



SENIOR AND PREMIER INTERCLUB

INTERCLUB RULES 2022-23 SEASON

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TENNIS CANTERBURY REGION INCORPORATED CONTACT DETAILS

Tennis Canterbury Region Incorporated Interclub Administration

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RULES OF TENNIS CANTERBURY REGION INCORPORATED FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

1. **POWERS**

The Senior Advisory Group (SAG) being the governing body for the Tennis Canterbury Senior Interclub 2022/23 season has the power:

- a) To carry out and control competitions between affiliated clubs and players and to deal with all matters arising.
- b) To deal with the eligible entries received under the promotion/relegation system and from new teams.
- c) To place new teams in positions it deems appropriate, subject to positions being available.
- d) To hear disputes.

2. **INTERCLUB ADMINISTRATION & CONTROLLERS**

- a) Interclub Tennis in Christchurch is administered by the SAG and the Administration of Tennis Canterbury (TCRI).
- b) The SAG and TCRI may appoint qualified referees from New Zealand Tennis Umpires Association (NZTUA) to officiate at Interclub matches as it deems necessary.
- c) All Interclub Tennis in Christchurch is to be played according to the Tennis New Zealand (TNZ) Code of Conduct Rules set out **on the Tennis Canterbury website** www.tenniscanterbury.org

3. **GENERAL**

- a) The SAG shall manage the process on any matters arising out of these Rules, or those that are not provided for, within these Rules.
- b) Interclub Dates of play will be determined once entries are received.
- c) The Laws of Tennis and the Code of Conduct currently sanctioned by TNZ, and the regulations of the TCRI Board as laid down in the TNZ handbook, so far as they are applicable, shall be observed, provided they do not conflict with the TCRI Interclub Rules. Should any team fail to comply with any of the TCRI Interclub Rules including breaches of the Code of Conduct, the SAG shall have power to discipline the Club.
- d) Any play or behaviour deemed to be in breach of the Code of Conduct or bringing the game and/or TCRI into disrepute shall be reported at the first opportunity to your club captain.
- e) Portable electronic devices and/or cell phones cannot be used by players during matches, nor can matches be recorded, or photographed without the consent of the opposition player or players
- f) At the end of each set there shall be a set break of a maximum of one hundred and twenty (120) seconds.
- g) Players will only be permitted to leave the court area to fill a drink bottle at the conclusion of a set or as part of an authorised toilet break.

- h) All doubles matches in TCRI Senior Interclub shall be short deuce, with the receiving pair nominating who shall receive the serve.
- i) All players shall be dressed in clean customary Tennis attire. Clubs are encouraged to dress their players in club uniforms. Uniforms may carry commercial sponsorship, but any such commercial sponsorship, size, location and appropriateness must be approved by TCRI before being used at and Senior Interclub matches. This approval can be gained from TCRI.

4. ADOPTED BALL

- a) The Wilson US Open Ball is the official ball of TCRI, and it must be used for all interclub contests.
- b) Each team shall supply 50% of the required new balls for each tie, i.e., Premier – three pair per team, all other grades two pair each. If both teams in a Premier tie agree, three new balls can be used for each match. For this to be implemented, both teams have to agree on the day of the match or in advance if possible.

5. ENTRIES

Clubs **may** become eligible to enter automatically under the following criteria:

- a) That there is automatic promotion/relegation at the conclusion of the season. In the event of there being insufficient entries in a grade, the SAG has power to accept extra teams.
- b) Occasionally, due to a need to increase or decrease the number of teams in a grade, the SAG may, at its discretion accept or decline a team.
- c) Clubs desiring to compete in the interclub competition shall notify TCRI by the designated date set by TCRI. All clubs must submit a list of playing personnel of at least **four** names per team on Match Hub
- d) Late entries may only be accepted at the discretion of the SAG
- e) Clubs failing to name the minimum number of personnel for any team may not have that team accepted by the SAG.

All entries must be submitted via Match Hub (tennis.org.nz). Emailed entries will not be accepted.

Teams not entering qualified grades 2022/23

Teams/clubs opting not to enter grades they have qualified for, shall have their places filled by the team/club that the SAG deem to be the most appropriate to play in that grade based on **both** – (a) their performance the previous season and (b) the nominated personnel for the upcoming season.

New Teams 2022/23 Season

The SAG upon application from a **new team or club** to enter the competition, may use its discretion to place the team in the appropriate grade. The aim of creating grades of eight teams made up of **players of like ability shall be the overriding focus.**

6. ELIGIBILITY

- a) For the 2022/23 season, a player with a ranking of S1 or S2 in men's and an S1 or S2 in Ladies before the season has started (15/10/2022) must only play Premier Grade Tennis.
- b) To be eligible to play for a Club, a player must be a member of that Club and not in default of monies to any affiliated club, TCRI, or TNZ.
- c) No player having represented a Club in any senior grade shall be entitled to play for another Club in a senior grade in the current season (other than in Premier grade). i.e., If a player is representing a club that does not have a premier grade team, he or she may play premier grade only for another club for a maximum of three times. Upon playing four times, he or she will be regraded, and ineligible for their club in which they played the divisional grade for.
- d) Any junior player may play in the senior divisions if their club nominates them based on their ability
- e) A junior player (as stated above) who is playing in a Senior grade team may also play Junior Interclub (Friday evening or Saturday morning). This may be for two different clubs. If so, then a

request to TCRI must be made including a letter from both clubs stating that they agree with this arrangement. Subs and court fee arrangements will be up to the clubs.

- f) Players are allowed to play up a grade three times without being regraded. On the fourth occasion of playing up, they shall be regraded to the higher grade i.e., a Division One Men's Player can play Premier for their club three times and remain as part of the Division One Team. However, on the fourth occasion of playing-up they will be regraded too Premier.
- g) In Divisional Grades, no team can use a replacement player that is ranked higher on Match Hub points than the lowest named member of the team in the last six rounds of the competition. This applies to both singles and doubles.

7. PLAYING ORDER/RANKING

- a) In all grades the singles playing order will be determined by the Match Hub points Singles Ranking on the day of the tie. If two players are on the same number of points, they can be played in the position that the team chooses
- b) In doubles matches the highest points doubles player based on Match Hub points Ranking must play in the top double's combination. Should there be two players on the same points, at least one of these players must play in the top doubles.
- c) Match Hub points rankings will be determined by the rankings available on the day of the match. Club and Team captains are advised that the latest grading is updated on the **1st and 15th** of each month by Tennis New Zealand.
- d) If a replacement player is used, this player must play in the position based on their Match Hub points ranking, on the day of the match.
 - a. For the avoidance of doubt, if a replacement player is used and they inadvertently play down a grade, but in the correct position on the day, all matches played by this player will result in lost points as well as the matches below them
- e) Playing out of order – a query (via email) must be received by the first Tuesday following the match by 5pm by the opposing club captain and points will be deducted/rewarded as necessary, as soon as possible by TCRI Operations.

8. REGRADING

- a) Any player who, in the current season, has played in four matches in any grade cannot play in a lower grade in that season (unless a regrade is applied for).
- b) Players can only have one regrade in a season.
- c) Players may be regraded one "Step" down by TCRI upon receiving approval from the SAG.
- d) Any player who is regraded, then plays in any higher grade, is committed to play in the higher grade for the remainder of that season.
- e) Regrades will not be given to players whose grade has been completed for the season to then play in lower teams unless given dispensation by the SAG.

9. COMPETITION GRADES

- a) **Men and Women Competitions**
 - i) Will be contested by teams of four or five. The fifth player **option** is a reserve doubles or singles player only.
 - ii) **Divisional** - The contest will comprise; singles (long deuce) and doubles (short deuce), two tiebreak sets and a 10-point match-tiebreak if 1 set all in both singles and doubles.
 - iii) **Premier**- The contest will comprise; singles (long deuce) and doubles (short deuce), two tiebreak sets and a 10-point match-tiebreak if 1 set all in both singles and doubles.
 - iv) For Match Tiebreaks the result of the third set on the result sheet is 1-0 or 0-1. For a count back on either sets or games, the tiebreaker counts as either one set or if necessary one game.
 - v) In all grades the results of all contests shall be decided on the number of matches won. If tied, on the number of sets won, and if still tied, then on the number of games won. If the contest is tied after games count back, then total points are shared.

10. STARTING TIMES

- a) All contests start times will be confirmed in the schedule of matches. However, if confirmed by TCRI in writing, these times may be altered.
- b) Premier, 6pm on a Friday evening or 1pm on a Saturday
- c) Division 1-3 Men & Women's 9am Sundays
- d) Men's Division 4 and below 1pm Sunday
- e) All contests, which are played at club courts may, at the discretion of the host club, use two or four courts.
 - i. All team members must be at allocated courts ready to play by the starting time irrespective of court availability.
 - ii. Should teams mutually agree, more than one surface may be used, but every effort should be made to use just 1 playing surface.
 - iii. All matches must be played at the courts as allocated by TCRI. If alternative arrangements are made and TCRI has not granted written permission, total points from the tie may be deducted from both teams
- f) Warm-ups must not exceed 5 minutes in duration.
- g) If matches are allocated four courts, then singles must be played first unless instructed by TCRI
- h) Premier matches on Friday nights at clubs must be allocated four courts by the home club

11. INTERCLUB SCOREBOOK

- a) In all grades before the commencement of any contest, all five players are to be named (if 5 are to be used or may be needed to be used). The club/team will complete this in the results section of the TCRI interclub booklet.
- b) It is the team captain's duty to enter their team's details before handing it to the opposing captain (first name and surname).

12. COMPETITION POINTS

- a) Competition points shall be awarded as follows
 - i) For each set won against an opposing player or doubles combination, 1 point. (a match tiebreak is deemed to be one set.)
 - ii) The winning team will be awarded 4 bonus points.
 - iii) A drawn contest shall share 2 bonus points each.
 - iv) When a competition comprises one complete round followed by another round, or section play, points are cumulative. Points are carried through from preceding rounds to the next unless otherwise specified by the Competitions Advisory Group.
 - v) There are no points for a bye
 - vi) In the event of a rained-out match, points will be shared equally. Please refer to Section 15.
 - vii) In the event of a Pandemic, or Natural Disaster, whereby the season cannot be completed, the leading team based on points will be deemed the winner. For this to apply over 50% of the competition must be completed. If less than 50% of the season has been completed the competition will be abandoned and no winner will be declared.
- b) For promotion/relegation purposes, should teams finish the season on equal points, then it would be assessed on,
 - i) head-to-head matches,
 - ii) if tied; on the number of sets won during those head-to-head matches,
 - iii) if tied, total games in those head-to-head matches.
 - iv) If teams cannot be separated by this means, then a random draw will be conducted to determine final ranking.
- c) Country teams are to be entered and represented by members from one Sub Association only. i.e., a Malvern team must only have representatives play that are financial members of a Malvern club

13. FINALS (Premier Tennis)

- a) For Premier grades the season semi-finals will be played the weekend following the round robin or section play as scheduled.
- b) If there are six teams or less in a competition the top qualifier will advance directly to the final. The second and third placed teams will playoff for a place in the final versus the top qualifier

- c) Should teams finish the season on equal points, then it will be assessed on head-to-head matches,
 - i) if tied; on the number of sets won during those head-to-head matches,
 - ii) if tied, total games in those head-to-head matches.
 - iii) If teams cannot be separated by this means, then a random draw will be conducted to determine final ranking.
 - iv) If semi-finals are unable to be played due to weather, then the top 2 teams as at the conclusion of the round-robin will play each other in the final.
 - v) In the event an ineligible player is used in a playoff, that team is then disqualified from the tie. No matches will count, and the other team will be awarded the victory overall.
 - vi) If the leader on points is not a finalist, the highest points of the teams who qualify for the final **prior to the semi-finals** shall be declared the winner.
- d) No player shall be permitted to play in the semi-finals, finals, playoffs, or promotion relegation matches of any section or grade unless he or she has played the required number of matches in the team concerned. These are as follows.
 - i. *When there are **six or less teams** in a grade, players must have played **four times** and where there are seven or more teams must have played **five times** in order to be eligible for semi-finals, finals, or promotion relegation matches. Permission from the SAG for a replacement player may be requested no later than 72 hours before the match is due to be played (or within a shorter period in exceptional circumstances e.g., bereavement. This also applies to all promotion/ relegation matches.*

14. Eligibility for Semis/Finals: Replacement Player (Premier Tennis)

Teams should make every effort to use qualified players in Semis/Finals as set down by TCRI. Where such a player is not available the following criteria will be applied:

- Player being replaced must have been a qualified player as set down by TCRI.
- Replacement player must be a financial member of the Club
- Replacement player must be of the same or lower singles ranking of the **lowest named player**.
- TCRI must be notified of replacement player no less than 72 hrs. prior to the match being played.
- Cannot have played 4 or more matches in a higher grade
- Cannot have been nominated in a higher grade
- Teams cannot field 5 players if a replacement player is used for semi-finals or finals.

The player to be used must be declared and approved by TCRI prior to the match being played. If a non-qualified sub is used in a playoff, the team is disqualified from the tie completely with the win being awarded to the opposition.

15. RAINED OUT MATCHES AND CANCELLATIONS

If matches are played at Club Courts, both Team captains must be present at the courts and agree to a decision. A decision on cancellation must not be made less than 30mins after official start time unless a notification of Cancellation has been made by TCRI. In the instance that both teams cannot mutually agree in the case of a rain out/cancellation, the home team will have the final call on whether their playing surface is deemed adequate for play. No match is permitted to start more than 30 minutes after the scheduled start time. Teams must still take a record of players who are present and/or listed as well as sign the opposition score sheet.

- In the event of a rained-out match, the opposing teams must still swap team lists and one of the team captains must enter the team list in Match Hub by 5pm on the Tuesday following the scheduled match. In doing this, players who are present will have that match recorded towards finals eligibility.
- If 4 or more of the matches in each tie scheduled for that time are completed, then the contest is deemed complete and points for games not played will be shared i.e., 1 point each per singles or doubles match.
- If 0-3 matches in each tie scheduled for that time are completed the points for the completed matches stand, and the remaining points, including the win bonus for the match will be shared equally i.e., 1 point each per set

16. **SHORT-HANDED TEAMS AND INCAPACITATION**

- a) If a stipulated contest has not begun within ten minutes, the player responsible for the delay will forfeit the affected match only. This rule is mandatory.
- b) Should the late player arrive within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time of the affected match, this player is eligible to play the remaining matches. E.G., if a player arrives 29 minutes after the start time, they must forfeit the first match, but are eligible to play their second
- c) Should the late player not arrive at all or arrive after 30 minutes of the scheduled start time of the short-handed match, this player is deemed ineligible to play, and the bottom singles, doubles, and mixed doubles (if applicable) will be defaulted unless the fifth player is available and must come in at their Match Hub ranking band.
- d) Notification to the captain of the opposing team should be made, if it is known before starting time that the team will be short.
- e) The full-handed team has the right, immediately after the singles or doubles games have been played (whichever is played first), to alter its combinations from the order for following matches originally nominated in accordance with Rule 11, should the absence of the late player affect the positioning of the short-handed doubles combinations.
- f) The captain of the full-handed team is not permitted under any circumstances to void the default(s) and play the match/matches if the late player arrives after the permitted times.
- g) When a team is more than one player short, the team will be defaulted.
- h) Where a player is incapacitated through injury, illness or any other cause during a match only a named 5th player who is present is able to be substituted into matches yet to be declared in the handbook for the incapacitated player.

17. **INTERCLUB APPEAL**

- a) Appeals regarding a **technical issue, to do with the rules of the competition being breached, or an issue not addressed in the rules of the competition** will be directed **through the club captain or club official** who will then, in writing on behalf of the club concerned (email), advise TCRI of the issue that needs review.
- b) The written notice of a complaint in respect of the conduct of a player or team or a breach of the rules on the playing day should be delivered to TCRI by **5:00pm on the first Tuesday the week after the playing day** on which the decision was made, or the conduct occurred, and set out full grounds of the complaint.
- c) TCRI, on receiving a complaint or report under other rules of the competition:
 - i. Shall endeavour to deal with it within three days.
 - ii. A written decision will be communicated to the club/s concerned.
- d) In the event that a simple and concise ruling cannot be made by TCRI Operations Manager or Competitions Co-ordinator in the first instance, within the provisions and application of the Rules, or in the absence of a specifically applying rule relating to the matter under consideration the TCRI representative will refer the matter to the next authority (SAG)
- e) In the event that the SAG is unable to determine a ruling the matter shall be referred to the Competitions Ruling Panel, comprising of three persons as the next authority:
 - i. A representative of Sport Canterbury in the first instance, or another individual from a suitably appropriate external organisation (seconded by TCRI CEO).
 - ii. A Club official, that is completely neutral to the matter in terms of there being no conflict of interest due to club affiliation. That Club official to be independently seconded by the TCRI CEO. For Senior Interclub matters, a Club Captain; for Junior Interclub matters, a Junior Administrator.
 - iii. A TCRI Board Member (seconded by consensus of the Board, with no affiliation with the clubs involved in the matter being considered).

(The Panel shall appoint their chairperson at the time of convening.)

- f) If the decision of this Competitions Rulings Panel is not agreed to by the involved parties and is appealed, it shall be referred to the Centre Board and the processes as outlined in the TCR Constitution shall come in to effect (refer Rule 17.1 – 17.6).

18. PENALTIES –

TEAM Responsibility

- It is the winning team/club's responsibility to input the result into the Match Hub Ranking results system. Should a result be not able to be filled in completely details should be placed in the notes part of the Match Hub system so TCRI can complete the result.
- RESULTS MUST BE ENTERED INTO THE SYSTEM NOT LATER THAN THE TUESDAY 5PM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONTEST – Failure to do so by the winning team will result in NO WIN/BONUS POINTS being awarded to the winning team.

Penalty Points

- a) In any part of these rules where the term '**penalty point**' is used, the following shall apply:
- i. **Penalty points** will be deducted from the offending team and awarded to the opposing team, provided that the offending team has points to be deducted. No team shall lose negative points.

Example

Team A wins 8 sets

Team B wins 4 sets

Therefore, on the day team A wins and is awarded bonus points.

Should team A commit two offences – the result then becomes Team B: 8 sets to Team A: 4 sets. Bonus points are now allocated to Team B.

Should team B commit 3 offences, as Team B has won only 4 sets, it loses 42 points. (The other penalty points are not awarded, as the offending team would have a negative result.)

The result in this example would be Team A: 12 sets, Team B: 0 matches, and Team A gets the bonus points.

In the event of penalty points being allocated which cause a draw to a contest, in a count-back, penalty point matches shall be deemed to be lost 0-6, 0-6. Or the scoring system being used for that particular match within a grade

- ii. Should penalty points be allocated, bonus points (Refer Rule 12) are awarded after the allocation of penalty points to a maximum of 16 points.
- iii. An appeal must be lodged as per Rule 18 by the opposing club captain.

Penalty Points Offences

- Participation in match of player ineligible due to clauses contained in 6 (**Eligibility and Junior Eligibility**)– Points gained by such player or players shall be deducted and awarded to the opposition which may affect the allocation of bonus points
- Playing out of order as per 7 (a) (b) (c) or playing when not eligible 7 (d)
- Playing of a player from a higher grade not officially regraded at the time of the match.

Penalty point offences (awarding of games to the opposition) will be recorded in the following ways

6-0, 6-0 in the advent of the match being a set match

Or 11-0 in the event of the match being best of 21

19. DEFAULTS & WITHDRAWALS

- a) In the event of a team having to default its engagement with another team, it must advise TCRI, and the Club Captain of the Club being defaulted to, by midday on the Friday before the contest is to take place. This is then a notified default and will incur penalties as follows.
- i. Deduction of 4 competition points.
- b) Failure to observe this procedure when defaulting becomes an un-notified default and will incur penalties comprising:
- Deduction of 8 competition points
- c) Where a team withdraws after the commencement of the draw the team may only be reinstated the following season at the discretion of the SAG.
- d) Any team that defaults twice or more in any one season may be withdrawn from that grade If this occurs the team will automatically be bottom of the grade and may only be reinstated the following season at the discretion of the SAG.

2022/23 Club Captains

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