

MIDWEEK INTERCLUB RULES

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MIDWEEK INTERCLUB RULES

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.

grading band and **grading** in relation to an individual player means the player grading taken from the Doubles Match Hub Grading List at the date or dates prescribed at the beginning of the season by the Committee.

match means one individual doubles.

Promotion/Relegation Rules means the Rules contained in the Second Schedule.

regular team member has the meaning set out in Rule 8(4).

Rule or **Rules** refers to these Midweek Interclub Rules and the attached Schedules.

Senior Interclub means the Singles Competition, the Doubles Competition, the Super Tennis Competition, the Mixed-Four Presidents Competition and the Twilight Competition of the Auckland Senior Interclub.

2. Application Of Rules

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:

- (a) To arrange and control the Midweek Interclub;
- (b) To interpret these Rules;
- (c) To decide any matters arising from the Competitions not covered by these Rules;
- (d) To disqualify any Club or player or team for breach of these Rules or to impose any penalty as set out in these Rules;
- (e) In its discretion to order any contest or match to be replayed;
- (f) To make recommendations to amend these Rules.

PART II - MIDWEEK COMPETITIONS

4. Midweek Competitions

- (1) The Midweek Interclub Competitions shall be those Competitions detailed in the First Schedule.
- (2) The Monday Competitions and the Tuesday Competitions are separate Competitions for the purposes of the Rules.

5. Format For Entries

Entries for each 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.

6. Eligibility To Enter Championship Grades

- (1) Subject to the Promotion/Relegation Rules Clubs eligible to enter a Championship Grade shall be those Clubs which had a team entered in that Championship Grade the previous season.
- (2) Where a Club feels it is unable to field a team in a Championship Grade:
 - (a) The Club may request relegation to the immediate grade below. Such request must be in the hands of the Committee prior to 1st December in any year.
 - (b) The vacant position will be offered to the next eligible Club/s in the grade immediately below as per Rule 5 of the Promotion/Relegation Rules. If the promotion offer is accepted, that Club shall be promoted and the Club requesting relegation will be relegated to the grade immediately below.
 - (c) Should no eligible Club take up the offer of promotion then the Committee will ask the Club requesting relegation if it wishes to withdraw its team from the Championship Grade. The Club then has three working days from the receipt of this advice to advise the Committee of its decision.

7. Court Requirements

- (1) Clubs shall be required to make the following courts available for interclub on each Interclub day on which it has entered teams:
 - (a) Less than four teams entered on an Interclub day ... two courts
 - (b) Four or more teams entered on an Interclub day ... two to four courts
 - (c) Eight or more teams entered on an Interclub day ... four to six courts
- (2) For any given Interclub day the host Club may change the courts allocated for contests but may not reduce the number of courts allocated on the draw to any contest at that Club.
- (3) Where a Club proposes to use courts other than their club courts for interclub, such courts and facilities must first be approved to be of sufficient standard by the Committee.

PART III - TEAM LISTS AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

8. Team Lists

- (1) A Team List shall be provided for each team entered by a Club by the closing date for entries for that season.
- (2) Each Team List shall show the names of a minimum of four regular team members for each team.
- (3) The highest graded player on a Team List must be a regular team member of that team.

- (4) A “regular team member” is a player that the Club at the time of entering the Team List reasonably believes will play in at least one half of the contests throughout the Competition for the team in which that player is listed. The onus of establishing that belief shall lie with the Club.
- (5) A player may be shown on a Team List for both a Monday team and a Tuesday team.
- (6) Where a Club has more than one team in the same Grade, these team compositions can be balanced (eg. each team can be made up of two D2 and two D3 players). The teams will be numbered Team 1 and Team 2 etc. but once these teams have been listed players cannot be interchanged.
- (7) The Committee may require a Club to produce evidence as to the availability of a player included in a Team List. If the Committee is not satisfied that the Club has reasonable grounds to believe that the player would be a regular team member then the Committee may delete that player’s name from the Team List.

9. Amending A Team List

Subject to Rules 10(2), 10(2A) and 11 a player may be added to a Team List at any time by written notice to Tennis Auckland provided that that grading band of the player to be added to the Team List is not higher than the grading band of the highest graded player on the Team List.

NOTE: There will no longer be a Reserves List.

10. Substitute Players

(1) Players Listed On A Team List Playing For Another Team

- (a) Subject to Rules 10(2A) and 11:
 - (i) A player on a Team List; or
 - (ii) A player deemed to be on a Team List under Rule 10(2);
 may play a maximum of two contests for higher graded teams in the same Competition provided that the player’s grading band is not higher than the grading band of the highest graded player on the Team List of the higher graded team.
- (b) A player listed on a Team List, or a player deemed to be listed on a Team List under Rule 10(2), may not play in a lower graded team in the same Competition notwithstanding that the player may not have played in any contest or contests in the grade in which that player is listed.

(2) Players Not Listed On A Team List

Subject to Rules 10(2A) and 11 a player who has not been listed on a Team List in a Competition may play for any team in that player’s Club provided that the grading band of that player is not higher than the grading band of the highest graded player on the Team List. That player will be deemed to have been added to the Team List of the team that that player first plays for.

(2A) Eligibility For Promotion/Relegation Contests In The Summer Competition

To be eligible to play in Promotion/Relegation contests after the date set for the fourth round of the Competition a player must by that date –

- (i) In the case of Monday Competitions be listed on a Team List of a team playing in a Monday Competition;

- (ii) In the case of Tuesday Competitions be listed on a Team List of a team playing in a Tuesday Competition.

(3) Substituting Players After A Contest Has Commenced

- (a) A player may not be substituted once that player has commenced playing a match in the contest.
- (b) If a player is injured or falls ill during that player's first match in a contest and has to default this match, that player is still eligible to play in the second match in that contest.
- (c) Where a team is shorthanded the players present must play in the highest position possible and the bottom match/matches shall be defaulted by the shorthanded team. Should an eligible player become available after the contest has commenced that player may play in the contest provided that the playing order in Rule 15(1) can be observed.

11. Player Eligibility

- (1) The Competitions are open to any player who is over the age of 18 years as at 30 April in any given season and who is a financial full playing or restricted playing member of a Club affiliated to Tennis Auckland.
- (2) A player must play all Midweek Interclub Competitions for the same Club in any season but may play for another Club in Senior Interclub in the same season.
- (3) A player must use his or her correct name and player code in any contest.
- (4) Where a player plays Midweek Interclub for more than one Club contrary to Rule 11(2) that player will, for the remainder of the season, be deemed to be a member of the Club for which that player played their first Midweek Interclub Competition for. The Club for which that player subsequently played any Midweek Interclub Competition for 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.

12. Transfers

- (1) Any player who represents any Club in a Championship Grade in any season may not in the immediately following season represent any other Club in a Championship Grade 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 any player on a Team List which requires such consent as set out in this Rule. 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) Where a player does play for another Club contrary to Rule 12(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 Championship Grade only for the Club they played in a Championship Grade 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 Championship Grade for another Club in the following season.

PART IV - CONTESTS

13. Starting Time

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

14. Wet Weather

- (1) No contest shall be commenced or continued if the weather or court conditions are not suitable for play.
- (2) In the event of inclement weather no contest shall be postponed before 10.30am except with the agreement of both captains.
- (3) Where in any contest:
 - (a) Two or more matches have been completed before play ceases for the day the contest shall be completed from the point at which play stopped.
 - (b) Fewer than two matches have been completed before play ceases for the day the contest shall be cancelled and shall start afresh on another date.
- (4) Team captains shall seek a mutually acceptable date or dates for playing any contest under Rule 14(3). Should either Team captain consider that the opposing Team captain is not co-operating the matter shall be referred to the Committee for resolution.
- (5) All contests under Rule 14(3) must be finished no later than two weeks after the last scheduled round of play.

15. Competition Contests

(1) Playing Order

- A player with the highest doubles grading band on any given day must play in the No.1 position. The remaining three players can play in any order.
- The pairing and order of play shall be 1&2, 3&4, 1&3, 2&4.

(2) Scoring in Matches

- All matches shall be two Tie-break sets. Tie-break to apply at six games all in either set. Tie-break to be 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. Defaults

- (1) A Club must notify the Committee and the opposing team at least 24 hours before the scheduled starting time of the contest if a team from that Club has to default that contest.
- (2) Unless both captains agree otherwise the following default process shall apply:

- Where a team does not have available the players to play in the first two matches as prescribed in Rule 15 within 20 minutes of the scheduled starting time the players present for that team must play in the highest position possible and that team shall lose by default the match or matches that cannot be played at that time. Should an eligible player become available after the contest has commenced that player may play in the contest provided that the playing order in Rule 15(1) can be observed.
- Where a team does not have all of its players present within 45 minutes of the scheduled starting time the players present in that team must play in the highest position possible in any remaining match or matches and that team shall lose by default all of the lower match or matches irrespective of whether or not a court or courts were available to play any matches or whether any eligible player subsequently becomes available.

(3) The following penalties shall apply to defaults:

- Failure to notify the Committee and opposing team at least 24 hours in advance of the contest (including defaulting on the day of the contest) will result in the deduction of two competition points.
- Where a default is notified at least 24 hours before the scheduled starting time of the contest the team defaulting shall have one competition point deducted.
- Where a team defaults for a third time it shall be withdrawn from the Competition and if in a Promotion/Relegation Grade that team shall be relegated at the end of the season.
- Where a team withdraws from a Competition after the draw has been published the Club will incur a \$100 fine and the team will be relegated at the end of the season.

17. Playing Out Of Order

When a player plays out of order in a contest the number of points to be deducted and awarded to the opposing team shall be determined by the number of matches that gained an advantage by that action.

18. Team Sheet

Each captain shall hand to the other captain before the first match a Team sheet showing the playing order of players for all matches in the contest. This team order may not be departed from unless a substitute is required to be played (see Rule 10(3)).

19. Umpires

No matches shall be umpired unless mutually agreed by team captains.

20. Official Ball

Teams shall use the adopted ball specified each season by the Committee. Each team shall provide two pairs of new balls for each contest.

PART V - RESULTS

21. Entering Results

The captain or nominated person from the winning team is responsible for entering the results into the Match Hub electronic system within five days of the completion of 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.

22. Points Awarded In A Contest

- (1)** Points shall be awarded as follows:
 - One point for every match won.
 - Two points to the team winning the contest.
- (2)** The winning team in any contest shall be decided:
 - By the number of matches won in the first instance.
 - If matches are equal by the number of sets won. (A Super Tie-break counts as one set).
 - If sets are equal by the number of games won. (A Super Tie-break counts as one game).
 - If games are equal then the contest shall be a draw and the two win points shared one each.

23. Determining Grade Winners

- (1)** The team gaining the greatest number of points in all contests during a season shall be the winner of that grade or section. If a competition is played in more than one section, or the grade is to include a final series, the Committee shall hold a playoff or final series to determine who shall be the winner of the grade.
- (2)** Should teams finish equal on points at the end of a competition the team that won the most contests shall be the winner. Where teams have won the same number of contests then the winning team shall 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 23(3)(b) and (c) shall be used to determine the winner of the grade.
- (3)** If three or more teams score an equal number of points the following procedure will be used:
 - (a)** The number of contests won shall decide the winner;
 - (b)** If the number of contests won are equal, the percentage of sets won of sets played against all teams shall decide the winner;
 - (c)** If the percentage of sets won is equal, the percentage of games won of games played against all teams shall decide the winner.
- (4)** In all grades where a default has a bearing on the Promotion/Relegation positions or the winning of a grade at the end of the season where a team has gained the maximum points from a default then the team/s that have been jeopardised by this default will also be credited with the maximum points from the contest when they played the defaulting team

PART VI - GENERAL

24. Code Of Conduct

The Tennis New Zealand Code of Conduct shall apply to all contests under these Rules.

25. Home Team Hosting

The host Club will provide refreshments unless otherwise agreed with the opposition.

26. Amendment To Rules

- (1)** The following process shall be followed for amending these Rules:
 - (a)** Suggested amendments from Clubs and from the Committee shall be discussed at the annual Midweek Interclub Debrief held towards the end of each interclub season. The Committee shall give at least ten days' notice to Clubs of the matters to be discussed at the Debrief including details of any proposed changes to the Midweek Interclub Rules.
 - (b)** The Committee after considering the matters discussed at the Midweek Interclub Debrief and any other factors that it considers relevant shall make such amendments to the Rules as appropriate and report those amendments to Clubs.
 - (c)** The amendments to the Rules decided on by the Committee shall be ratified at a Delegates Meeting.
- (2)** No amendment shall take effect any earlier than the beginning of the Interclub season following the Midweek Interclub Debrief.

27. Offences

- (1)** Every Club or its representative that commits any breach of these Rules shall be liable to one or more of the following penalties:
 - (a)** A fine not exceeding \$50 and where the offence is a continuing one, to a fine of \$50 on every occasion on which the offence is committed;
 - (b)** To suspension of a team or teams from contests for whatever period the Committee decides;
 - (c)** To the deduction of Competition points. (Where appropriate Competition points may be awarded to the opposing team if the Committee believes that the opposing team was disadvantaged by the breach of the Rules.)
- (2)** Every player who commits any breach of these Rules shall be liable to one or both of the following penalties:
 - (a)** Suspension from contests for whatever period the Committee decides;
 - (b)** Suspension from all or any events conducted by the Association for whatever period the Committee decides.
- (3)** The penalties provided in this Rule shall be in addition to any other penalties herein provided.
- (4)** Where the Committee considers that a Club or player has committed an offence against these Rules that Club or player shall be advised forthwith of the alleged offence by the Committee by telephone, email or otherwise, and shall be given a reasonable opportunity to submit a case to the Committee if they so wish either in writing or in person or through a representative.

- (5) Any Club or player 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 shall automatically be suspended from taking part in all contests until the fine has been paid.

28. Right Of Appeal

Any Club or player shall have the right of appeal against any decision of the Committee as follows:

- (a) Within ten working days of the receipt in writing of the Committee decision the Club or player may request a meeting with the Committee. That meeting shall be chaired by an independent person. Should the matter not be resolved at this meeting the Club or player may within seven days appeal the matter to the Centre Judiciary Committee of Tennis Auckland.
- (b) 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 must be in writing and be made within seven days of the receipt of the written decision of the Centre Judiciary Committee.

FIRST SCHEDULE

LADIES MIDWEEK DOUBLES COMPETITIONS

1. Lead-In Competitions (pre-Christmas)

(a) Monday Competition

- Maximum of 8 teams per Grade
- Each team to be a minimum of four regular team members
- Teams will be graded according to playing level based on the average of the four nominated regular team members' points from the approved Match Hub Doubles Grading List as at the closing date for entries. These Grades shall be called Monday Open 1, Monday Open 2, etc. with the Open 1 Grade being the highest Grade.

(b) Tuesday Competition

- Maximum of 8 teams per Grade
- Each team to be a minimum of four regular team members
- Teams will be graded according to playing level based on the average of the four nominated regular team members' points from the approved Match Hub Doubles Grading List as at the closing date for entries. These Grades shall be called Tuesday Open 1, Tuesday Open 2, etc. with the Open 1 Grade being the highest Grade.

2. Summer Interclub Competitions (post-Christmas)

(a) Championship Competitions

(i) Monday Championship Competition

- There shall be two Grades, Championship 1 and Championship 2
- Maximum of 8 teams per Grade
- Maximum of two teams from any one Club in any one Grade
- Each team to be a minimum of four regular team members
- Championship 1 and Championship 2 Grades are higher grades than the Open Grades with Championship 1 Grade being higher than Championship 2 Grade

(ii) Tuesday Championship Competition

- There shall be two Grades, Championship 1 and Championship 2
- Maximum of 8 teams per Grade
- Maximum of two teams from any one Club in any one Grade
- Each team to be a minimum of four regular team members
- Championship 1 and Championship 2 Grades are higher grades than the Open Grades with Championship 1 Grade being higher than Championship 2 Grade

(b) Open Grade Competitions

(i) Monday Open Grade Competition

- Maximum of 8 teams per Grade
- Each team to be a minimum of four regular team members
- Teams will be graded according to playing level based on the average of the four nominated regular team members' points from the approved Match Hub Doubles Grading List as at the closing date for entries. These Grades shall be called Monday Open 1, Monday Open 2, etc. with the Open 1 Grade being the highest Grade.

(ii) Tuesday Open Grade Competition

- Maximum of 8 teams per Grade
- Each team to be a minimum of four regular team members
- Teams will be graded according to playing level based on the average of the four nominated regular team members' points from the approved Match Hub Doubles Grading List as at the closing date for entries. These Grades shall be called Tuesday Open 1, Tuesday Open 2, etc. with the Open 1 Grade being the highest Grade.

Note: The Monday Lead-In Competition, The Monday Championship Competition and the Monday Open Grade Competition are separate Competitions from the Tuesday Lead-In Competition, the Tuesday Championship Competition and the Tuesday Open Grade Competition. A player may be listed in both a Monday Competition team and a Tuesday Competition team.

SECOND SCHEDULE

PROMOTION/RELEGATION RULES

The number of teams to be promoted or relegated in any Grade shall be determined under the Promotion/Relegation Rules contained in this Schedule.

3. Teams Eligible For Promotion

- (i) Winning team in Monday Championship 2 shall be eligible for promotion to Monday Championship 1.
- (ii) Winning team in Tuesday Championship 2 shall be eligible for promotion to Tuesday Championship 1.
- (iii) Winning team in Monday Open 1 shall be eligible for promotion to Monday Championship 2.
- (iv) Winning team in Tuesday Open 1 shall be eligible for promotion to Tuesday Championship 2.

4. Teams Liable For Relegation

- (i) Bottom placed team in Monday Championship 1 shall be relegated to Monday Championship 2.
- (ii) Bottom placed team in Tuesday Championship 1 shall be relegated to Tuesday Championship 2.
- (iii) Bottom placed team in Monday Championship 2 shall be relegated to Monday Open 1.
- (iv) Bottom placed team in Tuesday Championship 2 shall be relegated to Tuesday Open 1.

5. Maximum Number Of Teams From One Club In A Grade

Nothing in the Promotion/Relegation Rules shall permit a Club to enter more than the maximum number of teams permitted to that Club in any Grade.

6. Declining Promotion

A Club, by written notice to the Interclub Committee may elect not to take up the option of Promotion in any Grade.

7. Filling Vacancies In Promotion/Relegation Grades

- (a)** Where for the reasons set out in either Rule 3 or Rule 4 in this Schedule an eligible team does not get promoted in any Grade then the Club with the next placed team in that Grade shall be eligible for promotion provided that only Clubs with a team that finished in the first three positions shall be eligible for promotion.
- (b)** The Interclub Committee shall have the discretion to add teams to a Championship Competition where for any reason the number of teams entered following the above Rules in this Schedule falls below the maximum number of teams permitted for that Grade.
- (c)** Promotion and Relegation need not take place in any particular Grade where there is fewer than the maximum permitted number of teams in the Grade.