



Interclub
Competitive Tennis

Caro Bowl Rules

Effective 1 October 2026

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PART I – INTRODUCTION

1. Interpretation

In these Rules:

Committee means the Interclub Committee appointed by Tennis Auckland.

Contest means the matches between one team and another team in any grade, section or playoff.

Singles WTN means the World Tennis Number singles rating of a player.

Doubles WTN means the World Tennis Number doubles rating of a player.

Match means one individual singles or doubles.

Rule or Rules refers to these Caro Bowl Rules.

2. Application Of Rules

- (1) These Rules apply only to the Caro Bowl Competition.
- (2) These Rules shall be applied and interpreted in the best interests of the game of tennis. The Committee may waive a Rule or make an exception to the strict interpretation of any Rule where it considers that to do so best reflects the spirit of these Rules and the good of the game of tennis. The Committee shall exercise this discretion sparingly and only in exceptional and genuine circumstances.

3. Responsibilities Of Interclub Committee

The Interclub Committee shall have the following duties and powers:

- (1) To arrange and control the Caro Bowl Competition.
- (2) To interpret these Rules;
- (3) To decide any matters arising from the Caro Bowl Competition not covered by these Rules;
- (4) To disqualify any Club or player or team for breach of these Rules or to impose any penalty as set out in these Rules;
- (5) In its discretion to order any contest or match to be replayed;
- (6) To make recommendations to amend these Rules.

PART II - CARO BOWL COMPETITION

4. Format For Entries

Entries for the Caro Bowl Competition shall be submitted by Clubs to the Committee by a date to be fixed annually by the Committee. Entries shall be in the form prescribed annually by the Committee, shall contain all the information stipulated, and shall be accompanied by the entry fee.

5. Caro Bowl Competition

- (1) The Caro Bowl Competition shall comprise a Men's section and a Women's section.
- (2) Maximum of eight teams in each of the Men's section and the Women's section.
- (3) Maximum of one team per Club in each of the Men's section and the Women's section.
- (4) Clubs eligible to play in the Caro Bowl Competition shall be those Clubs which had teams entered in the Caro Bowl Competition the previous season subject to the Promotion/Relegation requirements in sub clauses (5) and (6) below.
- (5) Promotion from the Caro Bowl Reserve Grades shall be as determined in the Senior Interclub Rules. Should none of the eligible teams take up the offer of promotion then the Committee shall offer promotion, in descending order, to Clubs that finished in the fourth to tenth positions in the Caro Bowl Reserve Grade the previous season and do not have a team in the Caro Bowl Competition. Should none of those teams take up the offer of promotion then the Club that was relegated the previous season will be offered promotion back to the Caro Bowl Competition. If the relegated team does not wish to return to the Caro Bowl Competition, then the Committee will use its discretion to fill the vacant slot.
- (6) The team finishing in eighth position in each of the Men's section and the Women's section shall be relegated. Where there are less than eight teams in a section no team will be relegated that season.

6. Format Of Caro Bowl Competition

- (1) Round Robin
 - (a) All teams will play a full round robin. The top two teams on points at the end of round robin play will contest a Final.
 - (b) Should teams finish equal on points at the end of round robin play the team that won the most contests shall be placed ahead of the other team or teams. If teams have the same number of winning contests then the decision will be made on who beat who during round robin play. If still

tied, a count back of all contests (sets and games) will be required. This formula also applies to determining the final placement of teams for the competition.

(2) Tied Contests In The Final

In the event that sets and games are tied in the Final then the contest will be decided by three tie-break singles. The three participants from each team who are to contest the tie-break singles are to be named within ten minutes of the last match finishing. The three participants must play in the approved playing order. The three tie-break singles are all to start at the same time, 15 minutes after the completion of the last match.

7. Host Venues For Finals

- (1) The Final to be hosted by the team that won the round robin.

PART III - TEAM LISTS AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

8. Team Lists

- (1) A Team List along with individual player consent forms for all players shall be provided for each team entered by a Club by the closing date for entries for that season. No particular format is required for the player consent form so long as the form makes it clear that the named player agrees to play for that Club for the coming season and is signed and dated by the player.
- (2) The Team List must contain a minimum of four team members.
- (3) Each Team List shall list the team members for that team for the season in playing order. This playing order must be approved by the Committee. The Committee may seek the opinion of the Tennis Auckland selectors if it disagrees with the playing order submitted by the Club. The decision of the Committee shall be the approved playing order for the season.
- (4) Additions to Team Lists may be made and must be received by the Committee by 5pm on the Wednesday prior to the first contest of the Competition. The Committee must approve the placement of the new team member within the team's approved playing order.

9. Transfers

- (1) Any player who represents any Club in a Caro Bowl team or in a Promotion/Relegation Grade in the Senior Interclub Competitions in any season may not in the immediately following season represent any other Club in a Caro Bowl team without first obtaining the consent to transfer in writing from the Club which that player represented in the previous season. Until such consent is obtained no Club may include that player on

its Caro Bowl Team List. Consent to transfer may not be unreasonably withheld.

- (2) Consents to transfer must be submitted on the official Transfer Form.
- (3) If a decision on a request to transfer is not forthcoming within a reasonable time the Committee may be approached to adjudicate on that request to transfer.
- (4) All consents to transfer must be in the hands of the Committee by the 15th August each year.
- (5) Where a player does play for another Club contrary to Rule 9(1) then:
 - (a) All points for matches won by that player and all points for matches won by any other member of the team who played below the player playing without consent in any contest shall be deducted and those points will be awarded to the opposing team.
 - (b) That player may play in a Caro Bowl team or a Promotion/Relegation Grade in the Senior Interclub Competitions for the Club they played Caro Bowl or Promotion/Relegation for the previous season. For the purpose of transfers for the following season that player will be deemed to have played for this Club and will therefore require a transfer to play in a Caro Bowl team or a Promotion/Relegation Grade for another Club in the following season.

10. Player Eligibility

- (1) Players must be financial full playing members of a Club affiliated to Tennis Auckland.
- (2) To play in any contest in the round robin for a Club a player must, by the Wednesday prior to the contest, either be listed on:
 - (a) A Caro Bowl Team List for that Club; or
 - (b) A Senior Interclub Competition Team List for that Club.
- (3) To play in the final a player must have played a minimum of three contests for his or her Club in that season in the Caro Bowl Competition or in the Senior Interclub Competitions or in a combination of the two Competitions.
- (4) No player may play up from the Senior Interclub Competitions on more than three occasions in any season.

PART IV - CONTESTS

11. Starting Time

Unless otherwise agreed by the Captains of both teams the starting time for any contest shall be the time specified on the Draw.

12. Inclement Weather

- (1) No contest shall be commenced or continued if the weather or court conditions are not suitable for play.
- (2) Unless agreed otherwise by the Captains prior to the scheduled starting time a contest will be played at the scheduled Club venue.
- (3) Where there has been no play within one hour of the scheduled starting time due to the weather conditions the contest will go indoors. Where play is interrupted by inclement weather the contest is to go indoors should a break exceed 30 minutes. At any stage by mutual agreement a contest may be moved indoors.
- (4) The back-up indoor venue for each contest will be noted on the Draw.

13. Caro Bowl Contests

- (1) Singles
 - (a) The approved playing order from the Team List is to be followed for Singles matches.
 - (b) Where a player is required to play up from another team that player must play below the players on the Team List regardless of his or her singles WTN. If two players are required to play up on any given day then these two players must both play below the players on the Team List, but the player with the lower singles WTN must play ahead of the other player. If both players playing up have the same singles WTN, to two decimal points, they can play in any order.
- (2) Doubles
 - (a) The No.1 singles player in a contest on any given day must play in the top doubles if playing doubles in that contest. The only exception is where a specialist doubles player is used and is either ranked higher on the approved playing order from the Team List, or has a lower singles WTN, than the player playing the No.1 singles. In that case, the specialist doubles player must play in the No.1 doubles and the No.1 singles player can then play in either doubles pairing.
 - (b) There is no limit to the number of specialist doubles players that can be used in any one contest.

14. Order Of Play

- (1) Captains or Managers will name the playing order for the first matches to be played fifteen minutes before a contest commences. At the conclusion of these matches the teams shall have a maximum of ten minutes to name their team for the remainder of the contest.
- (2) Where four courts are used the contest will start with the two doubles matches followed by the four singles matches.

- (3) When two courts are used the contest will start with the two doubles matches. The two teams will then alternate in deciding the order of the singles matches with the Home Team deciding the first singles match to be played.

15.Format of Matches

- (1) Singles matches to be the best of three Tie-break sets. Tie-break to apply at six games all in any set. Tie-break to be the first to seven points with a two-point advantage.
- (2) Doubles matches to be two Tie-break sets with no-ad deuces (ie. At deuce one deciding point is played with the receiver choosing the side which they wish to receive from). Tie-break to apply at six games all in either set. Tie-break to be the first to seven points with a two-point advantage. If the score is one set all a Super Tie-break (first to ten points with a two-point advantage) will be played to decide the winner.

16.Substituting Players After A Contest Has Commenced

- (1) A player may not be substituted once that player has commenced playing a match in the contest.
- (2) If a player is injured or falls ill during his first match in a contest and has to default this match, this player is still eligible to play in his or her second match in that contest.

17.Coaching

Coaching by either the Team Coach or a designated person is permitted during a match. Coaching shall only take place during the change of ends and must not disrupt progress of the match. Each team is allowed no more than one person at the side of each court.

18.Match Officials

- (1) Players shall umpire their own matches.
- (2) The Committee shall provide the officials for the semi-finals and the finals contests and shall determine whether the officials shall adjudicate or fully call matches.
- (3) A Club may arrange at its own cost for a Referee to be present at any other contest through the Auckland Referees Association. The Auckland Referees Association will require seven days notice of any such request for a Referee.

19.Official Ball

Teams shall use the adopted ball specified each season by the Committee.
Each team shall provide 3 x three ball cans of new first grade tennis balls for each contest.

20.Court Surface

Where a Host Club has a choice of court surfaces available the Host Club must notify the opposing Club as to the court surface that will be used at least one week prior to the contest.

21.Defaults

- (1) Unless both captains agree otherwise the following default process shall apply:
 - (a) Any doubles combination not on court within 20 minutes of the designated start time will be defaulted.
 - (b) Any singles player not present to play his or her singles match within 45 minutes of the designated start time will be defaulted. The players present in that team must then play in the highest position possible in any remaining match or matches and the team sheet shall be altered accordingly.
- (2) Where a Club defaults a contest or defaults more than half the matches in a contest that Club shall be deemed to have committed an offence against these Rules and the Committee may if it sees fit take action against that Club under Senior Interclub Rule 25.

PART V - RESULTS

22.Entering Results

The captain or nominated person from the winning team is responsible for entering the results into the Match Point electronic system by 12pm the day following the contest. The correctly completed team sheets must be signed by both captains and include the player codes. Such Team sheets are to be kept for four weeks after the end of the Competition and to be made available to the Committee within five working days if so requested.

23.Points Awarded In A Contest

- (1) Points shall be awarded as follows:
 - (a) One point for every match won.
 - (b) Two points to the team winning the contest.
- (2) The winning team in any contest shall be decided:
 - (a) By the number of matches won in the first instance.

- (b) If matches are equal by the number of sets won. (A Super Tie-break counts as one set).
- (c) If sets are equal by the number of games won. (A Super Tie-break counts as one game).
- (d) If games are equal then the contest shall be a draw and the two win points shared one each.

PART VI - GENERAL

Refer to Senior Interclub Rules 32 – 36.