$10 fee each time they play. However, after they have played two games a full affiliation fee must be paid.
 - (e) In the event of a club having two or more teams in the same grade, players must not play in more than one team unless under exceptional circumstances, and then only the bottom two players may slide across. Notification is to be provided to Counties in writing of this change, prior to the match commencing.
 - (f) The number one ranked singles player must play in the top doubles.
7. Both teams must fill out a team sheet before the match commences. Grades 1 – 4 are not obliged to fill out the doubles pairings until the start of the doubles matches. Grades 5 – 7 must fill out the doubles pairings and this shall be the following: 1&2, 3&4, 5&6.
8. Please be punctual and ensure you are ready to play at the start time. All players need to report to both teams Captains within 15 minutes of the start time or risk default.
 Any deferred match or delayed match due to the weather must be played within two weeks of the contest's original date, or if scheduled before the Xmas break, played before the Xmas break.
 The Interclub Committee should be contacted immediately if any problems of rescheduling arise. The Counties Tennis Complex is available during the week and on some Sundays for rescheduling of matches or contests.
9. In the event of rain intervening the contest,
 - if less than half the matches have been completed, the contest is to be restarted (new players can be used).
 - if half or more of the matches are completed then the contest must be completed with the same players.
 - if completed on the same day, an incompleted match shall resume with the scores applicable when play stopped.
 - if completed on any other day, the match shall be restarted.
 - the match must be completed within two weeks of the scheduled date.

- where the teams can not reschedule the match within two weeks of the scheduled date, the points shall be shared.
10. No contest can be deferred:
 - If you are a player short for a contest, you should default one singles and one doubles match. The default must be the bottom singles and bottom doubles.
 - Rescheduling of one match can be done if both team captains are agreeable.
 - Any contest can be played prior to the scheduled dates if both team captains are agreeable.
 - Any deferral caused by events other than the weather of interclub matches requires the approval of the Interclub Committee. Continued breaches of this rule may result in loss of points at the Interclub Committee's sole discretion.
 11. Order of Play:
 - Grades 1, 2 & 3 – play singles first unless both team captains agree otherwise.
 - Grades 4, 5, 6 & 7 – should ensure all allocated courts are used first. This may involve playing singles or doubles.
 12. During a match no player is entitled to leave the court for a rest, drinks' break or to receive coaching. Exceptions to this are:
 - A player is permitted to have a toilet break at changeover of ends (1 per set or 11 games).
 - A player can replace their racquet as a result of being broken or breaking a string.
 - An injury can be treated providing the player is able to continue to play within 5 minutes.
 - A player is allowed 90 seconds between each game for a drink or towel off – not to leave the court.
 13. In all contests the players playing order shall be strictly in order of merit according to their playing ability. This shall apply to singles and doubles, except double pairings may be changed with the proviso that the number one player must always play in the top combination in Grades 1 - 4.

After two weeks, the playing order in all teams is to be fixed and cannot be changed without firstly notifying Counties of the results of a formal challenge. A formal challenge shall be a contest between the two players, playing a match under the interclub rules for that grade or in a tournament or the grade champs.

14. Team Sheets:
 - These must be filled out clearly and correctly, stating the full name of the team, each player, top dog code where known, the score, the winning team for each match, and then signed by both team captains at the end of the contest.
 - It is the responsibility of the winning team to post or deliver a completed team sheet to the Counties Tennis Complex within one week of the contest.
 - Teams winning by default have to hand in their completed team sheet.

- All club contacts are to email Counties Tennis on the Monday following the game with all results for their teams. This is to allow the results table to be updated.
15. Points for contests shall be allowed as follows:
 - A point is awarded for each match won. A draw remains a draw on equal points and a count back on sets is not required.
 - Teams winning by default receive full points for the contest so long as a team sheet is submitted.
 16. In the event of there being more than one section in a grade, then the winners of each section shall play off on the basis decided by the Association to find the winner of the grade.

In the event of teams ranking equal on the basis of Rule 15, then the matches between the teams will be recounted based on matches won, then sets won, then games won to try and split the teams. If the teams can not be split after this process, then a coin toss completed by the draw committee shall determine the finishing order of the teams.

17. Starting times shall be the time specified on the draw. Team captains must ensure their players are on court and ready within 15 minutes of the start time.
18. In the event of weather interrupting play, or a series of lengthy matches requiring an extension to time for a morning fixture, then matches remaining may be rescheduled if both team captains agree subject to Rule 10.

No morning match is to commence after 12.30pm unless both team captains agree and courts are available.

19. All references to Association in the rules means the Board of Management of the Counties Tennis Association or any sub committee or person delegated the authority by the Board of Management.
20. Umpiring:
 - Grades 1 – 4 can request an umpire at any time. Only one umpire on the umpire's stand at a time.
 - Grade 5 should be encouraged to have any umpire.
 - Grade 6 and 7 need to have a parent or an umpire to score the match.

An umpire can be requested for or changed at any time through a match.

21. Dress Requirements:
 - Non marking shoes to be worn. No sandals or jandals (thongs).
 - Shorts no longer than knee length with pockets, no jeans or other long trousers are to be worn. Tennis shirts to be worn. No singlets unless proper tennis attire.
 - A player can be defaulted if they breach these dress requirements.

22. Re-grading:

- Any player can play in a different grade in different seasons.
- Any player who has played in two consecutive contests in a grade, or in three contests in a grade at different times during the season, shall be considered as qualified for that grade and shall not be played in a lower grade until they have been regraded by the Association.
- All requests for regrading of players are to be in writing and it is at the sole discretion of the board if they approve or decline the request.

23. Finals:

Where any grade has a final, for a player to be eligible to play in the final they must have played two games for that team or a lower ranked team in the club.

24. Playing at the Tennis Centre:

- Please keep all courts and surrounds tidy – use bins beside building to put rubbish in.
- The courts allocated for your teams contest will be displayed in the clubrooms.
- Ensure a prompt morning start at 9.00 am.
- A duty team from the afternoon games will be scheduled each week to clean the kitchen, close windows, and ensure the complex is locked on leaving.
- For teams playing on the plexipave courts, please note the specific requirements relating to footwear, plus care and maintenance.
- Access to the plexipave courts is through the gates at either end of the courts only. No access to the courts is to be allowed into the middle from the progress courts.

25. All disagreements or disputes under these rules are to be referred to the Association, via the Secretary. The Association shall have unrestricted authority in resolving or deciding the matter in dispute. The Association has unrestricted rights to default a players match, default any team, replay the contest or a players match, adjust any points, ban players or any other decision etc, where in the opinion of the Association the offence warrants such an action. No party shall have any right of appeal to any such decision.

26. All correspondence can be addressed to:

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