

BBTA BY-LAWS - JULY 2011

The rules governing play shall be the same as those adopted by Tennis Australia except where modified by the following Association rules.

MEETINGS

- 1.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Association a selection committee shall be appointed consisting of 5 members of the affiliated clubs (a quorum to be 3) who shall select personnel and members of teams to represent the association at country week or any other inter-association match that may be arranged.
- 1.2 All committees associated with the BBTA including the junior committee, tournament committee, social committee and winter tennis committee are to submit an annual report to the secretary, one month before the Annual Meeting for inclusion in the BBTA Annual Report. Representatives of all committees will be required to report to the executive on a regular basis which will be determined by the executive.
- 1.3 Each club will be automatically fined \$50.00 for non attendance at general meetings including annual meetings, any other special meeting called by the executive and catering for tournaments provided the clubs have been notified in writing 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 1.4 Each club shall have one vote per member club present.

TRIBUNAL

- 2.1 The Association shall at its annual meeting, appoint an honorary tribunal consisting of three persons, none of whom shall be an official of any affiliated club. The tribunal shall elect their own chairman and two shall form a quorum. The tribunal shall deal with all charges brought against clubs or players under the laws of the game and all protests and other matters referred to it by the Association. It shall have full power to deal with matters brought before it and to make decisions, impose penalties and to make and record findings as it thinks fit. It may call for additional evidence and adjourn its meeting if thought necessary. Decisions of the tribunal shall be final and binding on the Association and not subject to review without the tribunals permission. No appeal shall be allowed except where provided under the rules of Tennis Victoria. The tribunal shall meet at a time and place it deems most suitable. Upon receipt of the protests etc., the Secretary of the Association shall give notice of the meeting by letter to the club secretaries and all summoned must attend such meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the club to have its witnesses summoned present before the tribunal.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- 3.1 All protests and appeals must be lodged in writing and be accompanied by a deposit of \$50.00 which shall be liable to be forfeited to the Association if the protest is considered frivolous. Every protest in respect to home and away games must, together with the deposit, be in the hands of the secretary of the Association within three clear business days of the date of the match, and in respect of finals matches within two days of the match concerned. Appeals must be lodged within three clear business days of receipt in writing of notification of an executive decision.

- 3.2** Each club shall have the right to be represented at the hearing of a protest by a delegate or official of the club, but no member of the legal profession shall be allowed to appear before the tribunal unless on their own behalf.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1** Any club having two or more teams entered in the one section, including when a section is split into divisions due to a large number of entries, shall have the teams at equal strength. Any player playing with a club that has two or more teams entered in the one section and having played six matches with one team is eligible to play with that team only. Emergencies from lower sections can still go to any team.
- 4.2** (a) For a registered player to qualify for finals play in any given section, they must have played the majority or equal number of their recorded matches in that section or lower.
- (b) For a registered player to qualify for finals play in any given section, they must have played the majority or equal number of their recorded matches in that team or a team in a lower section.
- 4.3** Any section player who has played in four home and away matches with two played before Christmas with a club in the Association during the season is eligible to play with that club in the finals. Except where disqualified by by-law 6.5. In exceptional circumstances a written application may be made to the relevant sub committee.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 5.1** Prior to playing with any team in this Association each player shall be registered with the score secretary of the Association. Unregistered players may become registered by completing a registration form and lodging it with the score secretary within 7 days of the player's first match with the association. Failure to comply with this by-law will result in the unregistered players team losing three premiership points.
- 5.2** No player shall play in competition matches with more than one club within the association.
- 5.3** A player must obtain a clearance and be financial with that club to be eligible to transfer from one club to another within the association for competition play. Such clearance to be forwarded, on the form provided by the association, to be association score secretary prior to playing with the new club. Score secretary will notify the player's new club that the clearance has been granted. Players have the right to appeal to the committee. Players not having played competitive tennis with any BBTA team for two years are automatically cleared provided there are no outstanding fees owing to their previous club and that they are registered as per by-law 5.1

COMPETITION RULES

- 6.1** All players must be 17 years and under as at 31st December of current year.
- 6.2** **Playing formats:**

Format 1: Teams to consist of three players. All sets to 6 games with advantage service game being played throughout. At 5-all play 12 point tie break in all sets. A club may use four players to fill the three available positions in the team. If this occurs one player will play two doubles and a singles, the remaining three players will each play either two doubles or a doubles and a singles.

Format 2: All sets to 6 games with the advantage service game being played throughout. At 5-all play 12 point tie-break in all sets. A club may use six players to fill the four available positions. If additional players are used then no player will play more than two doubles and a singles set.

(No two sets will have the same partners)

Format 3: All sets to 4 games with the advantage service game being played throughout. A club may use six players to fill the four available positions. If one additional player is used then two players will play three doubles the remaining three players will each play two doubles. If two additional players are used then all players will play two doubles.

(No two sets will have the same partners)

Format 4: All sets to 4 games with the winner of the first point after deuce being the winner of the game. If three-all is reached play advantage service game. A club may use six players to fill the four available positions. If one additional player is used then two players will play three doubles the remaining three players will each play two doubles. If two additional players are used then all players will play two doubles. **(No two sets will have the same partners)**

Format 5: All sets to 4 games with the advantage service game being played throughout. A club may use eight players to fill the six available positions. If additional players are used then one player will play three doubles the remaining three players will each play two doubles.

Format 6: All sets to 4 games with the winner of the first point after deuce being the winner of the game. If three-all is reached play advantage service game. A club may use eight players to fill the six available positions. If additional players are used then one player will play three doubles the remaining three players will each play two doubles.

6.3 (a) Players are expected to be played in order of merit from the top team down. If a club borrows a player from another club for the odd match, premiership points will be awarded if that player plays in a higher section than the one he/she plays in his/her registered club. Matches played by a borrowed player will count as eligible games in accordance with by-laws 4.2, 4.3, 6.5 and 6.4.

(b) In preference to any forfeits, a club can play with two players in Format 1 or as few as three in formats 2 and 3 providing every effort has been made to fill these teams. Clubs should borrow players where possible (refer bylaw 6.3 (a) for details) and should notify the opposing team if they know that they will not have a complete team. (Details of borrowed players to be noted on the back of the result sheet)

6.4 Any player playing six or more games in higher sections cannot play in a lower section. A player having played in finals the previous season must not play in a lower section the next season.

6.5 Lowest section is for learning and confidence building only. If a player has played in this section the previous season that player may only play in the lowest section again at the discretion of the grading committee.

6.6 (a) **Matches drawn for Saturday morning**

Sections 5 to 9, matches to start at 8:00am sharp and finish at 9.30am sharp. Sections Pennant to 4 to start at 9.30am sharp and finish at 12.30pm sharp. If matches are incomplete and a decision has been reached the winning team shall be allotted the premiership points for the win.

(b) **Matches drawn for Friday night**

All Sections to start at 6.30pm

Sections 5 to 9 are to finish at 8pm sharp

Sections Pennant to 4 are to finish at 9.30pm sharp,

If matches are incomplete and a decision has been reached the winning team shall be allotted the premiership points for the win.

(c) Clubs must have players at courts at least ten minutes before starting time.

If play has not started within 15 minutes of the allotted starting time, the offending team must forfeit one set for each 15 minutes after allotted time. The only acceptable excuse being unforeseen circumstances for which due allowance will be made. The set (or sets) must be claimed by the opposing captain before the commencement of the match. If adverse weather conditions exist the Association Junior co-ordinator can cancel matches.

All cancellations will be posted on the BBTA website (www.bbta.org.au)

Friday 6.30pm matches before 5.30pm Friday night.

Saturday 8.00am matches before 7.00am Saturday morning.

Saturday 9.30am matches before 8.30am Saturday morning.

- 6.7** (a) Home and visiting teams must provide adult supervision at the courts for each team. Adult supervisors are responsible for conduct on and around courts and checking the results sheet.
- (b) Home team **MUST** supply **TWO** courts and **4 GOOD** secondhand balls per match.
- 6.8** All players must undergo correct court etiquette at all times. However if bad behavior persists after two warnings from duty parents, play shall be stopped and current game forfeited to opposition. If duty parents cannot agree, the aggrieved club should lodge a formal protest in accordance with by law 3.2

ENTERING RESULTS

- 7.1** At the conclusion of each match both teams shall send the fully completed result sheet to the score secretary by the Friday following the match. Failure to comply with this by-law may result in the loss of 2 premiership points.
- 7.2** The home club shall ensure that each result is entered on the online scoring system no later than 9:00 am Sunday of the weekend the match is played. Failure to comply with this by-law may result in the loss of 2 premiership points.
- 7.3** If the result as entered is disputed, the away club must lodge an objection with the score secretary by Wednesday 8pm following the weekend the match was played. Objections will then be considered by the Score Secretary and referred to the BBTA Executive if a decision is required.

PREMIERSHIP POINTS

All sections, two points to the team that wins the most sets and two points to the team that wins the most games. Percentage shall be calculated on the ratio of games won and lost.

If matches have commenced and play abandoned through adverse weather conditions and if a decision has been reached. The winning team shall be allotted the premiership points for the win. Players in attendance shall be eligible for recording for that day. (Note: Signed team sheets must be submitted.)

FINALS

- 9.1** All finals to be played at neutral (where possible) venues as decided by the executive committee with court allocation to be finalised by the committee.
- 9.2** Umpires - finalists may obtain their own neutral umpires if desired. Only players playing the current set and appointed umpires are permitted inside court fencing.
- 9.3** (a) Finals to be decided first on games won and lost and secondly on sets won and lost.
- (b) In the event of a draw each team shall pick two players to play another doubles set as per your sections current format.
- 9.4** At the completion of the home and away matches, all sections except the lowest shall play off in a final series.
- (a) **6 team Sections**
Teams filling the first three positions of the ladder will play in the finals. The team finishing first at the end of the home and away season will play off in the grand final. Teams finishing second and third will play the preliminary final. The winner of the preliminary final will advance to the grand final.
- (b) **8 and 10 team Sections**
Teams filling the first four positions on the ladder will play in the finals.
First versus second = 2nd semi final.
Third versus Fourth = 1st semi final. Winner of the 2nd semi final will advance to the grand final. The loser of the 2nd semi final will play the winner of the 1st semi final in the preliminary final.
The winner of the preliminary final will advance to the grand final.
- 9.5** In the event of a decision not being reached, in a scheduled finals match due to adverse weather and play is abandoned, matches are to be continued from the point of play reached at the original venue on the Sunday. In the event of a decision being unable to be reached on the Sunday, the following will apply:-
- (a) If an additional weekend is available (determined by the executive committee) all matches will be rescheduled to be played one week later and be continued from the point of play reached the previous weekend;
- (b) If no additional weekend is available and it is the semi finals being played, finals matches will be rescheduled on a knock out basis being 1 v 4 and 2 v 3 the following weekend with the two winners progressing to the grand final.
- (c) If no additional weekend is available and it is the preliminary final being played, the team that finished highest on the ladder at the end of the home and away season, will progress to the grand final.
- (d) All grand finals are to be continued at a later time as determined by the executive committee.
- (e) Finals starting times to be decided by the executive committee.

- 9.6** If a finals match is rescheduled due to adverse weather a named player may be replaced if unavailable at the new scheduled time, provided the following conditions are met:
- (a) the replacement player is qualified to play for the team in the finals;
 - (b) the replacement player has not been named in any other team for that round of finals;
 - (c) the replacement player must be substituted in the same position in the team as the player substituted for held.

GENERAL BY-LAWS

Each club shall pay an annual affiliation fee plus an entry fee for each team entered in the competition. Such fees to be set at the annual meeting and paid within thirty days of receipt of an invoice from the BBTA Treasurer. Any club which has not paid affiliation fees before the completion of the current home and away season will be ineligible to participate in finals and shall not be entitled to vote at any subsequent meetings of the council, until such affiliation fees are paid.

When a team is not complete the players present must fill the top positions first. NOTE: Players are expected to play in order of merit from their highest section down as well as within each team.

If a club fields teams in more than one section, they must fill their teams from their highest section down. If they forfeit a match of a higher section but play any lower section matches they shall forfeit all points received in those lower sections to their opposition.. In exceptional circumstances application may be made to the executive who have the power to over-ride this by-law.

- 10.4** Before the commencement of the match, the captain of each competing team shall exchange result sheets on which is plainly printed the full names of the players and order of play.
- 10.5** Any team receiving a forfeit must submit a complete team sheet in order to receive premiership points.
- 10.6** The drinking of alcohol by players is forbidden on all BBTA courts and the surrounds on competition days until the completion of that players days play. Offenders will be warned for the first offense, but lose four premiership points for the second and subsequent offenses.
- 10.7** The visiting captain shall have the order of play. In finals the team that finished highest on the ladder at the end of the home and away season shall have order of play.
- 10.8** Both teams shall provide umpires alternately, unless otherwise agreed.
- 10.9** The committee has the power to fine and/or suspend players for misconduct during all matches. Complaints must be in writing and lodged with the association secretary within seven days. Appeals will be dealt with by the tribunal.
- 10.10** Teams shall toss for service before each set. In Junior competition there will be no hit up after each player has played a set.
- 10.11** Should a player become incapacitated during the playing of a match, an emergency player shall be permitted to take their place within a half hour time limit. The game shall continue from the point of adjournment (not applicable to cramp or having prior injury or illness).
- 10.12** No point in any game may be questioned after commencement of the next point.

- 10.13** Clubs shall submit lists of teams and players (including ages for juniors) in order of merit to the association secretary by a date set at the annual meeting. These teams shall then be graded by the grading Committee. Failure to submit these teams will result in an automatic fine of \$20.00. Supplementary lists may be submitted to the grading committee. The Grading Committee shall consist of one representative from each club.
- 10.14** The grading committee shall call a meeting of all junior co-ordinators to complete the grading of junior teams within the association and select playing formats for the coming season. Upon the completion of these tasks the grading committee shall notify each club in writing of the complete allocation of teams and playing formats within the association, as decided upon. Each club will have seven days in which to appeal against any grading. The grading committee will deal with any such appeal.
- 10.15** That at the end of round five (5) the Grading Committee is empowered to review teams and if a team is over or under graded, it may re-grade that or those teams to different sections to even out the competition. Teams that are affected will be allocated half of the available points for the five matches played.
- 10.16** All clubs shall adhere to the program of matches drawn up by the association. Any club failing to complete any engagement on the date fixed without reasonable excuse shall be dealt with as the Association shall determine with an automatic fine of \$20.00. Any club withdrawing a team after the draw has been done will be liable for a \$25.00 fine per team withdrawn.
- 10.17** Amendments to the by-laws may be made at the annual general meeting and/or a special general meeting. Thirty days notice shall be given for any amendment. These amendments may be made with consent of the majority of at least two-thirds of the member clubs present at the meeting.
- 10.18** Any matters not provided for in these rules shall be determined by the committee whose decision shall be final and shall be taken and acted upon as binding to all clubs.
- 10.19** Service awards to be introduced for outstanding service to the association as determined by the executive.
- 10.20** Each year the executive of the association is to nominate one person from that committee to be responsible for answering all queries relating to the by-laws. The person so nominated by the executive is to be notified to each club, and shall have the sole responsibility of informing any club or individual of any decision made by the committee relating to the by-laws and their interpretation.
- 10.21** Correct tennis attire must be worn. Failure to comply with this by-law may as determined by the executive committee result in the loss of one premiership point for each player in incorrect tennis attire.

DRESS CODE

Correct Tennis Attire (All Junior Players)

Males - recognized, acceptable tennis shorts and shirt (colours permitted) Shirts must have collar. Shoes must be flat soled and non marking for all court surfaces.

Females - recognised, acceptable tennis dresses, skirts, shorts and tops No oversize tee-shirts. Shoes must be flat soled and non marking for all court surfaces.

A tracksuit is permitted in cold conditions.

Not permitted - tee shirts, sweat shirts, tank tops and the like. Jogging, cycling, board, bermuda, boxer and walk shorts and body shorts worn under tennis shorts. No prominent advertising or lettering, only small company logos measuring no more than 2sq inches. Ripple sole, jogging, running, cricket shoes or shoes with raised heel or studs.

- 10.22** Honorariums will be paid on an annual basis to the President (\$75), secretary (\$125), Treasurer (\$125) and Score Secretary (\$175). Honorarium amounts can only be altered at an annual meeting of the BBTA.
- 10.23** Any club failing to pay a fee or fine within forty five days of the date of imposition shall be liable to a further fine or suspension or disqualification from the BBTA competition as determined by the Executive Committee.
- 10.24** All clubs must notify the association within 30 days of their annual general meeting with names and contact details of office bearers including at least one email address to receive association correspondence. Failure to comply with this by-law will result in a \$50 fine.
- 10.25** Only players playing the current set and, if required, appointed umpires, are permitted inside court fencing.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

- 11.1** Teams must exercise the option of ceasing or suspending play if dangerous weather conditions exist (eg forked lightning). The decision should be made at the courts with both teams present. When extreme weather conditions exist play will cease if one team calls on the extreme weather heat or storm policy.
- 11.2** Clubs should be aware of the BBTA heat policy (available on the BBTA website) and exercise care on hot days.