



Interclub
Competitive Tennis

Junior Rules

Effective 9 September 2026

1. Interpretation

- 1.1. Committee means those persons appointed by the Board of Tennis Auckland Region Incorporated to administer interclub.
- 1.2. Association means Tennis Auckland Incorporated.
- 1.3. Match means one individual singles, or doubles.
- 1.4. Contest means the total matches between one team and another team in any grade, section or playoff on any given day.
- 1.5. Home team is the team playing on its own grounds.
- 1.6. Any reference to matches or players refers to junior matches or players.
- 1.7. Words importing one gender shall include the other gender and words importing the singular or plural numbers shall include the singular or plural numbers as the case may be or as the context shall require.

2. Amendments

These rules may be amended by a resolution at a delegates' meeting of the Association, passed in accordance with rules governing notices of motion at delegates' meetings of the Association, provided that an amendment made after the commencement of the interclub contests in any particular season will not take effect until the following season.

3. Interclub Committee

The Association will each year appoint an Interclub Committee with the following duties and powers:

- 3.1. To arrange and control all interclub competition.
- 3.2. To interpret these Rules.
- 3.3. To decide any matters arising from the Competitions not covered by these Rules.
- 3.4. To disqualify any Club or player or team for breach of these Rules or to impose any penalty as set out in these Rules.
- 3.5. In its discretion to order any contest or match to be replayed.

4. Junior Competitions

The following competitions will be held:

- 4.1. A junior competition; and
- 4.2. A beginner competition.

5. Entries

- 5.1. Entries for all competitions will close at the Association Office on a date to be fixed annually by the Committee.
- 5.2. The date for commencing play in each competition will be fixed annually by the Committee.
- 5.3. An entry fee, payable with the entry for each team in each competition, will be fixed annually by the Association.
- 5.4. Where the entries for any competition render it advisable, the Committee will divide them into such grades and sections as it will deem necessary.
- 5.5. The Committee has the power to re-grade any entry.
- 5.6. The Committee has the power to declare any grade or competition abandoned for any season should the Committee in its absolute discretion consider that insufficient entries have been received in a particular grade or competition, provided that clubs who have entered in any abandoned grade or competition will be given the opportunity to make entries in other grades.
- 5.7. The total number of teams entered by any one club in all grades will be restricted as follows: one team for every 12 affiliated junior members or part thereof in accordance with affiliated player returns of the previous season.
- 5.8. Where a club is newly affiliated, then the junior membership as advised to the Association in the club's application to affiliate will be the basis for that club's entry of teams and payment must not eventually be made for less than the number so indicated.

6. Junior Competition

- 6.1. SATURDAY OPEN GRADES (see Junior Rule 8)
 - 6.1.1. 18 years and under
 - 6.1.2. 16 years and under
 - 6.1.3. 14 years and under
 - 6.1.4. 12 years and under
 - 6.1.5. 10 years and under
- 6.2. SATURDAY BEGINNER GRADES (see Junior Rule 8): PRE AND POST-XMAS
 - 6.2.1. 13 years and under
 - 6.2.2. 12 years and under
 - 6.2.3. 11 years and under
 - 6.2.4. 10 years and under

- 6.3. SUNDAY OPEN GRADES (see Junior Rule 8): PRE AND POST-XMAS
 - 6.3.1. 18 years and under
 - 6.3.2. 16 years and under
 - 6.3.3. 14 years and under
 - 6.3.4. 12 years and under
 - 6.3.5. 10 years and under
- 6.4. SUNDAY BEGINNER GRADES (see Junior Rule 8)
 - 6.4.1. 13 years and under
 - 6.4.2. 12 years and under
 - 6.4.3. 11 years and under
 - 6.4.4. 10 years and under
- 6.5. And other open grades if necessary.
- 6.6. Each grade may be divided into one or more sections; the sections to consist of not less than four teams .
- 6.7. Each team in a section will play every other team in that section.
- 6.8. Teams will consist of a maximum of either six boys or six girls. Four boys or girls will play singles in the order shown on the result sheet for that contest. Girls can play in boy's teams but boys cannot play in a girls' team. There will be a cap of two girls able to play per contest with the Interclub Committee given discretion to allow more. The doubles combinations may include up to two other players as shown on the result sheet for that contest as follows:
 - 6.8.1. Players can play singles in any order as long as they play in the order listed on the results sheet prior to the commencement of each contest.
 - 6.8.2. The highest named singles player who plays in the doubles on any given day must play in the top doubles competition for that contest.
- 6.9. Each contest will consist of four singles and two doubles matches to total six matches in all, except as provided in Junior Rule 9 .4.
- 6.10. A Certificate and/or Pennant as the case may be will be awarded to the winning team in each section and/or grade.

7. Beginner Competition

The beginner competition will consist of a restricted age grade competition as follows:

- 7.1. 13 years and under
- 7.2. 12 years and under
- 7.3. 11 years and under

- 7.4. 10 years and under
- 7.5. This competition will be open to players who have not:
 - 7.5.1. played in a junior interclub competition;
 - 7.5.2. been ranked on the Tennis Auckland ranking list;
 - 7.5.3. previously won a school or other open tournament;
 - 7.5.4. been selected for an Auckland squad
- 7.6. Players may play in two competitions in a beginner grade before being ineligible for the beginner competition in the following season. Two competitions mean Pre and Post or Post and Pre.
- 7.7. Each grade may be divided into one or more sections; the sections to consist of not less than four teams.
- 7.8. Each team in a section will play every other team in that section.
- 7.9. Teams will consist of a maximum of either six boys or six girls. Four boys or girls will play singles in the order shown on the result sheet for that contest. The doubles combinations may include up to two other players as shown on the result sheet for that contest as follows:
 - 7.9.1. First, second, third and fourth boy or girl play first, second, third or fourth boy's or girl's singles respectively.
 - 7.9.2. The highest ranked singles player who plays in the doubles on any given day must play in the top doubles competition for that contest.
- 7.10. Each contest will consist of four singles and two doubles matches to total six matches in all, except as provided in Junior Rule 9 .4.
- 7.11. A pennant will be awarded to the winning team in each section.

8. Age Qualification

For Pre and Post Competitions as at 30th April year of Post competition

9. Grade and Section Winners

Should Playoffs be necessary in any Grade or Section the following rules apply:

- 9.1. Where any grade is played in one section, then where teams rank equal for winner, a playoff will take place on a knockout basis in accordance with Junior Rule 9 .4 .
- 9.2. In the event of there being more than one section in a grade, then the winners of the sections will play off on a knockout system to find the winner of the grade.
- 9.3. To ascertain the winner of a section the following rules will be applied:

- 9.3.1. A team winning a contest will be awarded two points; in addition, one point will be awarded for each match won by each team; the winner of the contest will be the team winning the majority of the matches therein.
- 9.3.2. In the event of the matches being equal, then a count back of games won shall determine the winner of the contest and allocation of the two additional bonus points . If on a count back the games are equal, the two additional bonus points shall be shared one each.
- 9.3.3. In the event of teams ranking equal for section winner on the basis in Junior Rule 9 .3 .1, then contests in which the teams were concerned will be recounted, a team receiving one point for each game won.
- 9.3.4. In the event of the teams ranking equal on this last basis, a draw will be declared and the Committee will arrange a further contest between the teams concerned.
- 9.3.5. In all calculations in Junior Rules 9 .3 .1, 9 .3 .2, 9 .3 .3 and 9 .3 .4, where one team has won a contest wholly by default, then the other team or teams whose wins are being counted will be credited with a win by default in their contests with the defaulting team.
- 9.3.6. The team gaining the most points from all contests will be declared the winner of the section.
- 9.4. To ascertain the winner of a final or section playoff in the event of the matches in the contest being equal, the following Junior Rule will be applied: any two players who have played in that fixture but have not played as a doubles combination on that day will play one set of doubles, the 12 point Tie-break to operate at six games all .

10. Team Lists

- 10.1. Team Lists, as submitted on Match Point shall be the list accepted by the Committee as at the closing date notified each year.
- 10.2. A printout of the team lists from Match Point must be forwarded to the Association including the Date of Birth of all players.
- 10.3. If a club enters more than one team in the same grade or in the same competition, then the players in the number one team should be stronger than the players in the number two team, and for the purpose of these rules the number one team must be deemed to be a higher grade than the number two team and so on.

- 10.4. A club may at any time forward an amended team list deleting or adding further players. Should it be necessary to play an unregistered player an addition/ alteration/deletion form must be forwarded within a week of the contest being played.
- 10.5. No player may be a member of a team taking part in any playoff or final unless that player has already played in at least two contests. Where a player has played twice in a grade above then that player is no longer eligible to play in a grade below.
- 10.6. Where a club has failed to forward a team list, then the team result as it appears on Match Point for the first contest will be deemed to be the team list of the club concerned until such team list is supplied. Any variations in the team must be deemed a breach of Junior Rule 11.2.
- 10.7. The Committee has the power to question the grading of any player under Junior Rules 6, 7 and 8 and the club may be required to obtain a birth certificate to justify its playing of such player in the grade in question.
- 10.8. The Committee has the power to question any team list and will call on the club to produce evidence of match results to justify its selection, and it will be the Committee's duty so to do whenever a team list is not in accordance with the results of any recent matches or the player's ability.
- 10.9. The Committee has the power to call on a club to produce evidence as to the availability of a player on a team list and if the Committee is not satisfied that the club had reasonable grounds to believe that the player would be available; the Committee may delete that player's name from the list.
- 10.10. Where the Committee questions any playing positions or pairings, it will also obtain the opinion of the Association's junior selectors, and in the event of any subsequent appeal such opinion will be available to all parties concerned in such appeal.
- 10.11. Where the Committee decides that a player or doubles pairing has played without being on a team list or an additions form is not forwarded to the Association, then the matches involving the offending player or doubles pairing will be defaulted and if the non-offending team is either still behind or equal in matches, then the Committee will order a new contest to be played where the Committee considers that the playing out of order has altered the final result of the contest .

11. Qualification of Players

- 11.1. Players must be affiliated junior members of their club and have paid through such affiliated club the levies payable to the Association.
- 11.2. A player who is on a team list and has played more than twice for the club in one grade shall not be permitted to play in a lower grade in the same pre or Post- Xmas competition without application having first been made to the Committee to have such player re-graded, but a player may at any time play in a higher grade than that for which he is graded, provided that where he plays more than twice in such higher grade he must automatically be placed on the higher grades team list.
- 11.3. No player, being a member of more than one club, will play for another club in the same season. For the purpose of Junior Interclub a season runs from August to July and includes both Pre and Post-Xmas Competitions. If a player plays for more than one club that player will for the remainder of the season be deemed to be a member of the club for which he or she was originally listed for. The club for which the player subsequently played shall lose all points for matches won by that player and all points for matches won by any other members of the team who played below the player in question in any contest and those points will be awarded to the opposing team. At the discretion of Tennis Auckland Interclub Committee under special circumstances and on agreement of all parties, (clubs and players) a junior may be permitted to transfer clubs between the Pre and Post-Xmas competitions of a season.
- 11.4. The Committee may consent to the re-grading of a player to a lower grade where special circumstances exist, details of which must be supplied to the Committee in writing, together with the application for re-grading.
- 11.5. A junior player wishing to play for another club in the senior weekend interclub competition may be permitted to do so under special circumstances and on agreement of all parties, provided notification shall be on the Juniors Transfer form and submitted to Tennis Auckland by 1st August. The Transfer must be renewed annually.
- 11.6. A junior player may only play in his/her correct age band or the age band immediately higher for Junior Interclub competitions with the exception of Junior Caro Bowl or a Premier Pre-Xmas competition.

12. Substitutes

- 12.1. All players must be on the current team list which can be updated as per Junior Rules 10 .4 or 10 .11.
- 12.2. No player may be substituted once that player has commenced to play a match in a contest.
- 12.3. If in a contest a match is defaulted in other than the bottom position, then the club concerned must satisfy the Committee that it was unaware that a substitute would be required and where the Committee is not so satisfied it may order a replay of the contest if it considers a different decision than the one which occurred could have resulted.
- 12.4. Nothing in these rules will prevent a player from a lower grade playing as a replacement in a higher grade but if such a lower grade player plays more than two contests above their normal grade they may not play down again without the approval of the Committee.
- 12.5. here a player has been selected in an association senior or junior representative team, either as player or first emergency, but has declined selection for any reason, then that player cannot take part in interclub matches on the date set down for such representative match without the permission of the selectors, and a substitute must be played by the club concerned.
- 12.6. here a player has been selected as player or first emergency for an association senior or junior representative team, then that player cannot take part in interclub matches on the date set down for such representative match without the permission of the selectors, and a substitute must be played by the club concerned.
- 12.7. Where any team has two or more players selected in or officially representing the Auckland Association or the New Zealand Association or who have been directed by the New Zealand Association to attend a pre-selection tournament, it will be granted a postponement and/or a new date for the contest on application to the Committee at least seven days before the original scheduled date for the contest.

13. Captains

- 13.1. A captain must be nominated with each team and failing such nomination the first boy or first girl must act as captain.
- 13.2. Before a contest commences, simultaneously, each team captain will hand to the other captain a team sheet showing the playing order for

singles and doubles and this team order may not be departed from or changed.

14. Contests

- 14.1. Contests must be played on the date set down by the Committee unless prevented by weather or court conditions, or other approved reason, or an official cancellation by the Committee.
- 14.2. Unless prevented by weather or court conditions, each contest must commence not later than 8.30am for Saturday Open Grades, no later than 12pm for Saturday Beginner Grades and no later than 9am for all Sunday Grades whether on home courts, on association courts, or on school courts.
- 14.3. No contest will be commenced or continued if the weather or court conditions do not permit; in the event of showery weather at home courts, the ground Committee or its representative, and at association and school courts, the representative of the association, will be the sole judge as to whether play will be allowed, or will be stopped, and when it may be resumed; provided that in the event of showery weather the ground representative will make every effort to complete the contests on the dates set down.
- 14.4. If in any contest three matches at least have been completed on the date specified and the others not completed owing to weather conditions or for any other reason approved by the Committee, it must be completed by the following Wednesday evening as arranged by the captains; the result must be entered on Match Hub by the Friday morning; the Committee may require the teams concerned to play another contest at a later date if it proves impossible for the teams concerned to arrange for completion.
- 14.5. In the event of the cancellation of a contest by a supervisor, or by a representative of the association or the home club, then the captains of the teams concerned in the contest will make mutually acceptable arrangements to play the contest within 14 days of the original date set down for the contest; if, in a cancelled contest, the team captains cannot make mutual arrangements to play, then the matter must be referred to the Committee and the Committee will set the date for the contest; in all arrangements the result of the contest must be completed on Match Point within 48 hours from the day of the completion of the contest.

- 14.6. Unfinished matches in a contest will be continued from the same stage whether play is recommenced later in the same day or on another date.
- 14.7. The order of play in a contest will be: each contest is to start with both doubles, followed by singles as players become available, unless both teams agree otherwise.
- 14.8. Clubs must notify the Committee and the opposing team of any team or teams that must default in a contest or contests at least three days before the date set down for the playing of such contest or contests; and clubs must notify the opposing team of a default in any team position where a substitute cannot be obtained for the contest at least 45 minutes before the start of the contest; failure to advise the Committee and/or the opposing team of such defaults may result in a fine of \$25 per team on each occasion; where a team withdraws from a competition after the draw has been made it will be liable for a fine not exceeding \$50.
- 14.9. If no member of a team is present at the venue of a contest by 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, the FIRST singles will be defaulted.
- 14.10. Any team who does not have sufficient players (50% of the team) 30 minutes after the start time may be liable to default.
- 14.11. Clubs must make a minimum of two courts available for each contest on each playing day.
- 14.12. The Committee will control all playoffs and finals and where required these contests will be played at neutral venues.
- 14.13. Clubs are required to provide tennis balls for each contest as follows: in all grades, one pair of new or used balls per team. In the case of used balls, the manufacturer's name must be clearly shown. Balls used for all grades, except Open 10U and Beginner Grades, should be those currently approved by the Association. Only Green Dot Balls are to be used for the Open 10U and all Beginner Grades.
- 14.14. Length of Matches:
 - 14.14.1. All open grade matches will be decided by the best of 17 games, the Tie- break to be played at eight games all, except as provided by Junior Rule 9 .4 . (refer page 81 for Tie-break rules).
 - 14.14.2. All Beginner Grades will play first to six games (no Tie-break)
- 14.15. All matches should be adjudicated; adjudicators will be arranged by agreement between the captains; and any player dissatisfied with the adjudicating of a match in which the player is taking part may appeal to

the captain or manager of his or her team who will confer with the captain or manager of the opposing team with a view to changing the adjudicator, provided that they are satisfied that it is desirable and necessary; all points scored to the time of any change will stand. The adjudicator should not be a parent of a team member.

14.16. All clubs must supply score pads for each contest.

14.17. The maximum knock-up period is five minutes.

14.18. The captain or nominated person from the winning team will enter the results into the Match Point electronic system by 5pm of the Tuesday following the contest. The correctly completed team sheets must be signed by both captains. Such team sheets are to be kept for four weeks after the end of the competition and to be made available to the Committee at the Association Office within five days if requested to do so by the Committee. (Except as provided for in Junior Rules 14 .4 and 14 .5).

15. Returns

15.1. If requested, all team lists, team result sheets, appeals and other returns required by these rules to be forwarded by clubs and teams, are the responsibility of the club junior representative, and must be sent or delivered in writing to the interclub chairman.

15.2. No competition points will be awarded in any contests until such time as the results of the contest has been entered on Match Point.

16. Supervision

16.1. All clubs must appoint adult representatives (that is, persons over 18 years of age) to be responsible as supervisors at home courts, association courts, school courts or other interclub venues as required from time to time by notice from the Committee.

16.2. All supervisors appointed under Junior Rule 16 .1 are required by the Committee to:

16.2.1. Be familiar with these rules;

16.2.2. Enforce the New Zealand Code of Conduct;

16.2.3. Note any instructions notified by the Committee;

16.2.4. Control all contests and matches and as far as possible be responsible for nets and equipment at any interclub venue;

- 16.2.5. Arrive at the interclub venue before the starting time for play (Junior Rule 14) and remain at the venue until the completion of all matches in the contests;
- 16.2.6. Be responsible for the cancellation of any contests or matches in accordance with Junior Rule 14;
- 16.2.7. Be responsible for keeping the courts occupied, keeping to the order of play and keeping the matches going;
- 16.2.8. Stop any arguing and time wasting; prevent any trouble or bad behaviour, and encourage good court manners and sportsmanship; and
- 16.2.9. Report on any matter in accordance with this rule.
- 16.3. All clubs are required to appoint adult representatives (that is, persons over 18 years of age) to remain with and supervise teams that consist of boy or girl players 14 years and under.
- 16.4. All club representatives appointed under Junior Rule 16 .3 are required to assist at interclub venues in accordance with Junior Rule 16 .2.

17. Tennis New Zealand Code of Conduct

The Tennis New Zealand Code of Conduct must be read as part of these rules and all those involved with junior interclub must abide by this code. (See TNZ website).

18. Breaches and Penalties

- 18.1. Any club commits a breach of these rules if it or its representative:
 - 18.1.1. Fails to supply a team list as provided by Junior Rule 10.
 - 18.1.2. Fails to supply a correct team list as provided by Junior Rule 10.
 - 18.1.3. Permits an ineligible player to take part in an interclub contest in contravention of Junior Rules 6, 7, 8 and 11.
 - 18.1.4. Permits a player who has already represented another club in an interclub contest to represent it in an interclub contest in contravention of Junior Rule 11 .3.
 - 18.1.5. Permits a substitute to play in an interclub contest in an incorrect position as provided by Junior Rule 12.
 - 18.1.6. Fails to notify the Committee of any team that must default a contest at least three days before the date set down for the contest or fails to advise the opposing team of a default in any position at least 45 minutes before the start of the contest as provided by Junior Rule 14 .8.

- 18.1.7. Fails to enter the contest results into Match Point within the time specified in Junior Rules 14 .4, 14 .5 & 14 .18.
- 18.1.8. Permits a player to take part in a contest using other than his or her correct name.
- 18.1.9. Fails to supply correct balls as provided by Junior Rule 14 .13.
- 18.1.10. Fails to supply score pads as provided by Junior Rule 14 .16.
- 18.1.11. Fails to appoint supervisors in contravention of Junior Rule 16.
- 18.1.12. Commits an offence against the Tennis New Zealand Code of Conduct.
- 18.2. Any player commits a breach of these rules who:
 - 18.2.1. Having already represented a club in a contest represents another club in contest in the same season.
 - 18.2.2. Takes part in a contest using other than his or her own name.
 - 18.2.3. Commits an offence against the Tennis New Zealand Code of Conduct.
- 18.3. Any club that in the opinion of the Committee commits a breach of these rules will be liable at the discretion of the Committee to any number of the following penalties:
 - 18.3.1. A fine of \$25 and where the breach is a continuing one, to a fine of \$25 on every occasion on which the breach is committed.
 - 18.3.2. To suspension of a team or teams from contests for whatever period the Committee decides.
 - 18.3.3. To the loss of points gained in the contest involving a breach of these rules and the awarding of these points to the opposing team.
- 18.4. Any player who in the opinion of the Committee commits a breach of these Junior Rules will at the discretion of the Committee be liable to either or both of the following penalties:
 - 18.4.1. Suspension from contests for whatever period the Committee decides.
 - 18.4.2. Suspension from all or any events conducted by the Association for whatever period the Committee decides.
- 18.5. The penalties provided in these rules will be in addition to any other penalties herein provided.
- 18.6. Any club or any person charged with a breach of these rules will be given seven days' notice of a date of hearing by the Committee and be entitled to submit a case to the Committee either in writing or in person or through a representative.
- 18.7. Any club that fails to pay a fine within one month of the imposition thereof or in the case of an appeal within one month of the final

determination of the appeal will automatically be suspended from taking part in all contests until the fine has been paid.

19. Appeal

Any club shall have the right of appeal against any decision of the Interclub Committee as follows:

19.1 Within 10 working days of the receipt in writing of the Interclub Committee decision, the club can request a mediation meeting with the Interclub Committee, representatives from the club/s and an independent mediator. In the absence of an agreement the next stage will occur.

19.2 If the club wishes to appeal the decision from point (1) this must be done within seven days of receipt in writing of the mediation decision that is made. This appeal should be submitted to the Centre Judiciary Committee of Tennis Auckland.

19.3 A further right of appeal can be made against the decision of the Centre Judiciary Committee of Tennis Auckland to the Tennis New Zealand Judiciary Committee: such an appeal to be made in writing and within seven days of the receipt in writing of the Centre Judiciary Committee.