



ILLAWARRA SUBURBS LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION LTD. COMPETITION RULES

TUESDAY and THURSDAY LADIES MIDWEEK

Revised by the Ladies Match and Grading Committee March 29th. 1999
Approved by Council of Management April 20th. 1999
Reissued to take effect from the Winter Competition 1999

Updated as follows

REFERENCE	CLAUSES INVOLVED	CHG BY	DATE of change
Ladies AGM Nov.1999	1,1(a),1(b),1(c),1(d),10,11	GB	12 Dec.1999
Ladies combined Match & Grading Nov.1999	17, 22, 25	GB	12 Dec.1999
Ladies Match & Grading July 2000	8 added, 7 fees deleted	GB	6 Jul. 2000
Ladies Match & Grading Nov.2001	14, 19, 21, 26	GB	6 Dec.2001
Amended June 2003	6, 8, 26, 33	JB	4 Jun.03
Heat rule and addendum		JB	19 Feb.05
August meeting 2005	19, 20	JB	16 Aug.05
September C of M Meeting	26	JEB	27 Sept 2007
Match & Grading Feb 26, 2008	31	JEB	19 Mar 2008
AGM 2010 held 4th April 2011	7, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 27	JEB	11 Apr.2011
AGM 2011 held 23rd April 2012	27	JEB	9 May.2012
C of M 22nd October 2013	35	JEB	22 Oct.2013
Match & Grading 10th June 2014	27	JEB	19 Jun.2014
C of M Meeting 8th December 2015	35	JEB	13.Dec.15
AGM 2016 held 10th April 2017	35(4)	JEB	17 May.2017
AGM 2018 held 8th April 2019	1(b)	JBol	1 Jul.2019
AGM 2019 held 13th September 2020	35	JBol	17 Sep.2020
AGM 2022 held 1 st May 2023	7,8,20,21,22,23,24,25,28,35	JBol	13 Jun.2023
AGM 2023 held 6 th May 2024	7,18,35	JBol	16 May.24

1. COMPETITION

In accordance with the By-Laws the Ladies Match and Grading Committee shall with the consent of the Directors and Council promulgate such competition rules as may be necessary for the conduct of the Ladies Midweek Competitions except that, no alterations to rules 1, 1(a), 1(b), 1(c), 1(d), 11 and 12 can be made without a 75% majority to a notice of motion at a Ladies AGM or a Ladies extra-ordinary general meeting.

All matches must be played in accordance with the official rules of tennis in conjunction with the competition rules as laid down by the ISLTA Ltd.

Play in the competitions shall be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Entry closing dates, commencing dates and playing dates for new competitions are at the discretion of the competition secretary, with the following exceptions.

- (a) With the exception of the Christmas holidays, competition must be played one week of each of the school holidays (public schools). The week to be determined at the discretion of the joint Tuesday and Thursday competition secretaries.
- (b) Competition will be played on the Thursday before Easter and the Tuesday after Easter unless Easter coincides with school holidays then rule 1(a) will apply.
- (c) Competition play will resume after the Christmas break in the second week of term one (1) (public schools) each year.
- (d) Tuesday competition will play on Melbourne Cup day each year

2. PLAYERS

All players competing must be registered members of the I.S.L.T.A. Ltd. and must be affiliated with the organisations as specified by the ISLTA Ltd. at the time of registration.

3. ENTRY FEES

Entry fees to be as determined by the council of management.

4. ENTRIES

All Team Entries for the competition must be on the prescribed form in force at the time of acceptance. All details as required on the form must be filled in correctly. Players are permitted to register with only one team.

5. NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN A TEAM

A team shall not at any time have more than eight players registered.

6. LATE REGISTRATIONS

Applications for late registrations received after the competition has been graded shall be dealt with by the Match and Grading Committee. Applications for late registrations must be in the hands of the Competition Secretary before the commencement of the match. The Competition Secretary is empowered to grant permission for late registrations over the telephone subject to the decision of the Match and Grading Committee. All applications must be submitted in writing on the prescribed form in force at the time, with all details filled in correctly and accompanied by the correct fee as required. All players must be registered with the affiliated organisations specified by the Association at the time of registration. For applications accepted over the telephone the correct form and fees must be in the hands of the Competition Secretary no later than 48 hours after the match is played.

6. LATE REGISTRATIONS (continued)

When making application for late registration of a player, team secretaries must ascertain and declare strength of such player which must not strengthen the team as determined by the Match and Grading committee. If the information be later considered incorrect, the committee may withdraw the registration of such player and award to the opponents any sets in which such player took part. If the information given is proved to be deliberately false then further penalties may be imposed against the team and/or team secretary at the discretion of the Match and Grading Committee.

7. ONE DAY TRANSFERS

One-day transfers from the same or a lower grade are permitted within the same competition. Permission must be obtained from the Competition Secretary before the commencement of the match. Full details MUST be submitted in writing on the back of the result card. Teams violating this rule will incur the same penalties as if playing an unregistered player. Players transferring to another team under this rule may subsequently return to their own team provided they do not play more than two (2) matches for 'any team' in a higher grade or the same grade during the competition. Players violating this rule will be automatically deregistered. Matches played under the one-day transfer rule do not count towards making a player eligible for semi-finals or finals in the team to which they transferred.

8. ONE MATCH REGISTRATIONS

A player may be registered for one match only without deregistering any other member of the team. All applications for one match registrations shall be dealt with by the Match and Grading Committee. Permission for one match registrations must be obtained from the Competition Secretary before the commencement of the match. The Competition Secretary is empowered to grant permission for the one match registration over the telephone subject to the decision of the Match and Grading Committee. Full details must then be submitted in writing on the back of the result card. All players must be registered with affiliated organisations as specified by the Association at the time of registration. When making application for the one match registration of a player, team secretaries must ascertain and declare strength of such player, which must not strengthen the team as determined by the Match and Grading committee. If the information be later considered incorrect, the committee may withdraw the registration of such player and award to the opponents any sets in which such player took part. If the information given is proved to be deliberately false then further penalties may be imposed against the team and / or team secretary and / or the player concerned at the discretion of the Match and Grading Committee. If a player plays more than two (2) matches with the same team under this rule then the registration becomes a permanent registration and if the team then has more than eight (8) players registered then another member of the team must be deregistered. Matches played by any player under this rule do not count towards eligibility for Semi finals, Finals or trophies.

9. COURT HIRE

Teams are to be responsible for maintaining the hire of their court until such time as the whole competition has been finalised. In no circumstances can the location of the home court be changed without prior approval of the match and grading committee.

10. GRADING OF TEAMS

The competition shall be played in grades determined by the Match and Grading Committee, which reserves the right to finally decide in which grade or division any team or individual player shall compete.

11. MODE OF PLAY

A team shall consist of four ladies. A match shall consist of eight tiebreaker doubles sets with each pair playing the opposing pair twice.

The visiting team has the option of doubling up in the fifth set. This must be nominated before the match starts otherwise the home team shall automatically play the double up.

The home team must nominate its pair for the first set.

12. DECIDING THE WINNER OF A MATCH

Matches are to be decided by sets, but in the event of sets being equal, by games. Each match will be allocated twelve (12) points. Four (4) points to the winning team or two (2) points each for a drawn or unfinished match. In addition one (1) point is allocated to the winner of each completed set. Half a point is allocated to each team for any sets unfinished or not played.

13. COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY

Play in the competitions will commence at 10.00am sharp.

If a team does not have a pair on the court at the time when play should commence, the other team shall be awarded the first set 6-0, thirty (30) minutes after the starting time the second set shall be awarded 6-0. If the team is unable to proceed one (1) hour after the starting time the match shall be forfeited.

If a player(s) fails to turn up, or is injured during play and no substitute is available, as many sets as possible should be played and only those sets that the missing or injured player(s) would have been involved in should be forfeited.

14. CONTINUITY OF PLAY

Play shall be continuous throughout the match with an interval of not more than 20 minutes between the fourth and fifth sets no other interval is permissible, except in the case of inclement weather. Not more than 3 minutes, including a hit-up (there will be no hit-ups after the second set) shall elapse between the conclusion of any set and the commencement of the next set except during the intervals as above.

Teams will be allowed to claim a forfeit if the opposing players are not ready to commence play within 3 minutes of the completion of the previous set.

15. TERMINATION OF PLAY

Play shall cease at 4pm, unless both teams agree to cease play earlier due to inclement weather. If, for any reason, a match is unfinished, the reason *and time of cessation* must be stated on the result card.

16. WET MATCHES

The court owner (or caretaker) is the authority for determining whether or not a court is playable when inclement weather has created a doubt in this regard, but in any case, players cannot be compelled to play in the rain. It is the responsibility of each team to have its players at the court if it is playable. When a firm decision can be obtained within one hour of starting time, from the court owner (or caretaker) by

telephone or other means, this may relieve the teams of actual attendance at the court, but in cases of doubt, actual attendance is necessary.

During a competition round where 50% or more of the matches have not reached a result due to wet weather, then these unplayed or unfinished matches may be set down for play at the completion of the scheduled rounds. This will apply for all matches defined as wet under this rule. When play is abandoned for the day or when time is lost due to rain, please indicate on the card as follows:

'Play cased atam/pm due to rain' OR '.....hrs.....mins of time lost due to rain and/or wet court.'

Cards received without this notation will not be regarded as wet and, therefore, recorded accordingly.

All unfinished wet matches must recommence at the exact point that the wet weather stopped play. In the event that a match is unfinished due to wet weather and the round is not declared a wet round then the match will be declared a draw and points will be allocated as per rule 12. In the continuation of any unfinished wet match a substitute will be allowed for any player who started the match and is unavailable on the date of continuation. Such substitute must be an original registered member of the team or a late registration who has played at least two (2) previous matches for that team in the current competition. Permission is not required prior to the match being played, however the opposing team must be informed before the commencement of play and the substitution noted on the back of the result card.

This match does not count as a qualifying match for the substitute player.

17. POSTPONED MATCHES

At the discretion of the Competition Secretary postponed matches will only be allowed under the following circumstances

- (a) In the event of the death or funeral of a registered member of a team involved in the match, or a death or funeral of someone in the immediate family of a registered member of a team involved in the match, occurring immediately preceding the match.
- (b) In the event that the court owner or caretaker declares the court unplayable for any reason other than inclement weather.
- (c) NOTE: If the court is declared unplayable due to inclement weather then the WET MATCH rule no.16 applies.
- (d) Other extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Match and Grading Committee.

Application for postponement of a match under 17(a) and 17(c) must be made to the Competition Secretary prior to the match.

For the playing of any postponed match refer to rule 18

18. UNFINISHED, POSTPONED OR UNPLAYED MATCHES

Postponed unplayed, unfinished wet matches or heat rule may be set down for play on a date at the discretion of the Competition Secretary. In the case of any postponed wet match or heat rule not being set down for play by the Competition Secretary, then teams may forward a result card to the Competition Secretary as a declaration of such players who would have played this match and it will be counted as a qualifying match under Rule 23.

19. ORDER OF SERVICE

The home team serves first in the first and fifth sets. The visiting team serves first in the second and sixth sets. The receiver to choose ends in the first, second, fifth and sixth sets. In the third, fourth, seventh and eighth sets, against the same pairs, service and end shall be regarded as continuous.

Should a tie-break occur in the first, second, fifth or sixth sets, the team which served first in the tie-break game shall receive service in the first game of their following set.

Play is to commence at the opposite end to where the tie-break game was completed.

20. DRAW FOR SEMI-FINALS

The competition shall be decided by the four leading teams in each grade or division playing semi-finals, the draw to be 1 v 4, 2 v 3. In the event of two or more teams being equal on points, positions to be decided first by differential of sets won versus sets lost, then by the differential of games won versus games lost. Where necessary, percentages will apply. In the event of a draw in semi-finals or finals the match will be replayed.

21. DECIDING HOME AND AWAY TEAMS IN SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

Semi-finals and Finals as directed by the Match and Grading Committee shall consist of 8 sets. In Semi-Finals and Finals the teams will toss with the winner having the choice of being the home or away team. The order of service will then be as set out in rule 19.

22. COURTS FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

Semi-Finals and Finals are to be played on the court of the first-mentioned team unless this court has been allocated to another grade, which will then be at the discretion of the Competition Secretary. In the event of a draw in semi-finals/finals, the match will be replayed on the court of the opposing team.

The association shall have the right to use the courts of any teams entered in the competition. A penalty may be imposed upon the teams failing to provide a court when called upon and all members of the team will be considered unfinancial until the matter is resolved. Posting of the DRAW on the I.S.L.T.A website will be considered sufficient notice to all teams.

23. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY IN SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

A player is not eligible to play with a team in semi-finals or finals unless she has played in at least four (4) matches during the competition with such team. Where a bye exists in the grade, three (3) matches will be deemed sufficient, but in the case of a forfeit or an unplayed wet or postponed match teams may forward a result card to the Competition Secretary as a declaration of such players who would have played in the match and it will be counted as a qualifying match.

24. SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS

In the event of a player becoming incapacitated through an injury incurred during the match being played, a substitute who must not have taken part in the match previously, and who is a registered member of the team, will be allowed to continue the match. Play to be resumed from the exact position in which the match stood when the player withdrew due to injury. The substitute must be available within one hour or the sets unplayed shall be forfeited. During the hour, match to continue with sets being played out of order if necessary. Notice of such substitution to be noted on the back of the result card. This rule also applies to semi-finals and finals.

25. UNFINISHED SEMI-FINALS OR FINALS

In the event of a semi-final or final being unfinished on the day set down, play shall be resumed from the exact position in which the match stood when play was stopped.

Substitutes in the continuation of any unfinished match will only be allowed in the following circumstances.

1. Death, injury or sickness of a player due to accident or otherwise.
2. Other extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Match and Grading committee

The application for which must be in writing and include documentary proof, and be lodged with the competition secretary before commencement of the match, if this is not possible then permission must be obtained by phone and the written application lodged no later than 24hrs. after completion of the match. Failure to do this will result in the forfeiture of all sets that the substitute takes part in.

26. LODGEMENT OF RESULT CARDS

The players' names and the scores of each match shall be entered on a result card which must be signed at the end of the day's play by both captains as a true and accurate record of the match.

Tuesday Competition: The captain of the winning team or the team leading at the end of the day's play must phone or fax the result to the Competition Secretary no later than 6 p.m. on the day of the match. The result card must be in the hands of the Competition Secretary by 6 p.m. Thursday following the match.

Thursday Competition: The captain of the winning team or the team leading at the end of the day's play must phone the result to the Competition Secretary by 6 p.m. Thursday night. The result card must be in the hands of the Competition Secretary by 6 p.m. Friday following the match.

Points will not be allocated to the winning team until the result card is in the hands of the Competition Secretary. In the event of a draw or there being no play for any reason other than a forfeit, the home team is responsible for delivering the result and card to the Competition Secretary. In the event of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit is responsible for delivering the result card. Failure to comply with these conditions may result in the team responsible for delivering the result and card, losing their competition points for that match.

27. FORFEITS

- (a) In the case of a forfeit, the team receiving the forfeit will be awarded the maximum winning points, being 12 points. The result will be recorded as 8 sets 48 games to 0 sets 0 games.
- (b) A team withdrawing from the competition, or forfeiting more than two (2) matches, or two (2) matches consecutively, or one (1) match or any part of a match in the 12th, 13th or 14th rounds, or any scheduled wet or postponed match played at the completion of the scheduled rounds, without satisfactory reason, shall be disqualified, and a fine of \$10.00 may be imposed upon the team and all registered members of such team shall be disqualified until such fine has been paid. All points, sets and games for and against any withdrawn or disqualified team shall be deleted, except if such team is withdrawn or disqualified during the second half of the competition and the first half of the competition is fully completed. In such cases the points for the first half will stand.
- (c) A forfeit shall not stand if the round is declared a washout, unless the appointed court is playable at commencement (start of play) time.

28. BALLS

Matches are to be played with tennis balls approved by Tennis Australia. Three new balls are to be provided by the home team for each match. In semi-finals and finals three new balls are to be provided by the first mentioned team published in the draw, cost of which is to be shared by both teams.

29. TENNIS ATTIRE

The correct tennis attire should conform to the following guidelines:

Colour: Any colour is permissible for basic clothing designed, described and designated specifically as tennis attire including cardigans, pullovers, jumpers, caps, hats, eyeshades and tracksuits.

Footwear: These articles must be designed for use on tennis courts and be free of heels, bars, treads and colours which are normally considered injurious to tennis court surfaces.

Skirts, divided or otherwise, shorts or frocks designed, described and designated specifically as tennis attire are permissible.

Not Permitted:

1. Slacks or similar garments while playing.
2. Clothing bearing lettering, writing or other illustration obviously designed as advertisements. Provided that piping, small manufacturers motifs and monograms are permissible.
3. Scoops, scamps, stubbies, swimwear or any kind of similarly designed clothing.

30. UMPIRES

Umpires are not compulsory, but where a team insists on umpires and the opposition is not agreeable then that team may supply its own umpires.

31. PROTESTS

A team, or any registered member of a team, dissatisfied with the outcome or conduct of a match, set down by the Association, may lodge a protest with the Match and Grading Committee through the Hon. Competition Secretary. Any protest completion of the match concerned, with a fee of five (5) dollars. Any such protest must contain the date and printed name and signature of the registered member of the team submitting the protest.

A team, or any registered member of a team, who is dissatisfied with the Protest decision of the Match and Grading Committee, may appeal to the Council of Management against the decision. The Appeal must be in writing and must contain the date and printed name and signature of a registered member of the appealing team. Such appeal must be received by the Hon. General Secretary of the Association within one (1) week of receipt of the decision of the Match and Grading Committee and must be accompanied by a fee of ten (10) dollars.

32. ELIGIBILITY FOR TROPHIES

A maximum of eight trophies will be supplied to members of winning teams in each division or grade, provided such members have played in at least four matches, or three matches where a bye exists in a grade.

33. TOURNAMENTS

The court of any team must be made available, if required, for at least one day for any one tournament conducted by the Association.

34. PENALTIES

The Match and Grading Committee may at its discretion impose a penalty for any breach of these rules, other than those for which a penalty is already provided. Any appeal against such penalty should be lodged with the Hon.General Secretary of the Association and be accompanied by a fee of \$5.00.

35. EXCESSIVE HEAT / CATASTROPHIC WEATHER CONDITIONS

1. Should the match commence, and conditions deteriorate during play, the match may be abandoned at the request of any player. If after one hour the temperature is still in excess of 33 degrees play may be abandoned for the day. During a competition any round abandoned under Rule 35.2 or 35.3 where 50% or more of the matches have not reached a result due to heat/weather, then these unplayed or unfinished matches may be set down for play at the completion of the scheduled rounds. This will apply for all matches defined as hot/weather under this rule. When play is abandoned for the day or when time is lost due to heat/weather, please indicate on the card as follows:- 'Play ceased atam/pm due to heat/weather' OR '....hrs...mins of time lost due to heat/weather. Cards received without this notation will not be regarded as heat/weather and, therefore, recorded accordingly. Where 50% of matches are completed on a day then points to be shared as per Rule 12. All unfinished heat/weather matches must recommence at the exact point that the heat/weather stopped play. In the continuation of any unfinished heat/weather match a substitute will be allowed for any player who started the match and is unavailable on the date of continuation. Such substitute must be an original registered member of the team or a late registration who has played at least two (2) previous matches for that team in the current competition. Permission is not required prior to the match being played, however the opposing team must be informed before the commencement of play and the substitution noted on the back of the result card. This match does not count as a qualifying match for the substitute player.
2. Both teams must sign and submit a result sheet showing reason for the match being incomplete.
3. Failure to comply with this rule will result in no points being allocated to either team.

36. MATTERS NOT MENTIONED IN COMPETITION RULES

The council of the association shall have the power to deal with all matters not mentioned in the foregoing competition rules.

Tennis, in common with most sports, involves a certain amount of vigour and can lead to injuries usually of a comparatively minor nature. Persons who play sport voluntarily accept the normal risk associated with their sport.