

MOUNTAIN DISTRICT LADIES TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC. BY-LAWS AND MATCH REGULATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Competition
3. Players
 - 3.1 Emergencies/Injury Substitution
 - 3.2 Emergency Pool Players
4. Matches
 - 4.1 Forfeits/Penalties/Disputes
5. Unsuitable Weather
 - 5.1 Rain Affected Matches
 - 5.2 Hot Weather
6. Finals
7. Annual General Meeting

Revised - November 2010

MOUNTAIN DISTRICT LADIES TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC. BY-LAWS AND MATCH REGULATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 These By-Laws and Match Regulations once adopted shall not be repealed, or altered, nor added to without notice of motion given 14 clear days before a general meeting of the Association called to deal with the repeal, alteration, or addition to the By-Laws and Match Regulations.
- 1.2 If any rules should cause hardship to a club, that club has the right of appeal to the Committee of the Association for relief.
- 1.3 Ignorance of the rules shall not be regarded as an excuse for any breach thereof.

2. COMPETITION

- 2.1 The Committee shall arrange a series of matches between teams competing and a draw for the order of play. Matches shall be played as set out in the Association fixture.
- 2.2 The Committee shall arrange matches so that all teams in a grade shall play all other teams in that grade an equal number of times.
- 2.3 The Committee shall retain the right to determine section composition to ensure that a satisfactory competition is maintained.
- 2.4 In any section except the top section, the teams winning the previous grand finals shall be promoted to the next section unless unable to field an appropriate team, or other circumstances make this inappropriate. In any section the team finishing lowest after home and away matches shall be relegated to the next lower section unless no section is available, the club fails to field an appropriate team, or other circumstances make this inappropriate.
- 2.5 Teams will be graded by the Committee in accordance with these by-laws. The Committee will use all information available to them when grading teams/players including results from previous seasons.
- 2.6 Correct tennis attire must be worn at all times. Tracksuits may be left on in colder weather.
- 2.7 The home team shall supply four new balls per match and an official score sheet.

3. PLAYERS

- 3.1 All associated clubs must submit team entries on the official form to the Association Secretary prior to or on the day set down by the Committee.

- 3.2 No player shall be submitted in a team with any Club unless she is a financial member of that Club.
- 3.3 No player shall play with more than one Club in the Association in the same season without a permit.
- 3.4 Any player whose name appears on a result sheet received by the Ladder Secretary will be deemed to have played in that match.
- 3.5 Once a player has played three or more matches in a particular section then that player is ineligible to play in a lower section.
- 3.6 Where a Club has two or more teams in the same section, a player who has played three matches with one team shall be ineligible to play with the other team(s).
- 3.7 Any Club playing an unregistered player or one whose eligibility does not comply with the rules of the Association shall forfeit each set in which that player takes part in.

3.8 Emergencies (including Pool Players)

- 3.8.1 At the time of submitting team entries, clubs may submit a list of emergencies (including pool players) on the official form, showing section requested. This will be taken as formal registration of players as emergencies. Once the Committee has graded the player she cannot play below that grading, without a permit from the Match & Permit Committee prior to play.
- 3.8.2 Any player not registered at the grading meeting must have a permit issued by a Match & Permit Committee member of an independent club. The Emergency Details section of the official scoresheet must be completed, for the first match ONLY in which the player participates.
- 3.8.3 It is the responsibility of the Ladder Secretary to bring to the attention of the Match & Permit Committee, any emergency player who performs at a higher standard than the section in which she played. The Match & Permit Committee has the right to regrade such players after completion of the match.
- 3.8.4 Emergencies, not including Pool Players, are subject to By-laws 3.5 and 3.6.
- 3.8.5 Emergency Pool Players are subject to By-laws 3.5 and 3.6 when playing for their registered club, however may play for any other club during the home and away season, in their section of higher. They are not bound in any way to play for their registered club.
- 3.8.6 Emergency Pool Players may play finals for their registered club only, unless permission is granted by the process documented in By-law 6.9.

3.9 Injuries

- 3.9.1 In the event of an injury, the injured player is entitled to ten (10) minutes recovery time and then play is continued. If the injured player is unable to continue play, then the opposing team shall

- be deemed to have won all remaining points in that set. A registered emergency may then play in all the remaining set/s
- 3.9.2 In the event of a player having to leave the courts due to an emergency beyond her control, she may be substituted by a registered emergency, under the same conditions as set out in 3.1.4. A player once replaced may take no further part in the match.
- 3.9.3 An emergency player must be available to commence play within 60 minutes of being required unless both captains agree otherwise. An emergency player may only be used if that player is eligible under these rules. Play shall continue on one court and sets may be played out of sequence. Teams are not compelled to play after 2.30p.m.
- 3.9.4 Emergency players may only be used in a grand final if the emergency player is present at the courts and can commence play without delay.

4. MATCHES

- 4.1 Teams shall consist of four lady players. Eight games sets are to be played in the following order:-
- 1 and 2, 3 and 4;
 - 1 and 3, 2 and 4; and
 - 2 and 3, 1 and 4.
- 4.2 Home team is required to have courts ready for play by 9:45am, weather permitting. All four members of each team must arrive at courts to commence match play by 10:00am. If match play has not commenced by 10:15am, team at fault loses one set (1 and 2), if no play by 10:30am, team at fault loses second set (3 and 4) unless mutually agreed to by both captains.
- 4.3 If play has not commenced by 10.45a.m. offending team will forfeit the match (refer to rule re play of sets out of order).
- 4.4 The team sheet shall be folded and completed by both captains prior to the commencement of each match.
- 4.5 A player shall play each set in nominated order and in accordance with the order of play on the scoresheet. Sets may be played out of order with the mutual agreement of both captains.
- 4.6 The team winning the greatest number of games in a match shall be the winner and shall receive two (2) premiership points plus one point for each set won. The team that loses on games will receive 1 point for each set won on the day.
- 4.7 In the event of games being equal the match shall be decided on sets. If games and sets are both equal, match is a draw and both teams will receive 1 premiership point each plus 1 point for each set.
- 4.8 If washed out unfinished matches will still have points awarded for sets completed, one premiership point will be awarded each and the remaining points for sets will be divided equally.
- 4.9 Results of matches must be posted on the day of the match to the Ladder Secretary and be received by 10.00A.M. on the Friday

following the match. Official scoresheets must have all information completed showing section, team names (including colour if applicable) the names of players, the particulars of each set played, emergency details (if applicable) time of start and be signed by both captains. Winning team shall be held responsible for the foregoing and by not complying must be penalised two (2) points.

4.10 Home team to provide a balanced lunch for visitors.

4.11 Forfeits/Penalties/Disputes

4.11.1 In the event of a team having only three available players they are entitled to play all sets involving these three players. Teamsheet shall be completed using positions one, two and three. Team with absent player should notify the opposition team in advance is possible. In cases of unsuitable weather, refer to Unsuitable Weather (Rule 5).

4.11.2 If any team should have to forfeit a match the following shall apply:-

(a) the forfeiting team shall be fined \$20.00 by the Association,

(b) the forfeiting team shall notify the opposition by 8:30am on the day of the match, otherwise a further fine of \$10.00 shall occur;

(c) the team that receives the forfeit shall win 48 games to 0,

(d) both teams must complete a score sheet with available players names and forward it in the usual way.

4.11.3 The maximum number of points any team may lose for a breach of rules in any one match is four premiership points.

4.11.4 Any disputes and protests shall be made in writing to the Secretary within three (3) days of the match. Any disputes shall be settled by the Match and Permit Committee. The Match and Permit Committee shall decide the time and venue for hearing the dispute and advise the concerned parties when this will take place within FIVE days of receipt of the protest. The decision of the Committee to be immediately relayed verbally to the concerned parties and confirmed in writing within three days of the decision being made.

5. UNSUITABLE WEATHER

5.1 Rain Affected Matches

5.1.1 In the case of wet weather all four (4) members of each team must arrive at the courts where match is scheduled by designated commencement time (See Rule 4.2). In the event of all four (4) members not arriving at this time the same penalties shall apply as for normal matches.

- 5.1.2 Matches may be abandoned due to unsuitable weather by mutual agreement of the captains. Each team will score two premiership points unless at the time of abandonment one team has an unbeatable lead, then that team shall be awarded full match points.
- 5.1.3 If due to unsuitable weather, a match is not commenced by 11.00a.m., it is to be deemed a washout unless captains mutually agree to wait for a further agreed period.
- 5.1.4 In the event of a match which has commenced being interrupted by rain the following shall apply:-
 - (a) if two sets are not completed by 12.00 midday, match to be abandoned,
 - (b) if four sets not completed by 12.45pm match, to be abandoned,
 - (c) if match is not completed by 2.00pm match, to be abandoned.
- 5.1.5 Matches may continue beyond these times by mutual agreement of the captains.
- 5.1.6 In the event of captains not reaching agreement the above rules shall apply.
- 5.1.7 All players must remain at the courts until the final decision has been reached and the sheet signed by both captains.

5.2 Hot Weather

- 5.2.1 The same rules as for wet weather shall apply. (Rules 5.1.1 - 5.1.7).
- 5.2.2 Play shall be abandoned when the temperature reaches 33 degrees Celsius unless captains mutually agree to continue. Teams must arrive at the courts, play must commence and team sheets be completed before Captains agree to abandon play. Each Club must provide a thermometer and the temperature must be taken in the shade.
- 5.2.3 In the event of a total fire ban being issued prior to, or on the day of a scheduled match, play to be abandoned in area affected by the ban. Each team to receive two premiership points.

6. FINALS

- 6.1 In the event of teams finishing home and away matches on equal points the premiership list shall be decided on percentages.
- 6.2 At the end of the home and away matches, the four teams leading on premiership points from an eight team section, shall enter the final round which shall comprise semi-final and final matches thus:
 - (a) first semi-final 3rd team vs 4th team,
 - (b) second semi-final - 1st team vs 2nd team,
 - (c) preliminary final -loser 2nd semi-final vs winner 1st semi-final,
 - (d) grand final - winner 2nd semi-final vs winner preliminary final.

A six team section may, at the discretion of the Match and Permit Committee, enter the final round which shall comprise semi-final and final matches thus:

- (a) first semi-final - 1st team vs 4th team,
 - (b) second semi-final - 2nd team vs 3rd team,
 - (c) grand final - winner of 1st semi-final vs winner of 2nd semi-final.
- 6.3 In a finals match, in the event that at the end of play teams are equal on games and sets, then the match shall be decided by an additional set. Each captain must appoint (2) players from this match to play an additional set to decide the outcome of the match. This will be done at the completion of the six sets and the respective players' names written on the reverse side of the folded sheet.
- 6.4 In the event of a finals match not having been completed due to inclement weather, the match shall be recommenced on the following Tuesday from the last completed game.
- 6.5 Grand finals of all sections to be played together where possible, at the discretion of the Match and Permit Committee.
- 6.6 Finals teams to provide two (2) new balls and score sheet. Winning captains to telephone results to ladder secretary and post score sheet in usual manner.
- 6.7 In addition to other recognised responsibilities, finals players are expected to:
- ensure courts are correctly treated;
 - facilities where matches are played are left in at least as good a condition as found.
- 6.8 To be eligible to play finals for their club, a player must have played three (3) matches with that club during the current season. A player may play finals matches for more than one (1) team, however By-laws 3.5 and 3.6 must be satisfied, and will continue to apply during finals. This By-law also applies to Emergencies including Pool players.
- 6.9 To play an ineligible player in finals, permission must be applied for by contacting the President, who will discuss the application with the Ladder Secretary and at least four (4) independent Match and Permit Committee members. The President will advise both the applicant and the opposition team of the outcome and will record written details of what transpired. This By-law also applies to Emergencies, including Pool players.
- 6.10 Any ineligible player submitted to Match and Permit Committee for permission to play in finals should not be of a higher standard than any other member of the team. Full playing history must be submitted.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 7.1 All Clubs must have a representative attend the Annual General Meeting. Failure to do so will result in the offending Club losing 2 premiership points per team entered in the competition for the current season only.

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