

LILYDALE & DISTRICT NIGHT TENNIS ASSOCIATION



BY-LAWS

For the conduct of Night Tennis

Reprinted May 2025

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1. THE RULES

The rules of tennis as adopted by the Governing Body of Tennis in Victoria shall apply to all matches except as hereinafter modified.

2. BALLS & COURT HIRE

- A. The Landlord Club where the match is being played will supply four (4) new tennis balls from those brands approved by the Governing Body of Tennis in Victoria for each match to be played irrespective if only one court is available for that match. Similarly, for semi-final and grand final matches four (4) new balls per match are required to be supplied.
- B. To reimburse the Landlord Club for the cost of tennis balls and court hire, a court hire fee as per By-law 3B will be collected by each captain before the commencement of play and be paid to the Landlord Club's representative. Tea, coffee and sugar will be provided by the Landlord Club. Teams to supply their own milk.

3. FEES

- A. A team registration fee, the amount of which is periodically determined by the Association, must accompany all team registration forms.
- B. Court hire fees shall be determined by the Association and are payable by each team to the Landlord Club representative each night prior to the commencement of play.
- C. Teams not fully paid up by 7.30pm will forfeit the first set 6 games to nil. This will be declared by the Landlord Club representative.

4. NOMINATED PLAYERS

- A. Before the commencement of each season, teams are to enter on-line via the Ldnta TROLS system, a list of players and emergencies giving required details as to grading and/or standard. The Executive Committee shall have the right to refuse entry to the competition any team and/or player(s) who its opinion has acted in a manner detrimental to the Lilydale & District Night Tennis Association.
- B. No player will be permitted to play in a section lower than for which he/she is graded without obtaining a clearance from the Executive Committee.
- C. In the event of a club being represented by more than one (1) team in any one (1) section, no player having played in three (3) matches in one (1) team shall be able to play thereafter in the other team.
- D. The Executive has the power to regrade any player(s) at any stage of a season where it determines that inaccurate information as to the standard of the player(s) or if insufficient was supplied on the team registration form.

5. COMMENCEMENT TIME OF ALL MATCHES

- A. All matches shall commence at 7.15pm SHARP.
- B. All sets shall be played in the order laid down in By-law 7.
- C. If play does not commence by 7.30pm, the first set shall be forfeited by the defaulting team 6 (six) games to nil.
- D. If play does not commence by 7.45pm, the second set shall be forfeited by the defaulting team 6 (six) games to nil.
- E. All members of the team must be in attendance at the courts no later than 8.00pm on the night of the match. If any player fails to attend, the sets in which he or she should have played will be forfeited by the defaulting team 6 (six) games to nil. Teams shall not knowingly present themselves for competition with an incomplete team. Play shall only commence with one team short a player provided both captains agree and the full nightly playing fees have been paid by both teams.
- F. If both teams are in default, the match shall be cancelled and no progressive points will be awarded to either team.
- G. A five (5) minute hit up will be allowed before the first and second sets. All remaining sets must be limited to a two (2) minute hit up. It is the responsibility of the Captains to make sure these times are not exceeded.
- H. When a team finishes their match early, their court must be offered to a match that still has sets to play.

6. FINISHING TIME

The finishing time is to be decided by the Landlord Club timing devices that control the court lights or by the Captains setting alarms on clocks to go off at 11.00pm. At this time, the game in progress is to be finished.

7. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS, ORDER OF PLAY AND NIGHTS OF PLAY

- A. Ladies doubles are played on Monday nights. Mens doubles are played on Tuesday nights. Mixed doubles are played on Wednesday nights with Open Doubles played on Thursday nights.
- B. Mixed teams shall consist of two (2) ladies and two (2) men. Mens and Ladies teams shall consist of four (4) Men or four (4) Ladies respectively.
- C. Open Doubles teams shall consist of 4 persons in any combination of men and/or ladies.
- D. For Mixed, Ladies & Mens and Open doubles competitions, six sets shall be played in the following order but may be varied (by mutual agreement of both Captains) where necessary to avoid any undue delay in the commencement of play.

MIXED TEAMS

1st set: 1st & 2nd Man
2nd set: 1st & 2nd Lady
3rd set: 1st Man & 1st Lady
4th set: 2nd Man & 2nd Lady
5th set: 1st Man & 2nd Lady
6th set: 2nd Man & 1st Lady

MENS & LADIES TEAMS

1st set 1st & 2nd Man or Lady
2nd set 3rd & 4th Man or Lady
3rd set 1st & 3rd Man or Lady
4th set 2nd & 4th Man or Lady
5th set 1st & 4th Man or Lady
6th set 2nd & 3rd Man or Lady

OPEN DOUBLES

1st set: 1st & 2nd player
2nd set: 3rd & 4th player
3rd set: 1st & 3rd player
4th set: 2nd & 4th player
5th set: 1st & 4th player
6th set: 2nd & 3rd player

- E. For all **Mens, Ladies, Mixed & Open Doubles matches**, sets shall be six (6) game tie-break sets. A standard tie-breaker will be played at 6 games all (first to 7 by a margin of 2).

8. RESULTS OF MATCHES

- A. Matches shall be determined on sets first. One (1) point shall be awarded for each set won and two (2) points awarded for winning the match. The winner shall be the team winning the most sets at the conclusion of the match. In the event of sets being equal, the team winning the most number of games shall be the winner. If sets and games are equal, the match is a draw and four (4) points shall be awarded to each team.
- B. For each set not completed and for sets not played, half a point shall be awarded to each team.
- C. The winning team shall be responsible for ensuring that the results are entered online via the Ldnta TROLS system. Results must be entered prior to the **“Entry Deadline”** for each competition night as published on the Ldnta TROLS home page and Ldnta fixture. Failure to comply will result in a deduction of four (4) points from the offending team's progressive score. No exceptions will be made. In the event of a draw, the home team is responsible for ensuring that the results are entered online via TROLS prior to the published **“Entry Deadline”**.
- D. The match result sheet is to be signed by both Captains and retained by the winning captain for verification purposes should a dispute arise.
- E. In the event of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit is responsible for entering the forfeit into TROLS prior to the **“Entry Deadline”**. In the case of washouts, individual matches may be cancelled without teams attending the courts, provided such cancellation is mutually acceptable to both team Captains. **(For wash out procedure refer to notes at the end of these By-laws)**. It is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM in such cases to ensure that the washout result is entered into TROLS prior to the published **“Entry Deadline”** (refer By- law 8C). Breach of the forfeit or washout rule shall render the loss of four (4) points from the offending team's progressive score. *Note: When entering a complete washout or forfeit into TROLS select “NP” i.e. “No Player” rather than choosing individual player names. Being named in a “complete” washout or forfeited match **does not** qualify as a match played towards finals eligibility.*
- F. If a Semi-final match is interrupted by inclement weather, the match shall be played the following week at the same venue unless notified otherwise. If washed out on the second attempt, the two (2) teams finishing in first and second position on the ladder at the conclusion of the home and away matches shall play off in the Grand Final excepting cases where a semi-final has been completed, in which case the winner will be one of the participants of the Grand Final. If the Grand Final is interrupted by inclement weather and a normal playing night is available (Monday for Ladies, Tuesday for Mens, Wednesday for Mixed and Thursday for Open Sets) prior to the commencement of the next season, the Grand Final shall be played or completed on that night, otherwise the team finishing higher on the ladder at the end of the season shall be that section's premiers. Note: For Season 3, the availability of a normal playing night is not to extend beyond the allocated 3 (three)

week final series. It is the responsibility of the winning Semi Finals & Grand Final teams to enter the match result into TROLS prior to the published ***“Entry Deadline”*** (refer By-law 8D). Only completed finals matches are to be entered into TROLS. Incomplete matches should be communicated to the appropriate Record Secretary via SMS, phone call or email.

9. ABANDONED OR UNFINISHED MATCHES

- A. If play is unable to commence by 8.15pm due to inclement weather, the match shall be abandoned. Under these circumstances, court hire fees will be refunded by the Landlord Club. In the case of play having commenced then abandoned before 8.15pm a proportion of the court hire fee will be refunded to each team. The amount of refund will be determined by Council prior to the start of each season and the information included with the fixture information.
- B. In the event of a match having commenced and then abandoned because of inclement weather and unless one team at the time play ceased had such a lead as would have entitled it to the match, the match shall be declared a draw and each team shall receive one (1) point for each completed set won and all remaining points shall be shared. All games played in such matches shall be counted when computing percentage.
- C. In the event of a draw situation as described in By-law 9B, the HOME TEAM is responsible for ensuring that the results are entered into TROLS prior to the published ***“Entry Deadline”*** (refer By-law 8D). Penalty is a deduction of four (4) points from the home team's progressive score.

10. FORFEITS

- A. In the event of a team forfeiting their match, it is their responsibility to inform the opposition and the Landlord Club of same and to pay by way of a forfeit fine, the court hire fee current at the time for their team. The fee is to be sent to the appropriate Record Secretary within seven (7) days of the forfeit for on forwarding to the appropriate Landlord club.
- B. In the event of forfeit fees not being paid, all players registered in that team will be ineligible to participate further in the competition either for the current season or in future seasons.
- C. Home court representative must be notified of any forfeit by the forfeiting team.
- D. In the event of a forfeit the team receiving the forfeit is responsible for entering the forfeit into TROLS prior to the ***“Entry Deadline”***. Breach of the forfeit rule shall render the loss of four (4) points from the offending team's progressive score.

11. SUBSTITUTES

- A. In the event of a player sustaining injury during his or her set, an emergency, who must be eligible, may take the place of such injured player, play being continuous from where left off. Should no substitute be present for the purpose then the remaining games of the incomplete set shall be forfeited. Should no substitute be available for any of the remaining unplayed sets, these also shall be forfeited six (6) games to nil.
- B. A substitute approved by the Executive Committee shall be allowed to take the place of any player who is prevented through illness, injury or any other good and sufficient reason from continuing any unfinished Semi-final or Grand Final match, provided that such substitute shall be eligible and shall not take the place of any player in a set that has commenced. The opposing team shall be notified of any such substitute.

12. EMERGENCIES

- A. Graded emergencies shall not be permitted to play in a section lower than for which he/she was graded. Additional emergencies for a particular team may be registered during the season by giving required and full details of such a player on the back of the result card. TICKS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. Player standards must be detailed by placing the number of the section that the player plays in the appropriate square.
- B. In the event of a team playing a mis-graded emergency, an unregistered player or one who has played more than the allotted number of games in a higher grade or who is otherwise ineligible, that team will forfeit the set and game points for the sets in which the player played and the opposition shall be awarded all sets in which the offending player(s) participated six (6) games to nil. In the event of both teams offending, no games or points shall be awarded for the match.

13. COURTS FOR FINALS

Venues for finals matches and the teams competing will be published on the Association's web site with the Round 10 (final) ladders available on the TROLS website. If unable to access either the L&DNTA or TROLS websites, captains are to contact the appropriate Record Secretary for all finals information.

14. SEMI-FINALS AND GRAND FINALS

- A. Semi-finals are between the 1st and 4th teams and the 2nd and 3rd teams with the winners proceeding to the Grand Final.
- B. Finals shall be determined on the most sets won. In the event of sets being equal (applies only to Doubles Competitions) at the conclusion of the match, the team winning the most number of games shall be the winner. If sets and games are equal, then a 12 point tiebreak is to be played by the players competing in the last set on the card which shall decide the winner.
- C. If two (2) courts are available they must be used.
- D. Where possible and/or practicable, teams finishing higher on the ladder after the home and away season will be rewarded by hosting home finals. In instances where a home finals venue is not possible, the Executive will schedule the final at a venue of its choosing.

15. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- A. In order to be eligible to play in Semi-final and Grand Final matches, players must have played in at least three (3) home and away matches for that team during the season.
- B. If a team is unable to provide four (4) members [two (2) members for Singles/Doubles] fulfilling the requirement of By-law 15A, then the matter is to be referred to the Executive Committee (Record Secretary) for a decision.

16. DRESS

Only approved tennis attire is to be worn. Jeans and slacks are not considered correct tennis attire. Track suits may be worn. Correct tennis footwear must be worn at all times.

17. CLUBHOUSE

- A. For the privilege of the continued use of clubhouses, please ensure that they are left in a clean and tidy state with all rubbish and empty cans and bottles removed.
- B. Alcohol abuse and/or bad behaviour will not be tolerated by the Association. Any such problem will be dealt with by the Executive Committee and may result in suspension of the offending player(s) from the competition.

18. ANY OTHER MATTER

Nil

SPECIAL NOTE ON WASH OUT PROCEDURE

In the event of a wash out being decided without teams attending the courts, the following procedure will apply:

- A. Home Captain to get in contact with their Night Tennis Representative to decide whether play is possible or not.
- B. If it is decided that there is no possibility of play, then the home Captain is to contact the visiting captain informing him/her of the wash out decision.
- C. Opposing captains may agree to call a washout between themselves without consulting the Night Rep if weather conditions and weather radar make it obvious that no play will be possible that night. Home Captain should then contact their Night Rep advising of the washout decision.
- D. **It is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM in such cases to ensure that the washout result is entered into TROLS prior to the published “Entry Deadline”. Breach of this requirement will result in loss of points as per By-law 8E.**
- E. If a team does not arrive for a game without prior contact, then the matter will be treated as a forfeit.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING PLAY ON WARM NIGHTS (34 degrees & above)

- L&DNTA scheduled matches do not operate under a heat out policy. Generally, the temperature at night is much cooler than during the day and there is no direct sun to make conditions more uncomfortable for players. Also, the temperature at night generally drops during the course of a match (unlike during a day match when the temperature can get much hotter).
- The Association is mindful it cannot force players to play or put players' health at risk and for this reason if the ambient temperature at the venue is 34 degrees or above at the scheduled starting time of 7.30pm, either captain can elect to call a “heat out” and the match points will be shared. No play is to commence or continue if the ambient temperature is 36 degrees or above. The home team is responsible for entering the “heat out” result into TROLS.
- Ambient temperature reading to occur using a thermometer placed in the shade at the venue or by referencing the BOM website for the actual venue temperature.

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