**Mandate and justification – 2018 update:**

The goal of the original project was to simplify the HTA rules and to make them more user-friendly. The first stage of the rules shortening has received very positive feedback, and we are fine tuning the process again this season.

Committee representatives (elected by the HTA community) are given the power to interpret and enforce the rules as they see fit. Information not directly related to match play is disseminated separately by relevant committees.

Feedback is sought every year from clubs and players on how we can improve our Rules of Match and Play.

Jo Casey

**Hills Tennis Association Inc Rules of Match and Play**

**Season ~~2017~~/2018/19**

**Contact relevant Committee (Senior, Junior, Midweek, Night Tennis) if you have any queries or require assistance.**

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# Introduction

* 1. Application of these Rules

The Senior Activities (SAC), Junior Activities (JAC), Night and Midweek Committees have ~~been given~~ authority to interpret these rules and to allow exemptions for their relevant competitions. They also have the power to determine appropriate penalties for breach of these rules. A~~ny person found in breach of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action by the relevant committee.~~ This can include informal/formal warnings, demerit points, forfeiture of sets, suspension, exclusion from tennis venues and report/referral to SA Police. (moved from 1.2 below) The decisions of the relevant Committees shall be final.

Any changes ~~made~~ to these rules by the Management Committee will be forwarded to Club Secretaries at least two weeks prior to the start of the season ~~in which that rule shall apply~~.

* 1. Rules of Tennis, Appropriate Behaviour and Tennis Etiquette

All matches shall be conducted under the ITF’s [Rules of Tennis](https://www.itftennis.com/media/277489/277489.pdf) and Tennis Australia’s [Tennis Etiquette](http://www.tennis.com.au/learn/rules-and-scoring/etiquette) Guidelines and [Matches played without a chair umpire](http://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Rules-for-matches-without-chair-umpire-2013-latest.pdf) matches.

Players must not carry or consume alcohol or illicit drugs on any courts within the Hills Tennis Association.

**Off court interference** – These disturbances are NOT permitted:

* + Spectator interference
	+ Coaching
	+ Unfair comments made within earshot of ~~the~~ players
	+ Unsporting behaviour e.g. clapping double faults/hitting the ball into the net etc
	+ Support for one player that intimidates the other player.

Please notify the relevant committee of any breaches of the above rules.

* 1. Safeguarding Children

The HTA supports and promotes Tennis Australia’s Safeguarding Children Guidelines.

# Registration & Affiliation

Clubs will affiliate with Tennis SA by the due date each year and will register all relevant people (including players, Hot Shots, fill-ins, volunteers, committees, life members) on the ***My Tennis*** online registration software, so that they become insured.

**Penalty: Forfeiture of all sets played after 1st November in the current season for those players not registered on My Tennis~~.~~**

# Team Nominations

Team nominations are to be sent to the relevant committee by the date specified. A player cannot be nominated more than once within one competition type.

Additions to a nominated team during the season must be sent through to the relevant committee for approval, with a cut-off date of January 31 of the current season. ~~This (along with the required minimum number of matches played) will allow Finals eligibility.~~ (Already specified in rule 13.1) If the player is considered significantly above the standard of that division, permission may not be granted for them to join the team.

**Penalty: Forfeiture of sets played by the player in breach of the above rule**

# Competitions

* 1. Junior Competition – Saturday mornings

## In emergencies, players may play in both junior 8.30am and 10.30am timeslots.

**Orange Ball Competition (mixed)** – players aged 8 & under as at 30 September of the current season. This is a modified competition. Coaches should assist in determining player eligibility for orange ball. No player aged 6 and under is permitted to play without an “Exceptional Talent Permit” from the JAC. No finals will be played and premiership points will not be awarded.

**Match Format** - first to 4 games wins. Games to be "sudden death” deuce. No tie breaks.

**Green Ball Competition (mixed)** – players aged 10 & under as at30 September of the current season – provided they have achieved the skills as per the ***Beginners Skills Checklist.*** Coaches should assist in determining player eligibility. Players aged 10 and under cannot play in the yellow ball competition without an “Exceptional Talent Permit” from the JAC.These divisions will play finals.

**Match Format -** First to 6 games wins.

Green and Orange ball age restrictions are guidelines only. Older players can play in these divisions if they aren't ready to play in the Yellow Ball competition.

**Yellow Ball Competition (boys & girls separate) -** playersaged 17 and under as at 30 September of the current season.

Match Format – (Boys Div 1-7, Girls Div 1-5) – one set to 6 games (tiebreak at 5 all).

 (Boys Div 8+, Girls Div 6+) – first to 6 games wins (no tiebreaks played).

* 1. Senior Saturday Competition

**Traditional Competition**

Doubles - best of 3 sets (tiebreaker at 6 all for first 2 sets, then a match tiebreaker as the third set if needed).

**Singles - Division 1 Men and Women**: best of 3 sets (tiebreaker at 6 all for first 2 sets, then a match tiebreaker as the third set if needed).

**Singles – Division 2 Men and Women** **–** one set to 9 games. Tiebreaker at 8 all.

**Singles – all other Divisions** – one set to 6 games. Tiebreaker played at 6 all.

**Doubles Competition**

Division 1 – teams to be made up of ~~4 men (positions 1-4) and 4 women (positions 5-8).~~ 3 men and 3 women, plus 2 other players of either gender. Players to play in order of merit regardless of gender. Sixteen sets to be played for the match.

Division 2 (8-player format) – teams to be made up of 3 men and 3 women, plus 2 other players of either gender. Players to play in order of merit regardless of gender. Sixteen sets to be played for the match.

Each rubber is a 6-game set, tiebreak at 6-all.

Division 2 (4-player format) – teams to consist of 4 players – at least one of which must be male and at least one of which must be female ~~of any gender~~. Players to play in order of merit regardless of gender. ~~8 sets to be played for the match~~. The first rotation will comprise of rubbers where 1&2 v 1&2 players and 3&4 v 3&4 players and will be best of 3 sets (tiebreaker at 6 all for first 2 sets, then a match tiebreaker as the third set if needed). The remaining rotations will be 1&3 v 1&3, 2&4 v 2&4, 1&4 v 1&4 and 2&3 v 2&3 and will consist of one set to 6 games, tiebreaker played at 6 all.

* 1. Night Tennis

Each rubber is a 6-game set, tiebreak at 5-all.

* 1. Midweek Competition – Tuesday mornings

Each rubber is a 6-game set, tiebreak at 5-all. Match pairings as follows:

* 1&2, 3&4 play 2 sets
* 1&3, 2&4 play 1 set
* 1&4, 2&3 play 1 set

No finals are played in the midweek competition - the team finishing highest on the premiership table at the end of the minor round will be deemed Premiers.

**Tiebreaks:**

All set tiebreaks shall be standard 7-point tiebreaks (first to seven points with a margin of two). Where specified, a Match tiebreak shall be a 10-point tiebreak (first to ten points with a margin of two).

# Provision of Courts, Equipment & Facilities

~~It is the responsibility of~~ Each Club must ensure their courts and facilities are safe. Please advise the relevant Club in writing if there are any safety concerns, with a copy also being sent to the HTA.

Clubs shall provide at least 2 courts per match, unless exempted by the HTA. Extra courts are to be utilised if available. Facilities shall be ready for play at least 15 minutes prior ~~(juniors) and 30 minutes prior (seniors)~~ to matches. Nets are to be in good condition and net straps fitted. One squeegee per 2 courts to be available.

Home teams shall provide balls for matches.

* All Div 1 Seniors matches – 8 new balls per match.
* All Seniors Divs 2 and below & Night Tennis – 4 new balls per match
* Juniors - 4 balls per match. New balls must be used for Division 1 matches. All other divisions are to use either new or tight balls with visible brands.

# Match Information and Entering Results

Clubs will enter their players into teams in League Manager before the first match of the season. All player names must be entered for each match every week. After a one month “breaking in” period, any player name missing from the match result, one week after the match has been played may lose two premiership points per occurrence (at the discretion of the relevant Committee). Clubs who are having difficulty with any aspect of using the software can email Tennis Australia via htatracker@hta.asn.au for support.

* 1. Match Information

All fixtures can be found on Match Centre (leagues.tennis.com.au).

* 1. Match Scoresheets

**Senior Saturday** – Scoresheets to be printed from Match Centre (leagues.tennis.com.au).

**Juniors** - Scoresheets as provided by the HTA.

Scoresheets (including those for abandoned matches) must be correctly filled in and signed by both Supervisors/Captains. They must be produced within 48 hours if requested ~~by relevant committees~~.

* 1. Entering Results

~~Delegated club people from~~ Home teams are required to enter match results ~~into Match Centre/League Manager~~ by 6pm Sunday after the match. Away teams to confirm matches by 9pm Tuesday night. Night Tennis matches to be entered within 48 hours of the match. Matches not confirmed within a week of the match will be automatically confirmed by the HTA.

**A penalty of $20 per home match not entered will apply.**

# Restrictions on Players

**A player may:**

Play for 2 teams from their club in the same division, but only if they are a regular number 3 or 4 player in that division. All players may cross between teams for the first 4 weeks only. Fill-ins may fill in for any team, but once they have played 5 matches for one team, that is deemed to be their regular team.

**A female player may:**

Play in the men’s competition if, at the discretion of the SAC (taking playing statistics and ranking into account) they are deemed too strong for the women’s competition. This permit may be granted to a female player who approaches the SAC to play in the men’s competition. The number of females playing in the men’s competition will be reviewed annually and depending on the circumstances, all existing permits may not be automatically granted for the following season.

**A player may not:**

* + play for more than one club in the same competition without written clearance from the player’s former Club.
	+ Play in more than one senior match in each series of matches.
	+ Play for more than one tennis Association in the same series of competitions during a season.

Clarification 1: Players playing in an Association deemed to be an extension of the HTA (excluding Metro League) will be permitted to fill in for a HTA club (Division 1 only) a maximum of 3 times per player per season. This applies to the lowest 2 players as per the nomination form. Permission for any other player to fill back to the HTA must be expressly given by the SAC/JAC. Only one player per higher Association is permitted to play back to HTA per week. Order of merit must be followed at all times. These players are not eligible to play HTA finals under any circumstances.

Clarification 2: HTA club players may fill up to another Association a maximum of 3 times per player per season, provided order of merit is adhered to.

Clarification 3: Where the HTA is seen as an extension to another Association, players may fill-in between the 2 Associations, provided written permission has been given by both the outside Association and by the relevant HTA Committee.

Clarification 4: Junior players participating in the EDTA Friday night competition are exempt from the above.

**Penalty: Forfeiture of all sets played by the player.**

# Other Tennis Association participation

Prior written permission from the HTA ~~Management Committee~~ must be obtained no later than 2 weeks before the close of HTA nomination dates if clubs wish to participate in a competition within another Association – for both winter and summer competitions.

For summer competitions, if nominating to a higher Association, nominations must be for Division 1 only (or a division deemed stronger than the highest relevant HTA division by the SAC/JAC). A copy of the nomination form for the other Association, showing all intending players’ names is to be submitted to the SAC/JAC.

**Penalty for breach of the above conditions – 4 premiership points deducted from the highest like-division in the HTA competition for each breach of this rule.**

# Conduct of Matches

* 1. Match Times

Junior Saturday ~~morning~~: matches 8.30am-10.30am and 10.30am-12.30pm. Matches must finish at these times unless there are vacant courts available. If part-way through a set, play will cease at the end of the game (not set) currently in progress. ~~If the match is incomplete due to lateness of players then that team will forfeit any unfinished sets.~~ (repeated below in juniors, not relevant for seniors)

Senior Saturday afternoon matches 1.00pm. No sets to be started after 6.00pm.

Night matches 7.00pm.

Midweek matches 9.15am.

Players to be present ~~and ready to play~~ at least 15 minutes before the scheduled starting times.

**Junior Matches:** Any team not ready to play (either singles or doubles) by the above start time **will forfeit all sets not completed** by the appointed finishing time.

**Senior Saturday & Midweek Matches**: Any player not present and ready to play 30 minutes after the start time above, unless by consent of the opposing Captain, shall forfeit the first set they were scheduled to play. Flexibility must be shown where a team has 5 or 6 players.

**Night Matches:** Any team not ready to play one set 15 minutes after the start time, shall forfeit that set.

* 1. Match protocols

The match scoresheet must be fully completed before players take to the court. Warmups are to be of a maximum 3 minutes.

Home teams to provide morning (Midweek) and afternoon (Senior Saturday) tea.

An umpire must be provided if requested by a player. The person to umpire will be via mutual agreement of both captains/supervisors.

# Team Members on the Day & Order of Merit

* 1. Team Members

**SENIORS**: A Fifth/Sixth Player: may be used in any 4-person competition, provided order of merit is followed. Up to 12 players may be used in any 8-player competition. – confim/clarify?

**JUNIORS:** A fifth player is permitted to play.

**Penalty for breach - Forfeiture of Match**

**Injured/Sick Player**: may be replaced by a fifth/sixth/substitute player, provided no player plays more than the maximum sets allowed per player. ~~If a fifth or sixth player was not named on the scoresheet,~~ A substitute player may be called upon but must be ready to play within 30 minutes of the player retiring.

If a team has a bye or gives or received a forfeit, a club must not play any player in a division lower than where that player usually plays.

**~~Penalty: Forfeit all sets played by the player~~**

* 1. Order of Merit

Players must play in order of their ability, in relation to the other players in their team. This is primarily, but not solely, determined by the player’s match results. Clubs deemed to have players playing out of order of merit will be required to provide a written explanation to the relevant Committee. A penalty may be applied.

**Junior and Senior Traditional Competitions**: - Doubles: The number 1 singles player MUST play in the first doubles (if they are in fact playing doubles on that day).

**Division 1 Doubles Competition**: - Mixed doubles: Any pairing of players may be used (following order of merit), however, neither the number one man nor the number one woman shall play in the third or fourth mixed double.

**Penalty: All sets played by in the wrong order will be forfeited.**

* 1. Changes in Order of Merit

Minor Rounds: - A player can only move one ***relative position*** per week. In all cases players must observe the order of merit. (See Appendix 1 for an explanation of “**One Relative Position per Week**”).

For permission to move a player more than one relative position the Club shall apply to the relevant Committee, giving full particulars and reasons for such proposed changes.

**Penalty: All sets played “out of position” by a player who has been moved more than one relative position in one week may be retrospectively forfeited.**

* 1. Forfeiting Whole Matches

Forfeiting a match should only take place ~~is an absolute last resort,~~ once all other avenues have been investigated. Senior teams may negotiate to play matches outside of scheduled match times to avoid a forfeit – please notify the SAC. Junior teams affected by the Heathfield High School International Volleyball Championships may also reschedule matches to avoid a forfeit.

A Club forfeiting a match shall advise the opposing Club Coordinator (Senior, Junior, Night, Midweek) at least 2 hours before the start of the match. All Junior matches must be notified no later than 9pm on Friday evening.

~~A Club forfeiting a match must not play a player in a division lower than where the player has played the majority of matches to date, unless otherwise allowed by the relevant Committee, or the “One Relative Position per week” rule is applied~~: included in rule 10.1 above

~~Match results are entered and scoresheets kept~~. ??

Any team which forfeits three matches will be deemed to have retired from the competition.

**A fine of $100 will apply for any team withdrawing/retiring from the competition**

* 1. Forfeiting Sets/Rubbers

If any set needs to be forfeited, the team must forfeit the lowest position. If the forfeit needs to occur after play has commenced and the scoresheet has been completed, then sets forfeited will be those that the forfeiting player would have played providing the player is present at the venue at match start time.

# Cancelled, Unfinished or Abandoned Matches

* 1. Hot Weather Cancellations

Junior morning, Senior Saturday & Midweek matches will be cancelled if the forecast temperature is 36˚C or above for Mt Barker ~~as per the forecast on Television News~~ ~~weather reports~~ the night before the match. ~~Confirmation of forecast temperatures -~~ [~~http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/forecasts/adelaide.shtml~~](http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/forecasts/adelaide.shtml)~~.~~

Cancellations of Friday night Junior competitions will be notified via the HTA website by 4.30pm Friday.

Night Tennis matches will not be cancelled.

* 1. Wet Weather – Abandoning Matches

All players are to attend their scheduled match ~~prior to abandoning matches~~.

**~~Juniors & Night Tennis~~**  ~~-~~ Supervisors/Captains may agree to abandon a match, provided it is later than ***half an******hour*** ~~after the starting time~~ (Juniors and Night Tennis) and ***one******hour*** (Senior Saturday and Midweek Tennis) after the starting time.

**~~Seniors~~** ~~- Captains may agree to abandon a match, provided it is later than.~~

Any team without ~~a full team~~ all players present at match start time or with players leaving a match before the above times shall forfeit those sets and/or the match. ~~Any team will forfeit those sets without players present, and the rest of the sets will be abandoned.~~

Supervisors/captains should use every endeavour to complete the match. No person can be forced to play on wet or slippery courts. If Supervisors/captains disagree on abandoning a match, a report in writing, ~~from each team,~~ is to be lodged to the relevant Committee within three days of the match.

**Penalty: Forfeiture of sets by team without sufficient players**

* 1. Emergency Services Duties

A match affected by a player required for emergency services duty will be abandoned. If it is a finals match, it shall be replayed as per rule 13.2.

# Premiership Points and Tables

* 1. Determination of Winning Team

This is based on rubbers, then sets, then games. If these are equal, the match shall be drawn.

* 1. Allocation of Points for Matches

**Div 1 Doubles, Div 2 Doubles (8-player format) & Midweek:** Four points for a win, plus one point for each set won.

**Div 2 Doubles (4-player format), all Traditional, Juniors & Night**: Three points for a win, one point per rubber/set won. **~~Trad Divisions~~** ~~note – a match-tiebreak will not be counted as a set, just a method of determining the rubber winner. It will be counted as one game.~~

* 1. Points Allocation for Drawn, Abandoned or Cancelled Matches

Points for drawn/incomplete/abandoned matches will be split evenly between the teams. Points will be awarded for any sets completed. No points will be allocated for HTA cancelled matches.

* 1. Allocation of Points to Teams Affected by Programme Changes

Teams which move division due to a regrade will be allocated an average of points of the ***division to which they are moving***.

* 1. Premiership Tables

Points ratio ~~(premiership points divided by matches played)~~ will be used to determine ladder positions ~~where a bye exists in the division~~. Premiership tables will be based on the allocation of points as per rule 12.2. After that, tables will be determined by matches won, then rubbers won, then sets won, and then games won.

# Finals

Higher ranked teams will have home court advantage for all Junior and Night Finals, and for Semi and Preliminary Finals for Seniors. If insufficient courts, venues will be determined by the relevant Committee. Senior Grand Final venues will be determined by the SAC.

In finals, doubles will be played first then singles in order of 4, 3, 2, 1.

* 1. Eligibility for Finals

Saturday Junior & Senior matches: Players must meet **BOTH** of the following to qualify for finals:

* ~~The player~~ Has played five matches in the team in which the player wishes to play finals; **and**
* ~~The player~~ Was nominated (originally or subsequently approved as per Rule 3) in the team in which the player wishes to play finals.

A player shall not be permitted to play in finals matches in a division lower than that in which they have played the majority of matches.

Clubs will forward team lists for Finals (showing all intended players and order of merit) to the relevant committee two weeks prior to finals. Once approved, only players on distributed lists, or who are subsequently approved as emergency players are permitted to play finals.

**Penalty: Forfeiture of all sets played by a player who contravenes this rule.**

* 1. Finals Matches – Unfinished or Cancelled

All unfinished/cancelled finals matches must be completed before the next round of finals ~~in the same competition~~ and should be played with the same players as recorded on the original scoresheet.

Junior matches will be rescheduled to the Sunday morning following the final at 9am.Senior matches can be rescheduled with the agreement of both Captains to a time and venue approved by the relevant Committee but no later than the Wednesday immediately following the finals match. If teams are unable to agree, the relevant Committee will determine this.

~~If all matches in a semi or prelim-finals round are cancelled due to hot or wet weather, the matches shall be completed within one week, or at the discretion of the relevant Committee.~~

Night Tennis teams are to agree on a suitable night to reschedule the final - within a week of the original scheduled Grand Final. If neither team is available to complete the Grand Final match, the Night Committee will award the match to the team finishing highest on the premiership table ~~at the end of the Minor Round.~~

* 1. Drawn Finals Matches

All players must stay at the court until a match result has been reached. If a player is absent and the match is drawn, no substitute player can be used and the relevant tie break doubles game will be forfeited.

**Juniors, Saturday Traditional and Night Tennis**: The 1st and 2nd doubles as listed on the scoresheet will each play a tie-break game (not set) ~~each~~. The winning team shall be the team aggregating the most points in these tie-break games and, if points are equal the team who won the 1st doubles tie-break game wins the final.

**Saturday Doubles (8 player teams):** ~~The~~ ~~1~~~~st~~ ~~and 2~~~~nd~~ ~~doubles~~ Rubbers 5-8 will play a tie-break game (not set) each. The team winning the most tie-break points will be declared the winner. If points are equal, the team who won Rubber 5 wins the final ~~the team that finished higher at the end of the minor round shall be declared the winner.~~

**Saturday Doubles (4 player teams):** Rubbers 1 and 2 will play a tie-break game (not set) each. The team winning the most tie-break points will be declared the winner. If points are equal, the team who won Rubber 1 wins the final.

# Submissions to Committees & Additional Information

All initial communication MUST go through the Club’s relevant coordinator or secretary.

These policies and documents are available for further information if required:

* + - ITF’s Rules of Tennis - <https://www.itftennis.com/media/277603/277603.pdf>
		- Tennis Australia’s Code of Behaviour - <https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/TA-Code-of-Behaviour-Tournaments-and-Weekly-Competitions.pdf>
		- Tennis Australia’s *Matches Played Without a Chair Umpire* document - <http://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Rules-for-matches-without-chair-umpire-2013-latest.pdf>
		- Tennis Australia’s *Etiquette* - <http://www.tennis.com.au/learn/rules-and-scoring/etiquette>
		- HTA Foot Faults Policy - [https://1drv.ms/w/s!Amrn9MMTJMPSklUstHkAyZEuUF9J](https://1drv.ms/w/s%21Amrn9MMTJMPSklUstHkAyZEuUF9J)
		- Beginner Skills Checklist (JAC) - [https://1drv.ms/w/s!Amrn9MMTJMPSklLTRzX8ft4fQXlF](https://1drv.ms/w/s%21Amrn9MMTJMPSklLTRzX8ft4fQXlF)

#  APPENDIX 1: One Relative Position Explanation



# APPENDIX 2: Five Player Rule interpretation

