

# **SENIOR INTERCLUB RULES**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. What Rules have changed since last season?**

There have been four significant Rule changes that all Clubs/Captains need to be aware of:

#### **(i) Amending a Team List**

Clubs have more flexibility to amend Team Lists this season. Players can be added to a Team List in two ways:

- (a) An Interclub Controller can send a written request to Tennis Auckland asking to add a player to a Team List at any time during the season subject only to meeting the eligibility criteria. For example you can not add a player with a grading higher than the highest graded regular team member on that Team List.
- (b) A player who has not been listed on, or added to, a Team List in a particular Senior Interclub Competition before playing for a team in that Competition will be added to the Team List that he or she first plays for. Clubs and Captains need to manage reserves to make sure players don't end up in too high a team after playing once.

#### **(ii) Promotion/Relegation teams after 1 February**

A player must be on a Team List in the appropriate Competition to play in any contests in the Promotion/Relegation Grades after 1 February. Note: This date has been changed from 10 February to 1 February. For Singles Grades the appropriate Competition is the Singles Competition; for Doubles Grades the appropriate Competition is the Doubles Competition. The Super Tennis Competition and the new Mixed-Four Presidents Competition are not appropriate Competitions for the purpose of playing Promotion/Relegation Grades after 1 February.

#### **(iii) Playing Up**

A player who gets added to a Team List after the season begins may now play up three times for a higher team in the same Competition.

Players on a Team List at the beginning of the season are still able to play up three times for a higher team in the same Competition.

After three play ups a player remains in the team for which he or she was originally listed.

#### **(iv) Regular Team Member**

A "regular team member" will now be required to play in at least one half of the contests for his or her team. The highest graded player (or man and woman player in the Doubles Competitions and the Mixed-Four Presidents Competitions) must be a regular team member.

2. How many regular players should be on a Team List? – refer **Rule 10**

There must be a **minimum of four regular players** on Singles Competition, Super Tennis Competition and Mixed-Four Presidents Competition team lists and a **minimum of eight regular players** (four men and four women) on Doubles Competition Team lists. The average points of the top four, or top eight (four men and four women) players are used to determine Open Grade positions each season.

Clubs can select more regular members in teams, but the Club must satisfy itself that the regular team members will play in **at least half** of the contests during the season. Clearly, you couldn't have 10 regular players in a singles team as there aren't enough contests over the course of a season, but you may have 5-6 people who intend to play regularly.

Clubs need to be aware that once a player is listed in a team in a Competition that player cannot then move up into a higher team. That player can however play up three times for higher teams.

The highest graded player, or highest graded man and highest graded woman in Doubles Competition and Mixed-Four Presidents teams must be a regular member or members of the team.

3. What constitutes a “Regular Team Member”? - refer **Rule 10(6)**

A regular team member will be a player that has committed to playing regularly for a team. This does not mean that that player will play in every contest. It does mean however that that player will play in at least half of the contests throughout the season. The onus is on the Club to establish that it has reasonable grounds when entering a team to believe that a player will be a regular team member.

Tennis Auckland may ask clubs to provide evidence of a player's availability for the season, if the Interclub Committee has reason to query a player's inclusion on a team list.

4. Can I include players who aren't regulars on a Team List?

Yes. But Clubs need to realise that if you list a non-regular player on a team list, this does limit the ability of this player to play in other teams. Clubs need to weigh up if it is better to list a player on a team or use them as a reserve.

When deciding if or where to list players who won't play regularly please remember, your team's highest-graded player must be one of the regulars in your team and reserves coming in can't be graded higher than the top-graded player on a team list.

5. What happens if a Club enters a team without the minimum number of regular team members?

The entry will not be accepted. Tennis Auckland will contact the Club concerned and ask them to provide the names of enough regular members to fill the team.

6. Can a player be listed on more than one Team List?

Yes. A player can be listed on a team in any or all of the four Competitions (Singles Competition, Doubles Competition, Super Tennis Competition and Mixed-Four Presidents Competition) as each is treated as a separate competition. Players must meet the eligibility requirements set out in Rule 14 as summarised in the table below, and for the Doubles and Mixed-Four Presidents Competition must be at least 30 years old.

However, a player cannot be listed on more than one team list in the same competition. Eg you could not be listed in both Open Men's 5 and Second Grade Men as these two grades are both part of the Singles Competition.

**Promotion/Relegation Player Eligibility table Singles Grades to Presidents Grades – Rule 14**

Scarbro Caro Bowl	If under 35 years of age at 1/9/20	Cannot play Senior Interclub
	If over 35 years of age as at 1/9/20	Can play Ferrier Cup only
Caro Bowl Reserve	If over 30 years of age as at 1/9/20	Can play Ferrier Cup only
First Grade Men	If over 30 years of age as at 1/9/20	Can play Ferrier Cup only
First Grade Women	If over 30 years of age as at 1/9/20	Can play no lower than Pres A
Second Grade Men	If over 30 years of age as at 1/9/20	Can play no lower than OP1

7. If I am not listed on a Team List at the beginning of the season can I play interclub during the season? – refer **Rule 12(2)**

Yes. A player not listed on a Team List can play for any team in his or her Club provided that his or her grading band is not higher than the grading band of the highest man listed in the team in the case of a man, or the grading band of the highest woman listed in the team in the case of a woman.

For the Doubles Competition the player must also be at least 30 years of age (as at 1 September 2019).

After playing once in any Competition (ie. Singles Competition, Doubles Competition, Super Tennis Competition or Mixed-Four Presidents Competition) a player will be added to the Team List in that Competition for the first team that the player played for. That player can then play up for any higher team (in the same Competition) a maximum of three times during the season.

8. What happens if a Club nominates a player as a regular member of a team, but that player does not play any, or plays very few matches for that team?  
Tennis Auckland will contact the Club concerned and ask why the nominated regular team member has either not played or has rarely played at that point in the season.

If the player's inclusion appears to be a deliberate flouting of the Rules, then the team concerned may lose competition points. The reason we require Clubs to nominate regular team members is to ensure fairness in determining placement of teams within the Open Grades and as far as possible an even standard of tennis within all grades.

9. Do I have to belong to an Auckland Club to play interclub?

Yes you must be a financial member of a Club affiliated to Tennis Auckland.

10. What Restrictions are there on a Listed Player playing for another team in the same Competition?

There are three restrictions:

- A listed player cannot play for a lower graded team.
- There are restrictions around grading as set out in Rule 14 (see table under FAQ No 6).
- A listed player may play up only three times for higher graded teams in the same Competition. Eg a player listed in Second Grade Men could fill in twice for First Grade Men and once for Caro Bowl Reserve Men. He stays in his Second Grade team and cannot fill in again for a higher singles team as he has played up the maximum three times. (Rule 12)

11. What restrictions are there on a Player on a Team List in one Competition playing for another Team in a different Competition?

Each Competition (Singles Competition, Doubles Competition, Super Tennis Competition and Mixed-Four Presidents Competition) is separate. If a player is not on a Team List in a particular Competition, then that player is treated as a non-listed player for that Competition.

12. Do I need to be on a Team List by 1 February in order to play in Promotion-Relegation contests after 1 February? – refer **Rule 12(2A)**

Yes. You will need to be on a Team List by 1 February for the particular Competition that you wish to play Promotion/Relegation contests for after 1 February. This will mean that an unlisted player will either have to play at least once for his or her Club in the particular Competition before 1 February, or have his or her Interclub Controller request before 1 February that they be added to a Team List in the particular Competition. The limitation of three play-ups continues to apply after 1 February.

**13. Will there still be a Reserves List?**

No. The Reserves List no longer exists. Rather any player who belongs to your Club may play Interclub provided that they meet the eligibility requirements for the team in question.

**14. Can the Respective Captains by agreement vary the starting time of a contest, the order in which matches are played and the late arrival of players?**

Yes. The emphasis is on getting contests played. The Rules specifically provide that the respective captains can reach agreement on many matters in order to meet individual circumstances.

**15. Have there been any further changes with the Interclub Format and the scoring of Matches?**

No. The Rules are unchanged as to the Interclub Format, the Promotion/Relegation Provisions and the scoring of matches.

**16. Who has to play in the No.1 Doubles pairing when a specialist doubles player is used? – refer **Rules 18(2)(a) and 18(2)(b)****

This depends on the singles grading band of the specialist doubles player.

If the singles grading band of the specialist doubles player is higher than that of the No.1 Singles player on that day then the specialist doubles player must play in the No.1 Doubles pairing. The other players, including the No.1 Singles player, can play in any order in the doubles.

Where the singles grading band of the specialist doubles player is not higher than that of the No.1 Singles player on that day then the No.1 Singles player must play in the No.1 Doubles pairing. The other players, including the specialist doubles player, can play in any order in the doubles.

**17. How are the Grade Winners decided when there is a points-tie at the end of the season? – refer **Rule 28****

Should two teams finish equal on points at the end of the Competition then the winner will be the team that won the most contests during the season. If both teams won the same number of contests then the winning team will be the team that won the contest when the two teams played each other. Should that contest have ended in a tie then the procedure set out in Rule 28(3)(b) and (c) shall be used to determine the winner of the Grade.

If three or more teams finish equal on points at the end of the Competition then the winner will be decided by:

- The number of contests won; then if necessary

- The percentage of sets won of sets played; then if necessary
- The percentage of games won of games played.

The above formula also applies when deciding promotion and/or relegation places if teams are tied.

**18. Does a Team lose Points if it has to Default some or all of its matches in a contest? – refer Rule 25(3)**

Yes. The changes introduced last season will remain in effect. The defaulting team will lose competition points according to the following table:

	<u>Singles Competition &amp; Super Tennis Competition</u>	<u>Doubles Competition</u>
Full team default notified at least 24 hours in advance	Two points deducted	Three points deducted
Full team default with no notification	Three points deducted	Four points deducted
Failure to complete more than half the matches in a Contest	Two points deducted	Three points deducted

**19. What are the Time Requirements for Teams to be present before a Team is defaulted? – refer Rule 25(2)**

Hopefully captains will talk to each other and reach an amicable solution if there is the chance of a player not being able to arrive at the scheduled time. Where no agreement has been reached then the Rules provide as follows:

- Within 20 minutes of the starting time a Team must have available the players to play in the first two matches as per Rule 22. For the Singles Competition this is the two doubles matches; for the Doubles Competition this is the No.4 and No.3 mixed doubles matches, for Mixed-Four Presidents Grades this is the Mixed Doubles.
- A Team must have all of its players present within 45 minutes of the starting time to avoid defaulting further matches.
- Special conditions apply to the Super Tennis Competition.

**20. What are the Special Default Rules for Super Tennis? – refer Rule 29(7)**

Because Super Tennis contests are played within certain time restrictions different default Rules apply subject always to agreement between the respective Captains.

The order of play in Super Tennis is for the No.1 & 2 pair and the No. 3 & 4 pair to play first. If a pair is not available to commence play at the scheduled starting time

that pair will be penalised one game for every five minutes they are late and will be defaulted after 15 minutes if they are still not available. If the full team has not arrived within 45 minutes of the scheduled starting time then that team will lose by default.

**21. Are the Scarbro Caro Bowl Rules part of the Senior Interclub Rules this year?**

No. The Rules unique to the Caro Bowl Competition have been removed from the Senior Interclub Rules and a set of stand-alone Rules created. Any references to Caro Bowl in the Senior Interclub Rules or Schedules relate only to promotion to and relegation from Caro Bowl and the eligibility of Caro Bowl players to play in the Senior Interclub Doubles Competition. The Caro Bowl Rules have been included in the Handbook for the 2020/2021 in a separate section to the Senior Interclub Rules.

**22. Can anyone play in the new Mixed-Four Presidents Competition?**

No. Players listed in a Caro Bowl team are not eligible to play in this Competition. Players also need to be 30 years of age or over as at 1 September 2020 to be eligible to play in this grade.