

COUNTIES TENNIS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

RULES GOVERNING PLAY IN INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS 2024– 2025 SEASON

1. Definitions

- (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 (Counties Tennis Association Committee)

3. Number of Players per Team

The number of players in each grade shall be decided by the Association each year.

For the current season 2024-2025, this shall consist of 4 singles players for Grades 1-3 and 5-7 and 2 singles players for Grade 4. Teams may contain an extra player and be played in accordance with rule 6. (c).

3. Age Restrictions

- (a) Grade 7: Year 6 and below at the start of the season (October)
- (b) Grade 4 – 6: 18 years and under at the start of the season (October). A dispensation can be granted for older players under special circumstances subject to CTA approval.
- (c) Grade 3 – Grade 1: no age restrictions

4. Scoring Formats

- (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 tiebreaker* sets and doubles shall be the best of two 12-point tiebreaker* sets and where each pairing has won one set, a super tiebreaker (18-point**) shall decide the match.
- (b) The matches in Grades 2 shall be played on a Thursday night (or other night by mutual agreement) singles and doubles, the best of two 12-point tiebreaker* sets and where each player has won one set, a super tiebreaker (18-point**) shall decide the match.
- (c) The matches in Grade 3 shall be singles being the best of three 12-point tiebreaker* sets and doubles shall be the best of two 12-point tiebreaker* sets and where each player has won one set, a super tiebreaker (18-point**) shall decide the match.

(d) The matches in Grade 4 shall be the best of two 12-point tiebreaker* sets, where each player has won one set; the match shall then be decided by a 12-point tiebreaker*.

(e) The matches in Grade 5 shall be the best of 17 games, i.e. the first player to reach 9 games. Where each player reaches 8 games, the match shall be decided by a 12-point tiebreaker*.

(f) The matches in Grade 6 and 7 shall be the best of 11 games, i.e. the first player to reach 6 games.

(g) Grade 7 is for beginning players in Year 6 and below. Matches are held at the Counties Tennis Centre, West Street, Pukekohe on Friday nights at 4 p.m. Teams must provide at least 2 adults to help score. Low compression balls (Green) used. It is at the discretion of the teams and interclub organizer for players to serve between service square line and base-line, but as the season progresses players will be encouraged to serve from the base-line. The service should be overhead. Underarm service is permitted from the baseline only without bouncing the ball. Sudden Death Deuce system to be used, i.e. No advantage permitted.

* 12-point tiebreaker = Short Tiebreaker = First to 7 points, won by 2

** 18-point tiebreaker = Long/Super Tiebreaker = First to 10 points, won by 2

Note:

Sportsman rule: If bringing in substitutes to make up team numbers, the manager must ensure their playing ability is suitable to the grade they are filling in for and they meet the age requirements for given grade.

5. The following balls will be used in each grade:

Grade 1 – new WILSON Tour Premier or US Open

Grade 2 – new WILSON Tour Premier or US Open

Grade 3 – new WILSON Tour Premier or US Open

Grade 4 – good used balls, preferably WILSON (label must be visible)

Grade 5 – good used balls, preferably WILSON (label must be visible)

Grade 6 – good used balls, preferably WILSON (label must be visible)

Grade 7 – **Green balls** (supplied by Counties Tennis Association)

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 (men, 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 using the Configure Rankings.

(d) A team may play a non-affiliated fill-in player of the **same ranking band or lower** in the correct order by paying a \$10 fee each time they play. However, once they play the 3rd match a full affiliation fee must be paid.

(e) In the event of a club having two or more teams in the same **interclub** grade, players must not play in more than one team unless under exceptional circumstances and then only the players who are NOT #1 and #2 in their team are allowed to slide across. **Notification is to be provided to Counties of this change, prior to the match commencing.**

(f) The number one ranked singles player must play in the top doubles.

7. Scoresheets

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 and 3&4. Both captains must sign the team sheet **at the end of the match.**

8. Start-times

- All Grades: 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. If the player is late more than 15 min, both captains must decide by mutual agreement if the match can be played. If this agreement is not reached, then the match will be defaulted.
- Grade 2 on Thursdays nights: In case of being late more than 15 min for Grade 2 matches played on Thursdays, the captains have an additional option to award the first set to the team that was not late and play the rest of the match. Both captains must choose by mutual agreement one of the following options:
 - Play a normal match.
 - Default the match.
 - Allocate the first set to the team that was on time as 6-0 and play the rest of the match.

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. Rain Delays

- 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 uncompleted 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 cannot reschedule the match within two weeks of the scheduled date, the points shall be shared.

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 12.30 p.m. unless both team captains agree, and courts are available.

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 a match can be done if both team captains are agreeable however the match has to be played within two weeks of the scheduled date.
- Any contest can be played prior to the scheduled dates if both team captains are agreeable.
- No deferred games to be played after the last round of play.
- 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 – should ensure all allocated courts are used first, then play doubles first unless both team captains agree otherwise,
- Grades 3 – play doubles 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. E.g: when 3 courts are allocated, play 2 singles and 1 doubles match or 3 doubles matches

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 the 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 provided 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. Playing Order in Team

(a) In Grades 1-3:

In all contests, the players' playing order shall be **strictly** in order of their Configure Ranking **grade/band**. (eg: S8, S10) This shall apply to singles and doubles, except double pairings may be changed with the proviso that the number one **singles** player must always play in the top combination. The playing order 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

Counties grade champs. Ranking points and bands are to be referred to at 2 times in the season:

- a) First weekend of interclub for the grade.
- b) First weekend of interclub after Christmas for the grade.

(b) In Grades 4-7:

Bands will be a good indication but *after two weeks*, the playing order 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 **Counties** grade champs.

14. Team Sheets:

- These must be filled out clearly and correctly, stating the full name of the team, each player, Configure Ranking code where known, the score, the winning team for each match, and then signed by both team captains at the end of the **match**.
- It is the responsibility of the winning team to enter the results online by the Tuesday following the match.
- Team sheets must be kept by Team Managers until 3 weeks after the last game of the season.
- Teams winning by default also have to enter that online. **Do not enter scores in the result section** and let the Counties Tennis administrator know.
- Go to www.countiestennis.co.nz and under Interclub link go to www.tennis.org.nz/resultslogin.asp or capture results link.

15. Points for contests shall be allowed as follows:

- A point is awarded for each match won. A bonus point is awarded **to the winning team**.
 - In the case of a draw, a count back is made on:
 1. Sets won. Super tie-breakers count as 1 set to 0. If still tied then;
 2. Games won. Super tie-breakers count as 1 game to 0.
 - Top qualifiers in round-robin play win the semi-final or final, if the 2 teams cannot be separated on a countback.
 - Teams winning by default receive full points for the contest, **but no bonus point**.

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 cannot be split after this process, then a full countback of sets, then games will be done for the grade. This rule will also apply to grades where there is only

one section, and teams qualifying for the semi-finals and/or finals (where no semi-finals are played) cannot be separated on points from the qualifying rounds.

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. All references to 'Association' in the rules mean the Board of Management of the Counties Tennis Association, or any subcommittee or person delegated the authority by the Board of Management.

19. 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 an 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.

20. Dress Requirements:

- Non-marking shoes to be worn. No sandals/jandals/thongs **or bare feet permitted.**
- Shorts no longer than knee length with suitable pockets for holding the second ball. 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.

21. Re-grading:

- Any player can play in a different grade in different seasons.
- Any player who has played 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 re-graded by the Association.
- All requests for re-grading of players are to be in writing and it is at the sole discretion of the Counties Tennis Association committee if they approve or decline the request.

22. Semi-Finals & Finals:

- a) Where any grade has a semi-final and/or final, for a player to be eligible to play in the final they must have played two matches for that team or a lower-ranked team in the **same** club and be affiliated to CTA.
- b) The draw format will be decided after clubs have submitted team numbers for each grade. If pool groups are required, then divisional finals to be played e.g. top half – bottom half
- c) Top qualifiers in round-robin play win the semi-final or final, if the 2 teams cannot be separated on a countback.

23. Playing at the Tennis Centre:

- Please keep all courts and surrounds tidy – use bins beside the building to put rubbish in.
- The courts allocated for your teams' contest will be displayed in the clubrooms on the whiteboard. Courts allocated on the draw are only a guideline for preparing the draw. No changes to the allocation written on the whiteboard shall be made without first getting the permission of the interclub controller.
- Ensure a prompt morning start at 8.30am and 10:30am.
- For teams playing on the plexipave courts, please note the specific requirements relating to footwear, plus care and maintenance.

24. Disagreements, Disputes, and Exceptions

All disagreements, disputes, and applications for an exception from 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 player's match, default any team, replay the contest or a player's match, adjust any points, ban players or any other decision etc, where in the opinion of the Association the offense warrants such an action. No party shall have any right of appeal to any such decision. Counties Tennis Association retains the right to change any of the Interclub rules under exceptional circumstances.