



# COMPETITION RULES

JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

# Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <a href="#">About</a>                                   | 1  |
| <a href="#">Player Eligibility and Responsibilities</a> | 2  |
| <a href="#">Format of Competitions</a>                  | 3  |
| <a href="#">Format of Games and Tie-Breaks</a>          | 4  |
| <a href="#">Registration</a>                            | 5  |
| <a href="#">Player Seeding</a>                          | 6  |
| <a href="#">Umpire and Ball Person</a>                  | 7  |
| <a href="#">Service and Change of Ends</a>              | 8  |
| <a href="#">Winning a Match</a>                         | 9  |
| <a href="#">Start, End, and Continuing Play</a>         | 10 |
| <a href="#">Umpiring Matches without a Chair Umpire</a> | 11 |
| <a href="#">Pool Players</a>                            | 12 |
| <a href="#">Borrowed Players</a>                        | 13 |
| <a href="#">Substitute Players</a>                      | 14 |
| <a href="#">Wet Matches</a>                             | 15 |
| <a href="#">Heat</a>                                    | 16 |
| <a href="#">Match Forfeits</a>                          | 17 |
| <a href="#">Competition Points</a>                      | 18 |
| <a href="#">Result Cards</a>                            | 19 |
| <a href="#">Parent/Guardian/Spectator Involvement</a>   | 20 |
| <a href="#">Semi-Finals and Grand-Finals</a>            | 21 |
| <a href="#">Withdrawal from a Competition</a>           | 22 |

# 1. About

- 1.1** Hills District Tennis Association (HDTA) competitions will be held in accordance with Tennis Australia's Member Protection Policy, Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct, and these competition rules.
- 1.2** All players participating in a HDTA competition must be a registered member of HDTA. It is important for all members to keep HDTA's administration staff advised of current contact details (email addresses, mobile phone numbers, and home address suburbs and postcodes) to ensure competition information can be shared throughout the year and can be reported to Tennis NSW/Tennis Australia as required as an affiliate of these organisations. For junior members under the age of 18, the information provided must be parent/guardian information.
- 1.3** HDTA competitions governed by these rules are:
  - Saturday Morning Juniors
  - Friday Night Green Ball
- 1.4** Any changes of the competition rules will be uploaded to the HDTA website ([www.hdta.org.au](http://www.hdta.org.au)) and as such all members will be deemed to be notified of the changes.
- 1.5** HDTA competitions are under the general control of the Committee of Management. Competition Secretaries are delegated authority by the Committee of Management to manage competitions in accordance with these general competition rules. The HDTA committee is granted the power to deal with matters that are not mentioned within this rules as they see fit.
- 1.6** All players participating in a HDTA competition and any accompanying parents, spectators or visitors must abide by the HDTA Code of Behaviour published on the HDTA website. Any complaints of behaviour will be dealt with as per the disciplinary process outlined in the Code of Behaviour.

## 2. Player Eligibility and Responsibilities

- 2.1** The onus is on each team member/player to supply all relevant and accurate information on the competition registration form, pay all fees, maintain yearly membership, and familiarise themselves with the HDTA competition rules and policies.
- 2.2** Home players/teams are to supply at least three (3) new tennis balls (Tennis Australia approved) for the match.
- 2.3** Winning players/teams are to send the results of the match including the names of who played and any reserve/pool players used to the following nominated email address:
  - Saturday Morning Juniors - [juniors@hdta.org.au](mailto:juniors@hdta.org.au)
  - Friday Green Ball - provide written scorecard to the court supervisor or competition secretary
- 2.4** A junior member is eligible to play in junior competitions provided they have not turned eighteen (18) years of age when the competition begins. A member who turns eighteen (18) years of age during the competition are still entitled to finish the competition, but are unable to enter any subsequent junior competitions.

## 3. Format of Competitions

### 3.1 Saturday Morning Juniors:

- two (2) players minimum per team
- a match consists of two (2) sets of singles and two (2) sets of doubles
- the sets are to be played in the following order:
  - both players in each team play together in the first set of doubles played after warm-up
  - each team's number one (1) seed will play against each other in singles
  - each team's number two (2) seed will play against each other in singles
  - both players in each team play together in the second set of doubles played after both sets of singles

### 3.2 Friday Green Ball

- two (2) players minimum per team
- a match consists of two (2) sets of singles and one (1) set of doubles
- the sets are to be played in the following order:
  - both players in each team play together in the first set of doubles played after warm-up
  - each team's number one (1) seed will play against each other in singles
  - each team's number two (2) seed will play against each other in singles

### 3.3 The competition secretary and HDTA administration team will develop a competition draw by allocating teams/players into divisions. Previous competition results, grading of individual players, and UTR are the main factors used to determine the competitiveness of each team/player. The competition secretary and HDTA administration team reserve the right to decide which division each player/team shall compete.

## 4. Format of Games and Tie-Breaks

### 4.1 Each set comprises of 'standard games'. A set is won by the first team to win six (6) standard games with an advantage of two (2) standard games. A standard game score is as follows (the server's score is called first):

- no point - "love", first point - "15", second point - "30", third point - "40", fourth point - "game"
- if each player/team has won three (3) points, the score is 40-40 - "deuce"
- When the score is "deuce". A deciding point shall be played as follows:
  - the receiver(s) shall choose whether to receive the service from the right half or the left half of the court
  - in doubles, the players of the receiving team cannot change positions to receive the deciding point
  - the player/team who wins the deciding point wins the "game"
- When a set reaches five (5) standard games all, a 7-point tie-break is played to determine the winner. The first player/team to win seven (7) points with a margin of two (2) points wins. A 7-point tie-break is played as follows:
  - points are scored "zero", "one", "two", "three", etc.
  - players change ends every six (6) points
  - the player whose turn it is to serve shall serve the first point of the tie-break game on the left-hand side of the court. The following two points shall be served by the opponent(s), starting from the right-hand side of the court. After this, each player/team shall serve alternatively for two consecutive points

## 5. Registration

- 5.1 All registrations must be submitted via the online registration form that will be uploaded to the competition registrations page on the website, and emailed to previous competition players, new players who have filled in the expression of interest form, and dependant on availability, all HDTA members.
- 5.2 Players are only permitted to register with one (1) team per competition.
- 5.3 All information provided on the registration form by registering players must be accurate and up to date.
- 5.4 A team may register an additional team member as a late registration throughout the competition. Any request for this must be submitted in writing to the allocated competition secretary.
- 5.5 Minimum number of team members for each competition are as follows:
  - Saturday Morning Juniors - two team members
  - Friday Night Green Ball - two team members

An additional two (2) players can be registered above the minimum requirements.

- 5.6 The HDTA Committee shall have the right to refuse the entry of any team or player without assigning a reason.

## 6. Player Seeding

- 6.1 All registered players in each team must be seeded using a number system where the number one (1) seed is the highest seed.
- 6.2 Where the number one (1) or number two (2) seed is unable to play a match, the other seeded registered players will move up as necessary.
  - *Scenario: if the number one (1) seed is unable to play, the number two (2) seed will move up to play as the number one (1) seed and any borrowed/pool player will play as the number two (2) seed.*
- 6.3 Teams can change seedings for the first three (3) matches. After the third match, a player's seeding must be maintained for the duration of the competition, except with express approval from the Competition Secretary.
- 6.4 The result card for the third completed round should clearly indicate the seeding the team has decided upon.

## 7. Umpire and Ball Person

- 7.1 The sets of doubles shall have no umpire or ball person.
- 7.2 In the number one (1) seed singles:
  - the number two (2) seed HOME player shall umpire
  - the number two (2) seed AWAY player shall become the ball person
- 7.3 In the number two (2) seed singles:
  - the number one (1) seed AWAY player shall umpire
  - the number one (1) seed HOME player shall become the ball person

## 8. Service and Change of Ends

- 8.1** Prior to the commencement of the first set, players are to toss for the choice of ends and the choice to serve or receive first. The winner of the toss may choose:
  - to be server or receiver in the first game of the first and third sets.
- 8.2** The other team who did not win the toss, may choose:
  - which end of the court they want to serve or receive from in the first game; or
  - whether they want to serve or receive in the first game of the second and fourth sets.
- 8.3** Teams/players change ends every odd game for all competitions. During a tie-break game, teams/players change ends every six (6) points.

## 9. Winning a Match

- 9.1** The team that wins more "sets" than the opposition is considered the winner of the match.
- 9.2** Where both teams have won the same number of sets, the winning team is the team with the most amount of games.
- 9.3** Where both teams win the same amount of sets and games, the match is declared a draw. This rule does not apply to semi-finals and grand-finals.

## 10. Start, End, and Continuing Play

- 10.1** Play should commence at the designated competition start time as per the competition draw.
- 10.2** Five (5) minute hit-ups are to commence from the designated start time and prior to the first set only.
- 10.3** Any team/player not ready for play ten (10) minutes after the designated competition start time, forfeits the first set.
- 10.4** Once twenty (20) minutes from the designated competition start time has elapsed, the team/player not ready for play shall forfeit any subsequent sets and as a result, the match.
- 10.5** Matches must end at 10:00am where play is scheduled to commence at 8:00am and must end at 12:00pm where play is scheduled to commence at 10:00am.
- 10.6** Players may agree to change the order of play to allow play to commence on time. For example, commencing the singles first instead of the doubles. A forfeited set can be deferred until after the completion of all other sets provided sufficient time is available prior to the scheduled competition finish time.
- 10.7** Play is to be continuous throughout the set and no extended intervals are permitted, with the exception of medical reasoning or inclement weather. Players are only allowed to leave the court in between sets for no longer than five (5) minutes.

## 11. Umpiring Matches without a Chair Umpire

- 11.1** The doubles sets do not have umpires. Therefore, each team/player is responsible for all calls on their side of the net in good faith. If in doubt, the team/player must give the benefit of the doubt to their opponent.
- 11.2** All "out" or "fault" calls should be made promptly after the ball has bounced and loudly enough for the opponent(s) to hear.
- 11.3** The server should call the score before each first serve, loudly enough for their opponent(s) to hear. The game score should be called out by the server at the commencement of each game.
- 11.4** Foot faults cannot be called in matches without a chair umpire or lines persons.
- 11.5** If a player incorrectly calls a ball "out" and then realises the ball was good, the point should be replayed, unless it was a point winning short. A service "Let" may be called by either player/team.
- 11.6** If players cannot agree on the score, they should calmly discuss the points/games that are disputed. All points or games which the players agree on stand and only those in dispute should be replayed. The same principle applies if the game score is in dispute.
- 11.7** HDTA committee members, administration staff, and/or coaches have the authority and discretion to enforce rules, codes of behaviour, and policies in any competition as they see fit. This can include imposing a warning or rule violation.

## 12. Pool Players

- 12.1** A pool players' list will be maintained by the competition secretary and published on the website for each individual competition.
- 12.2** Teams should contact pool players from the pool list of the competition they need a replacement for to satisfy match commitments. The pool player's name must be recorded when the score is sent to the competition secretary.
- 12.3** Pool players can be called upon as often as required during round matches only.
- 12.4** Pool players can only be used across competitions if the competition secretary is notified and is in agreement.
- 12.5** Pool players may only play in their nominated division or higher.

## 13. Borrowed Players

- 13.1** Teams may borrow players from other teams in the same division or lower during the rounds. The borrowed player's name must be recorded with the results sent to the competition secretary. A player can be borrowed from a team that has a BYE, from the same division or a lower division.
- 13.2** Players are limited to being borrowed two (2) times by the same team.



## 14. Substitute Players

- 14.1** Where a player cannot continue in a game, that game and set will be forfeited. Subsequent sets that the player was scheduled to participate in will also be forfeited unless a substitute player can be found.
- 14.2** If a player becomes incapacitated through injury or illness during a match, a substitute player will be allowed. This player can be either a registered team member or an appropriate pool/borrowed player. Any substitutions must be clearly noted when the results are submitted.
- 14.3** If the substitute player is not on hand and play cannot be continuous, each set concerned shall be forfeited unless agreement is reached between teams to wait for a qualified substitute player and within a reasonable timeframe to complete the match.

## 15. Wet Matches

- 15.1** Players/teams are responsible for checking the condition and playability of the courts via the HDTA website prior to the match. If a majority of matches are washed out on one day, it is at the competition secretary's discretion to wash out the whole day.
- 15.2** If a match is called off due to wet weather after its commencement, any games/sets played must still be submitted as results. Matches cannot be transferred to another court.
- 15.3** If the match has not commenced, each team will share the total points.

## 16. Heat

- 16.1** If the temperature reaches a WBGT Shade (as determined by this link: <http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDN65179.shtml>) at Sydney Olympic Park (closest weather station to Castle Hill and Dural) of thirty-two-point-five (32.5) degrees or an ambient temperature of thirty-six (36) degrees up to one (1) hour before play commences, play may be cancelled by the comp secretary. Please contact the comp secretary if unsure.
- 16.2** If the temperature reaches a WBGT Shade (as determined by the above link) of thirty-two-point-five (32.5) degrees or an ambient temperature of thirty-six (36) degrees, play may be suspended on completion of the current game. Contact the comp secretary for direction on whether the match should be cancelled or resumed.

## 17. Match Forfeits

- 17.1** A team who cannot meet their commitments for a match MUST give reasonable notice to their opponents that they forfeit the match either in part or in its entirety.
- 17.2** In doubles, if all players in a team cannot play, they forfeit the match in its entirety. If a player in the team can attend to play their singles, they can play their seeded singles and forfeit the rest of the match.
- 17.3** A match forfeit will only be recognised at the published competition start time. In the event that the court is unplayable such as wet weather, despite a forfeit having already been advised, the match will be recorded as a wet match.



**17.4** If a team/player forfeits three (3) matches, the competition secretary may consider expulsion of the team/player from the competition or exclusion from semi-finals/grand-finals.

## 18. Competition Points

### 18.1 Saturday Morning Juniors

- a total of six (6) points are available for each match
- each team receives one (1) point for every set the team wins
- the winning team will receive two (2) bonus points for winning the match
- where the match is a draw or is undecided, the two (2) bonus points allocated for the winning team, will be halved and each team will receive one (1) point
- Bonus points allocated for the match winner will only be awarded to a team if the unplayed or unfinished sets would have no bearing on the match result. If there is no clear winner then all points allocated to the match winner will also be shared.
- if play does not commence due to weather, the six (6) points shall be shared equally between both teams
- if a set cannot be completed, the one (1) point available for the set will be split between both teams
  - *Scenario: if team A wins three (3) sets 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 but the final set cannot be completed, they will receive five-and-a-half (5.5) points and team B will receive a half (0.5) point.*

### 18.2 Friday Green Ball

- a total of five (5) points are available for each match
- each team receives one (1) point for every set the team wins
- the winning team will receive two (2) bonus points for winning the match
- where the match is a draw or is undecided, the two (2) bonus points will be halved
- if play does not commence due to weather, the five (5) points will be shared

## 19. Result Cards

**19.1** Result cards must be complete, legible and signed by both team captains (or designated match captain).

**19.2** It is the winning team's responsibility to ensure an image of the card is emailed to [juniors@hdta.org.au](mailto:juniors@hdta.org.au) within 24 hours of match completion.

## 20. Parent/Guardian/Spectator Involvement

**20.1** Parents/guardians/spectators must follow the HDTA Code of Behaviour whilst at any HDTA competition and may be subject to disciplinary action if there is a failure to behave within these guidelines.

**20.2** Parents/guardians/spectators are not allowed to communicate with any of the children whilst they are playing on court, interfere in any way with the match, or coach/instruct from the side-line. This includes interfering with the filling out of the scorecard.

**20.3** Under no circumstances are parents/guardians/spectators to umpire the match, call any line-calls or scores, coach, or be on court during the match.

## 21. Semi-Finals and Grand-Finals

- 21.1** The semi-final draw is generally to be positions 1 v 4 and 2 v 3. The two winners of each semi-final will play in a grand-final.
- 21.2** At least one player from each losing semi-finalist team must attend the grand-final and umpire and ball boy/girl.
- 21.3** In the event of a draw during a semi-finals/grand-finals match (when games & sets are even). A seven (7) point tie-breaker doubles game (first to 7 win by 2) must be played as the match decider. The team that wins the tie-breaker is considered the winner.
- 21.4** If a player/team in the semi-finals is unable to play on the designated semi-finals day, the following procedure is to be followed in order:
- the semi-final is to be rescheduled if both players/teams agree on a day/time prior to the designated grand-finals day;
  - If only one member of the team cannot play or reschedule, a suitable fill in may be used with the discretion of the HDTA administration team. However, the fill in must fit the following criteria:
    - the fill-in is not of a higher standard than the player who cannot play; and
    - the fill-in is from the unavailable player's division or below, or
    - the fill-in is a pool player that has played in the team a minimum of two (2) times prior to the semi-final.
  - If both members of the team cannot play or reschedule, or in singles, the player cannot play or reschedule, the player/team will be removed from the semi-finals and placings will change as follows:
    - the fifth place player/team will be elevated to fourth; and
    - the placings will move up as necessary
      - *Scenario: if the second place player/team cannot play, the fifth place player/team will become fourth, the fourth place player/team will become third, the third place player/team will become second, and the first place player/team will remain first.*
    - if the fifth place player/team is unable to play, the player/team in sixth will be elevated etc.
      - *scenario: if the second place player/team cannot play and the fifth place player/team cannot play, the player/team in sixth will be elevated to fourth.*
    - if no teams who placed lower than the top four can play, the opponent(s) of the team who cannot play will go through to the grand-final.
- 21.5** If a player/team in the grand-finals is unable to play on the designated grand-finals day, the following procedure is to be followed in order:
- the grand-final is to be rescheduled if both players/teams agree on a day/time prior to the start of the next competition;
  - If only one member of the team cannot play or reschedule, a suitable fill in may be used with the discretion of the HDTA administration team. However, the fill in must fit the following criteria:
    - the fill-in is not of a higher standard than the player who cannot play; and
    - the fill-in is from the unavailable player's division or below, or
    - the fill-in is a pool player that has played in the team a minimum of two (2) times
  - If both members of the team cannot play or reschedule, the player/team will be removed from the grand-finals and the other team will be the winners of the division.

## 22. Withdrawal from a Competition

- 22.1** Should a player/team withdraw after the commencement of the competition, all points awarded for their matches will be cancelled and the points will be revised.
- 22.2** The team/player should within seven days from the notice of withdrawal submit a written report to the competition secretary detailing the circumstances that led to the team's withdrawal. If a team/player forgoes providing a written reason or upon assessment the reasoning provided is inadequate, the HDTA Committee has the discretion to exclude the team/player from future competitions.
- 22.3** The HDTA refund policy applies to all withdrawals from junior competitions.