



Interclub rules and regulations

1. General

- 1.1 All contests shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Lawn Tennis as adopted by Tennis New Zealand (if applicable) and the TNZ Code of Conduct.
- 1.2 These rules apply to Men's and Women's Divisional Interclub being run by Hutt Valley Tennis.
- 1.3 Definitions and abbreviations
 - a) **TNZ** – Tennis New Zealand (Inc)
 - b) **HVT** – Hutt Valley Tennis (Inc)
 - c) **Interclub Playing Committee** – a sub-committee within the Management Committee of HV Tennis (Inc) to administer interclub tennis.
 - d) **MP** – Mitchell Park.
 - e) **The Secretary** – the secretary of HVT
 - f) **Regional /Premier Grade, Committee etc** – a combination of Hutt Valley, Wellington, and Kapi-Mana tennis activities.
 - g) **Match** – one competitive singles or doubles event played between the members of opposing teams. The match usually shall be the best of 3 sets each, with tie-break game at 6 games all.
 - h) **Tie** – the total number of matches played between two teams during one tie. There are usually six matches to one tie (either as four singles and two doubles, or as six doubles.)
 - i) **Competition** – a complete season of play, in a particular division of interclub, generally broken down into a pre-Christmas and a post-Christmas competition

2. Powers

- 2.1 The Interclub Playing Committee shall have power to:
 - a) Promote, carry out and control competitions between affiliate clubs and to deal with all questions arising from those competitions, including any matters/disputes arising out of, or provided for in, these rules and regulations.
 - b) Divide the entries received into divisions and re-grade teams as necessary.
 - c) Postpone, cancel and/or reschedule any round or contest of the competition.
 - d) Cancel the entry of any club, or deal with any club as thought fit if any team fails to comply with any of these rules and regulations.
- 2.2 In the first instance, enquiries should be made to the Playing Committee Convenor.

3. Appeal

- 3.1 Any club objecting to the decision of the Interclub Committee may appeal to the Management Committee of HVT whose decision shall be final. Those appeals must be lodged within seven days of notification by the Interclub Committee.

4. Entries and entry fees

- 4.1 At a pre-season meeting clubs will confirm whether they intend to take up their entitlement from the previous season. The Playing Committee will then set up the competitions in Configure Ranking. This will list the teams in each division.
- 4.2 Club secretaries will be notified by the HVT Secretary of the interclub entry fees before the start of the interclub season.

5. Availability of club courts

- 5.1 Any club entering a team or teams in the interclub competition must make at least two courts available to HVT every 2nd week. If a club is unable to provide courts, and HVT has insufficient courts, that club will be charged for the cost of hiring courts. The surface should be suitable for the level of interclub to be played on the courts.

6. Eligibility of teams and individuals within teams

- 6.1 Eligibility of teams within grades.
- a) Team seedings within grades are based on final places in the previous season regardless of any change in team personnel for the new season.
 - b) If a vacancy occurs in a grade, this vacancy shall be filled by the next eligible team from the grade below. For the purposes of applying this rule, any team demoted from a higher grade at the end of the previous season shall be assumed to be the next eligible team.
 - c) Should the qualified team in 6.1(b) not wish to take the vacancy, a team maybe selected by the HVT Playing Committee.
 - d) A team comprising of members from different clubs will be accepted into the competition provided they nominate the club they will represent. The team will be added to the nominated clubs entitlement for the following season. The nominated club will however be responsible for the payment of interclub fees and fines apportioned to the composite team.
- 6.2 Eligibility of individuals within teams.
- a) Players must be bona fide members of that Club.
 - b) Clubs shall enter the player's names into Configure Rankings.
 - c) No player shall play for a Club in the competitions, if he or she is not a financial member of any other Club affiliated to HVT.
 - d) No player shall play for more than one club within a competition. A player can play for two or more clubs in separate competitions.
 - e) Players in Divisional tennis must have a Configure Ranking of S5 or lower (S5 to S12). The HVT Playing Committee should be approached for exemptions to this rule.
- 6.3 Within Weekend Interclub, the following are regarded as separate competitions:

- a) Men's Regional/Premier, HV Divisional
 - b) Women's Regional, HV Divisional
 - c) President's Grade.
- 6.4 **Example:** A player can play HV Division 1 on Saturday for Club A and President's Grade on Sunday for Club B (unless they don't meet Rule 6.2(c)).

7. Regrading, seeding within team

- 7.1 A player may play two ties in a higher grade in the pre-Christmas competition and in the post-Christmas competition. If a player plays three times in a higher grade they may not return to the lower grades unless he/she has been re-graded by the Playing Committee.
- 7.2 In the event that a team is one or more players short for a match, all remaining players shall play in the highest available position in both singles and doubles matches. For example, if a four-person team only has three players available for a tie, those players shall play in singles positions one, two and three and default the number four singles, and default the lower doubles.
- 7.3 In all matches, the players must play in order of merit. No player may be positioned more than one place higher or lower within the team order than their last singles position played, unless approved by the Playing Committee .
- 7.4 Teams may include up to six players including doubles only players. All names must be listed on team sheets prior to the start of the contest. The fifth and sixth players may be used in either doubles pairing at the expense of any singles player.
- 7.5 Team sheets, including the names of team members in order of seedings are to be exchanged between opposing captains before the nominated start time of each match.
- 7.6 The team sheets are to include singles and doubles seeding of players. Double pairings may be any combination of players, preferably in order of merit.

8. Transfers between two teams in the same grade

- 8.1 Should any club have two or more teams engaged in the same division and/or section, players may not be transferred between teams. The following exceptions are allowable:
 - a) With permission of the Interclub Committee, in reply to written requests from clubs lodged 48 hours before a match, which will allow time for the committee to contact the opposing club, and
 - b) Providing the players are ranked lower than the lowest ranked team member of the team transferring into.
 - c) Clubs may register such players at the beginning of each season or observe the 48 hour clause in 8.1(b).
 - d) Such transferees can play no more than twice for their non-standard team.
 - e) A lower grade team member may play in two or more teams in the higher grade, but only **twice in total** between the two or more teams before being considered a permanent member of that higher grade.

9. Composition of teams for final contests of first or second rounds must be of 'regular' team members.

- 9.1 To be eligible to play in the last tie of the pre-Christmas competition, a team member must have played in at least one previous tie of the same grade for the same club in that season (or obtained permission to play from the playing committee).
- 9.2 To be eligible to play in the last tie of the post-Christmas competition a team member must have played in at least two previous contests of the same grade for the same club in that season (or obtained permission to play from the playing committee 48 hours before the match).

10. Umpires

- 10.1 A player may request an umpire at any time. The umpire will normally be a player from the opposing team.

11. Tennis balls

- 11.1 Tecnifibre X One tennis balls must be used.
- 11.2 All grades shall provide two pairs of new balls per team.

12. Competition points

- 12.1 Each match in a tie is worth one competition point for the team that wins.
- 12.2 Two bonus points shall be awarded to the team that wins the tie. If there is a draw, both teams are awarded one bonus point each.
- 12.3 Results of the tie will be decided on the number of matches won. Should matches be equal, the majority of sets shall decide the tie. Should sets be equal, the majority of games will decide the tie. If teams are equal on matches, sets and games the tie shall be a draw. If there is a draw in a finals match there shall be one standard doubles tiebreak to determine the winner. The doubles can be of any combination.
- 12.4 For the purposes of a count-back of sets or games, defaulted matches shall be recorded as 6/0 for the team which did not default. If a player retires or is defaulted while the match is in progress, for the purposes of a count-back, the score up till that point shall be recorded and the winning player is awarded the minimum number of games and sets necessary for him or her to attain a score that would have otherwise won him or her the match.
- 12.5 The place of teams in each draw shall be determined by the number of competition points each team has obtained. Where two or more teams have equal points, the team that has won the most ties shall be placed above the other team or teams. If two or more teams have equal points and have won equal ties, the team with the most matches won, and if even, the most sets won, and if even, the most games won, shall be placed above the other teams or teams. In the event that two or more teams are even on points, ties, matches, sets and games, for the purposes of promotion, relegation or eligibility for final ties, lots shall be drawn to establish the places of the teams.
- 12.6 Competition points from the pre-Christmas draws will not be carried across to post-Christmas

13. Notification of results

- 13.1 The captain of the winning team must enter the results into Configure Ranking no later than the Wednesday after each tie.

- 13.2 Failure to observe this rule will result in loss of all points for that contest for both teams. This rule includes cancelled or unfinished ties, see Rule 15.

14. Defaults

- 14.1 If a team defaults a contest during the competition a fine will be imposed of \$50.00. The team must notify an Interclub Playing Committee member not less than 24 hours before the scheduled start time of the contest or the fine will increase to \$100.00.
- 14.2 Any team that defaults two ties in succession shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition unless an explanation can be provided to the satisfaction of the Interclub Playing Committee.
- 14.3 Where a team has notified its default of a match and on the scheduled day, all matches are cancelled by the Interclub Committee or where 50 per cent of matches in that grade are unfinished due to bad weather, the default is likewise cancelled.
- 14.4 If a club does not pay a fine for one of its teams, all rights to the promotion of any of that club's teams in Hutt Valley Divisional Tennis will be stripped for the season.

15. Starting times and completion of matches

- 15.1 All contest's starting times are as shown in the draw schedule. Any warm-up must be completed before the scheduled start time.
- 15.2 All contests must end at the scheduled time listed for the next contest on the same courts.
- 15.3 All matches have a maximum warm-up period of five minutes.
- 15.4 All contests not completed within the scheduled time span are deemed to be uncompleted and score sheets must reflect this.
- 15.5 Failure to arrive within 15 minutes of scheduled start time by a team is considered a team default. The team defaulted to must advise the Playing Committee of the default. The maximum points available to the contest will be awarded to the team defaulted against.
- 15.6 Failure of a team member to arrive within 15 minutes of the scheduled time is a member default for the starting play. The default lies with the starting match (bottom doubles).
- 15.7 A time allowance of 45 minutes per match will apply for subsequent matches.

16. Cancellations and postponements

- 16.1 The draw must be strictly adhered to at all times. Cancellations or postponements of ties are only permitted in the event of wet weather or representative matches. (See Rule 16.5).
- 16.2 Postponement of matches as a result of wet weather shall be by mutual agreement of the team captains involved, providing compliance with Rule 16.1.
- Note: Captains must make an effort to contact opposing captains if the weather looks doubtful since conditions can vary in different parts of the area. Contact numbers have been provided in the draws for this purpose.
- 16.3 A decision to postpone a contest because of weather conditions, shall not be made before 1:00pm.

- 16.4 Ties may be played at an earlier date by mutual agreement by all of the team captains involved. A tie not completed on the day it is scheduled because of rain, bad light or other justifiable reason shall be called a:
- a) **Cancelled tie** – if fewer than half of the matches have been completed when play is interrupted.
Replay of a cancelled tie will be played as a completely new contest at love all, with no special restriction on team personnel.
 - b) **Postponed tie** – if not commenced, replay as a ‘cancelled tie’.
 - c) **Unfinished tie** – if at least half of the matches have been completed when play is interrupted. Replay shall be continued from the exact score at the time of interruption. No substitutes are allowed.
- 16.5 If team captains cannot agree on a date, time and venue for a postponed or unfinished tie, or any tie remains uncompleted within two weeks of its scheduled date, the tie is null and void.
- 16.6 Team captains must notify the Interclub Playing Committee of the date, time and venue to complete postponed or unfinished ties by email by 5pm on the Monday following the scheduled date of the suspended tie.
- 16.7 When playing postponed ties, teams may change the players named in their original playing orders.
- 16.8 When playing unfinished ties, teams may only change the players named in their original playing orders if the replacement player is ranked below the original player on the club’s ranking list and the replacement player plays in the correct order of merit according to the club’s ranking list. Players in unfinished matches cannot be replaced.
- 16.9 Ties can be played at an earlier date by mutual agreement of the team captains involved.
- 16.10 Any deferred or unfinished matches can be played at Mitchell Park by checking with the complex manager and making a booking for courts that are uncommitted. There will be no right of automatic replay on the Mitchell Park courts.
- 16.11 Where a team has at least two members required for the representative matches they have been selected for, on a day an interclub match has been scheduled, only the ties involving the away players will be rescheduled. All other ties must take place on the scheduled date. The rescheduled ties must be completed within seven days of the originally scheduled date. At least 14 days’ notice of this must be given to the Interclub Playing Committee and the opposing team.

17. Dress and behaviour

- 17.1 All tennis attire must comply with the TNZ Code of Conduct. Warm-up clothing is allowed to be used during a match because of inclement weather or player injury.
- 17.2 Tennis shoes must be non-marking and flat-soled.
- 17.3 Players not conforming to the dress code will be given the opportunity to change into suitable attire.

17.4 Any player guilty of offensive or insulting behaviour, or any behaviour which distracts or inconveniences other players at the same venue, may be held in breach of standards of behaviour. Such players will be given a verbal warning at the time and a written report to the Interclub Playing Committee must be made within 48 hours. The Playing Committee shall assess the merits of the breach and invite comment from the player in question. If a breach of behaviour is affirmed the player shall be informed accordingly, the player's club notified and a written assurance sought from the player's club that such behaviour shall cease. If no such change or assurance takes place the teams' club will be requested to withdraw the player from the competition.

18. Disputes

- 18.1 Any disputes arising out of these rules shall be referred to the Interclub Playing Committee, in writing, within 72 hours of the event. The Interclub Playing Committee decision shall be deemed final.
- 18.2 In the event of interpretation concern, The Interclub Playing Committee can refer matters to the HVT Management Committee as the last and final arbiter.

These rules and regulations are a living document.

If anyone has suggestions that would enhance this document please forward them in writing to:

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APPENDIX A

Special playing conditions and formats – various grades

General

- 1.** Each division to comprise of up to eight teams. The size of the bottom division of each competition, men's and women's, will be determined by the number of overall team entries.
- 2.** The team content of each division is determined by performance in the previous season as gauged by the finishing position at the end of the previous season.
- 3.** After a first round of seven contests in a round-robin format, the divisions will be redrawn over the Christmas/New Year break wherein the top two teams in each division will move up a division. In the case of Division 1, the top two or three teams may enter the Regional Competition.
- 4.** The pre-Christmas round-robin is championship play; the post-Christmas round-robin is ranking play.
- 5.** Ranking play will determine teams positioning for the following season. These rankings will include any Regional teams returning to Division 1.