



# COMPETITION RULES

ADULT COMPETITIONS

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# 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.
- 1.3** HDTA competitions governed by these rules are:
  - Tuesday Night Doubles
  - Wednesday Night Doubles
  - Thursday Morning Ladies
  - Saturday Afternoon Singles
  - MyChoice Singles
- 1.4** Any changes to 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 these rules as they see fit.
- 1.6** All players participating in a HDTA competition must abide by the HDTA Code of Behaviour published on the HDTA website. Any violations or complaints of behaviour will be dealt with as per the disciplinary process outlined in the Code of Behaviour.
- 1.7** All competition grading decisions will receive approval from the HDTA administration team with guidance from a head coach.

## 2. Player 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 addresses:
  - Tuesday Night Doubles - [tnd@hdta.org.au](mailto:tnd@hdta.org.au)
  - Wednesday Night Doubles - [wnd@hdta.org.au](mailto:wnd@hdta.org.au)
  - Thursday Morning Ladies - scoresheet provided on the day
  - Saturday Afternoon Singles - [sas@hdta.org.au](mailto:sas@hdta.org.au)
  - MyChoice Singles - [mct@hdta.org.au](mailto:mct@hdta.org.au)

## 3. Format of Competitions

### 3.1 Tuesday Night Doubles:

- two (2) players minimum per team
- three (3) sets of doubles (first to six (6) games with an advantage of two (2) games)
- at six (6) games all, the set will be decided by a tie-break game (first to seven (7) points with an advantage of two (2) points)

### 3.2 Wednesday Night Doubles:

- two (2) players minimum per team
- three (3) sets of doubles (first to six (6) games with an advantage of two (2) games)
- at six (6) games all, the set will be decided by a tie-break game (first to seven (7) points with an advantage of two (2) points)

### 3.3 Thursday Morning Ladies:

- two (2) players minimum per team
- three (3) sets of doubles (best of eight (8) games) - players change partners each set
- at four (4) games all, the set will be decided by a tie-break game (first to seven (7) points with an advantage of two (2) points)

### 3.4 Saturday Afternoon Singles:

- one (1) player
- two (2) sets of singles (first to six (6) games with an advantage of two (2) games)
- at six (6) games all, the set will be decided by a tie-break game (first to seven (7) points with an advantage of two (2) points)
- if sets are shared one (1) set all, the match is decided by a SUPER tie-break game (first to ten (10) points with an advantage of two (2) points)

### 3.5 MyChoice Singles:

- one (1) player
- two (2) sets of singles (first to six (6) games with an advantage of two (2) games)
- at six (6) games all, the set will be decided by a tie-break game (first to seven (7) points with an advantage of two (2) points)
- if sets are share one (1) set all, the match is decided by a SUPER tie-break game (first to ten (10) points with an advantage of two (2) points)

### 3.6 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. Team Format

### 4.1 Each team must provide the appropriate number of players for each match that meet the following eligibility requirements:

- player is a member of HDTA; and
- player is included on the competition registration form; or
- player is from the current pool list for the competition provided on the HDTA website; or
- player is borrowed from another team in the same division or a lower division; or
- player is none of the above but has been approved by the competition secretary.

## 5. Registrations

- 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 adult 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 Players under the age of sixteen (16) are not permitted to register for any adult competition without prior approval from the HDTA administration team.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 The competition secretary and the HDTA administration team reserve the right to deny a registration into a competition or activity if:
  - the player's has exhibited previous behaviour that violated the HDTA Code of Behaviour and gives grounds to believe inclusion will be detrimental to the competition
  - the player/team have neglected to pay any fees owed to HDTA.
- 5.7 An additional two (2) players can be registered above the minimum requirements.
- 5.8 The HDTA Committee shall have the right to refuse the entry of any team or player without assigning a reason.

## 6. Service and Change of Ends

- 6.1 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 in the first set. The winner of the toss may choose:
  - to be server or receiver in the first game of the match, in which case the opponent(s) shall choose the end of the court for the first game of the match; or
  - the end of the court for the first game of the match, in which case the opponent(s) shall choose to be server or receiver for the first game of the match; or
  - to require the opponent(s) to make one of the above choices.
- 6.2 The serve alternates between teams/players for the rest of the match. The first serve in the second and subsequent sets will be the team/player that did not serve in the last game of the preceding set.
- 6.3 At the beginning of each set of doubles; each team may choose which player in their team serves first. The receivers may also choose which side to receive the serve. There is to be no change of service order or receiving side for the remainder of the set.
- 6.4 Teams/players change ends every odd game for all competitions except those that are best of eight (8) games. Change of ends in eight (8) game sets is every four (4) games. During a tie-break game, teams/players change ends every six (6) points.

## 7. Start, End, and Continuing Play

- 7.1 Play should commence at the designated competition start time as per the competition draw.
- 7.2 Five (5) minute hit-ups are to commence from the designated start time and prior to the first set only.
- 7.3 Any team/player not ready for play ten (10) minutes after the designated competition start time, forfeits the first set.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 Match start times may be changed but only by mutual agreement and with reasonable notice between players.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 Matches should officially end at the finish time designated on the draw. However, play may continue upon mutual agreement between players. A forfeit cannot be taken should a team choose to finish at the scheduled competition finishing time. Any game in progress should be completed. If a team must finish at the scheduled time, this should be clearly communicated to the opposition prior to commencement of the match, or at minimum prior to the final set being started as a courtesy and to avoid any doubt.
- 7.8 In competitions where lights are used, they will remain on for a period after the scheduled finish time for the safety of players to leave the court/centre.
- 7.9 Play is to be continuous throughout the set and no interval is 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.

## 8. Umpiring Matches without a Chair Umpire

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 All "out" or "fault" calls should be made promptly after the ball has bounced and loudly enough for the opponent(s) to hear.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 Foot faults cannot be called in matches without a chair umpire or lines persons.
- 8.5 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.

- 8.6** If players cannot agree on the score, they should calmly discuss the points that are disputed. All points 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.
- 8.7** A service "Let" may be called by either player/team.
- 8.8** 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.

## 9. Pool Players

- 9.1** A pool players' list will be maintained by the competition secretary and published on the website for each individual competition. Pool players may only play in their nominated division or higher.
- 9.2** Teams should contact pool players from the pool list of the competition they need a replacement for to satisfy match commitments. The pool players name must be recorded when the score is sent to the competition secretary.
- 9.3** The same pool player can only be used two (2) times by the same team unless approval is given by the competition secretary.
- 9.4** Pool players can only be used across competitions, if no pool players from the relevant competition are available, if the competition secretary is notified and is in agreement.

## 10. Borrowed Players

- 10.1** Teams may borrow players from other teams in the same division or lower during the rounds, only after contacting pool players listed for the relevant division. The borrowed player's name must be recorded with the results sent to the competition secretary.
- 10.2** Players are limited to being borrowed two (2) times by the same team.
- 10.3** It is preferred that teams have at least one registered team member playing a match. If no registered players are to be used, approval from the competition secretary is required.

## 11. Substitute Players

- 11.1** 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.
- 11.2** 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.
- 11.3** 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.

## 12. Wet Matches

- 12.1** Players/teams are responsible for checking the condition and playability of the courts via the HDTA website prior to the match.
- 12.2** 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.
- 12.3** If the match has not commenced, each team will share the total points.

## 13. Heat

- 13.1** 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 HDTA. Please contact the comp secretary or the office if unsure.
- 13.2** 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 or the office for direction on whether the match should be cancelled or resumed.

## 14. Match Forfeits

- 14.1** 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.
- 14.2** In doubles, if all players in a team cannot play, they forfeit the match in its entirety and fill-in players are to be used to provide a match for the opposing team.
- 14.3** 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.
- 14.4** 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.

## 15. Competition Points

- 15.1** Tuesday Night Doubles - points are to be allocated as follows:
- each team receives one (1) point for each set won
  - match points total three (3)
- 15.2** Wednesday Night Doubles - points are to be allocated as follows:
- each team receives one (1) point for each set won
  - match points total three (3)
- 15.3** Thursday Morning Ladies - points are to be allocated as follows:
- each individual player receives one (1) point for each game won



Saturday Afternoon Singles - points are to be allocated as follows:

- if a player wins both sets of singles, they receive three (3) points
- if a player wins one set of singles but loses the super tie-break, they receive one (1) point
- if a player wins one set of singles but wins the super tie-break, they receive two (2) points

MyChoice Singles - points are to be allocated as follows:

- if a player wins both sets of singles, they receive three (3) points
- if a player wins one set of singles but loses the super tie-break, they receive one (1) point
- if a player wins one set of singles but wins the super tie-break, they receive two points (2)

**15.6** Unfinished matches - points are to be allocated as follows:

- points will be shared for any unfinished sets
- if points are allocated for the match winner, it 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

## 16. Semi-Finals & Grand-Finals

**16.1** 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.

**16.2** 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;
- in doubles, 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.
- in doubles, 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.

**16.3** 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;
- in doubles, 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
- in doubles, 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 grand-finals and the other team will be the winners of the division.

## 17. Withdrawal from a Competition

**17.1** 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.

**17.2** 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.

**17.3** The HDTA refund policy applies to all withdrawals from adult competitions.

## 18. Tennis Attire

**18.1** Every player shall dress and present themselves for play in clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire (clothing and footwear).

**18.2** Clothing items deemed to be "non-tennis attire" such as dress shirts, singlets, football shorts, jeans etc. should not be worn by any player while competing in a match.

**18.3** Footwear deemed to be not suitable for a tennis court such as thongs, leather shoes, football boots, dark or hard soled shoes should not be worn by any player while competing in a match.

**18.4** Offensive pictures or words are not permitted.

## 19. Coaching

**19.1** Coaching is considered to be communication, advice or instruction of any kind and by any means to a player and is not allowed.

**19.2** In team events, communication, advice or instruction between doubles partners is not considered coaching.