

**EASTERN DISTRICTS TENNIS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED****SENIOR BY-LAWS****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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## 1. GENERAL

### (a) Rules of Tennis

All matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Tennis as adopted by TENNIS SA INC., and according to current TENNIS AUSTRALIA instructions on Etiquette and Code of Behaviour. Team Captains are expected to apply these rules and to exercise control over their own players in all respects relating to match play, discipline, sportsmanship, etc.

### (b) Admission of Clubs

- (i) Any Club that is admitted to the Association as per Section 11 of the Constitution is liable to pay an affiliation fee, which is set annually by the Management Committee.
- (ii) Any Club which is affiliated with the Association;
  - (a) Should ensure that their objects are not inconsistent with or prejudicial to the objects of the Association,
  - (b) Is not allowed to participate in any other Association competitions in direct competition with our events unless prior approval has been provided by the Management Committee.

## 2. DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS

The President and Vice President as per the Constitution 6(3)(b).

The Vice President will be required to assist other Office Bearers at the direction of the President and Management Committee.

### (a) The Secretary's responsibilities

- (i) Administering the affairs of the Association in accordance with the directions of the Management Committee
- (ii) Preparing an agenda for all Management Committee meetings, Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings and circulate minutes of such meetings to member clubs within seven (7) days of the meeting.
- (iii) Distributing any other relevant information to member clubs in order to ensure effective communication between the Management Committee and member clubs.
- (iv) Preparing the program for the Saturday afternoon Senior Competition tennis.

### (b) The Treasurer's responsibilities

- (i) Preparing and administering a budget for the Association.
- (ii) Being accountable for the financial books and records of the Association.
- (iii) Managing the finances of the Association including:
  - (a) the accounting of subscription and registration fees and other charges, and the receipt of all other monies owed to the Association; and
  - (b) the discharging of debts of the Association.
- (iv) Preparing and presenting financial reports and relevant financial statements to Management Committee meetings, Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings (if applicable).

**(c) The Senior Competition Officer's responsibilities**

- (i) Managing senior competition tennis and other such competition tennis as the Management Committee determines.
- (ii) Managing any Senior Inter Association matches.
- (iii) Being Chairperson of the Senior Grading Committee and the Permit Committee.
- (iv) Ensuring match results are recorded and collated in an appropriate manner and premierships tables and other agreed match and player information is disseminated to clubs in a timely fashion.
- (v) Advising on any relevant financial matter.

**(d) The Junior Coordinator's responsibilities**

- (i) Managing junior competition tennis and other such competition tennis as the Management Committee determines.
- (ii) Managing any Junior Inter Association matches.
- (iii) Being Chairperson of the Junior Grading Committee.
- (iv) Preparing the program for the Junior Competition tennis.
- (v) Ensuring match results are recorded and collated in an appropriate manner and premierships tables and other agreed match and player information is disseminated to clubs in a timely fashion.
- (vi) Advising on any relevant financial matter.

**(e) The Facilities Officer's responsibilities**

- (i) Managing all facilities controlled by the Association. Arrange hire of the courts at Samuel Street, Tranmere in accordance with the terms of the Lease Agreement with the City of Campbelltown.
- (ii) Organising Night Tennis teams at Samuel Street, Tranmere.
- (iii) Being responsible to the Management Committee for inspecting member club courts and advising on any defects. The Management Committee, in writing, may order any member club to remedy any defects or make such repairs, alterations or additions deemed reasonably necessary.
- (iv) Advising on any relevant financial matter.

**(f) The Public Relations Officer's responsibilities**

- (i) Assisting the President with negotiating any sponsorship for the Association including advertising in the Senior Program.
- (ii) Maintaining and updating the Association website.
- (iii) All activities regarding promotion of the Association.
- (iv) Assisting Clubs with the promotion of tennis.
- (v) Advising on any financial matter.

**3. GRADING OF TEAMS**

The EDTA endorses the concept of promotion - demotion in the grading of teams. Any appeals regarding grading must be submitted to the Secretary in writing.

**(a) Promotion**

- (i) A team from a club must finish in the top four positions in the preceding season to be eligible for promotion to the next higher grade. Preference will be based on position in the premiership table after the major round.
- (ii) Clubs requiring teams in Division One need to submit names, and the strength of players will be considered in addition to where the team finished in the previous year.
- (iii) A club with a team in the next higher grade will be ineligible for promotion unless satisfying 3(d).
- (iv) Promotion will be facilitated by:
  - (a) nomination by the club
  - (b) recommendation by the Grading Committee
- (v) No more than two teams will be promoted into a grade in the one season.

**(b) Demotion**

- (i) With the exception of Division One, no more than two teams will be demoted from the one grade in the one season. Demotion to the next lower grade will be considered based on performance.
- (ii) When a team is demoted and a team from that club already exists in that grade, that existing team may be relegated to the next lower grade unless complying with 3(d).

**(c) New clubs and new teams**

New Clubs or existing Clubs entering additional teams will be required to nominate team(s) to the Grading Committee who will grade accordingly.

**(d) Exceptions**

The Grading Committee, in an effort to fill grades to the required 10 teams and to minimise the number of byes, may need to;

- (i) not enforce demotion
- (ii) promote from outside the top four teams in the grade
- (iii) promote or demote a club with a team already in the grade. This option will only be taken after consultation with the club.

**(e) Decisions**

All Grading Committee recommendations and grading appeals will be submitted to the Management Committee for consideration and approval. The Management Committee's decision is final.

**4. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS AND ORDER OF PLAY****(a) Classification of Teams**

Teams shall be classified as Composite, Men's Only or Mixed Doubles. Composite teams comprise 4 to 6 men and 4 to 6 women. Men's Only teams comprise 4 to 6 men. Mixed Doubles teams comprise 2 or 3 men and 2 or 3 women.

**(b) Matches for Composite divisions**

Composite divisions play two (2) men's doubles, four (4) men's singles, two (2) women's doubles and four (4) women's singles matches. According to the number of players in the team, each player may play a singles match and/or a doubles match. The programmed matches are;

- (i) the first and second men's and women's doubles of one team shall play respectively the first and second men's and women's doubles of the opposing team.
- (ii) the first, second, third and fourth men's and women's singles of one team shall play respectively the first, second, third and fourth men's and women's singles of the opposing team.

**(c) Matches for Men's Only divisions**

Men's Only divisions play two (2) doubles and four (4) singles matches. According to the number of players in the team, each player may play a singles and/or doubles match. The programmed matches are;

- (i) the first and second Men's doubles of one team shall play respectively the first and second Men's doubles of the opposing team.
- (ii) the first, second, third and fourth Men's singles of one team shall play respectively the first, second, third and fourth Men's singles of the opposing team.

**(d) Substitution of injured players**

If a team has more than four (4) players and a player is injured in doubles he or she can be replaced (in singles) by a player who played doubles but was not originally listed in singles. The order of merit rule must be followed.

**(e) Matches for Mixed Doubles divisions**

Mixed Doubles divisions play one (1) men's doubles, one (1) women's doubles and four (4) mixed doubles matches. The programmed matches are, in order of play;

- (i) Men's 1M+2M vs 1M+2M and Women's 1W+2W vs 1W+2W,
- (ii) 1st Mixed 1M+1W vs 1M+1W and 2nd Mixed 2M+2W vs 2M+2W,
- (iii) Reversed Mixed 1M+2W vs 1M+2W and Reversed Mixed 2M+1W vs 2M+1W.
  - (a) Where there are three (3) men or women in a team, each may play one (1), two (2) or three (3) matches provided that the same pairing does not occur twice.
  - (b) Combinations shall play in order of merit according to men's and women's doubles strength.

**(f) Format of sets**

All singles and mixed doubles matches shall be one 9 game set with a tie break at 8 all. All men's doubles matches and women's doubles matches shall be two (2), 6 games sets with a tiebreak at 5 games all. Tie-breakers are played as first to 7 points with an advantage of 2 points.

**(g) Equality of teams in a division**

Where Clubs nominate two (2) or more teams in any one division it is expected that each team within the division will be nominated so that as closely as possible each team is of equal standard. A player may not interchange after 3 matches in that division. Any interchange of individual players between 2 teams will be reviewed by the permit committee.

**(h) New players**

New players in a team who were not in the initial squad list as approved by the Grading Committee must be approved by the Association. If the Association is not notified before match day, the club will have until 5:00 PM Monday to notify the Association or penalties will be imposed. Newly nominated players, who substantially alter the general standard of the team as originally graded, may not be accepted by the Committee. Penalty if player is not accepted: Loss of sets played by that player if the player is to play again in that team after being notified they are not eligible to play in that grade.

**5. CONDUCT OF MATCHES****(a) Court requirements for matches**

The home team shall provide sufficient courts for matches as follows;

- (i) Four (4) courts for composite teams playing split times (12.45 pm or 3.15 pm commencement)
- (ii) Two (2) courts for composite teams playing extended time (12.45 pm commencement)
- (iii) Two (2) courts for Men's Only or Mixed Doubles teams playing split times (12.45 pm or 3.15 pm commencement)
- (iv) One (1) court for Men's Only or Mixed Doubles teams playing extended time (12.45 pm commencement)

**(b) Match results - scoring**

Match results are to be scored on a points system - four points to be awarded for a win, two points each for a draw, plus one point for each set won. The team scoring the greater number of sets in a completed match shall be the winner. If sets are equal, the match shall be decided on games; if sets and games are equal, the match shall be a draw.

**(c) Team rankings**

Team rankings in the minor round shall be determined by match ratio which is the total number of points accrued for the season divided by the number of matches played.

If two or more teams are equal on Match Ratio then their position on the premiership table shall be determined by the descending order of team matches won and in the further event of a tie then their positions will be decided by the descending order of games won.

In the event of tied rankings, the relative position of two (2) teams shall be determined by the results of their matches against each other. In the event of a further tie the PERMIT COMMITTEE has the power to take any necessary action to separate the teams involved.

**(d) The season**

The season shall be divided into both a minor and major round for all divisions. The four teams in each division having the highest Match Ratio shall play off in the major round.

**(e) Match results are to be recorded using Match Centre.**

- (i) Each captain shall, prior to the commencement of the match, furnish to the captain of the opposing team their scoresheet with a list of players showing the order in which his or her team will play, both doubles and singles. The list may be entered directly in Match Centre or on a print out of the scorecard.



- (ii) The list shall show the given and surnames of the players written in order of merit, both doubles and singles, and the team shall play in that order. No alteration to the list of players shall then be made, except that an emergency player may be included after the list has been handed over, with the consent of the opposing captain, provided that such player is listed in order of merit.

PENALTY: forfeiture of all sets not played in accordance with 5(e)(i) above.

- (iii) A vacancy in any team must, as a general principle be replaced from the next lower team if the Club had such a team, or by a financial Club member of a standard approximating that of the person they are replacing subject to the rules governing Order of Merit. Where a Club has two teams in any division, a replacement from the next lower team or of suitable standard may play in either team as the need arises.

**(f) Breaks between sets**

For divisions playing both singles and doubles, there shall be no more than five minutes between the previous set and the first game of the next set, unless a player, after completing a doubles match, requests a longer break before commencing a singles match with a maximum of 10 minutes allowed.

If continuity of play cannot be observed by a team because of non-availability of a player or players of the opposing side, a forfeit may be claimed for the scheduled set or sets, unless prior arrangement has been reached between the two captains.

Doubles are to be played first except by arrangement between captains. Forfeits cannot be claimed if a singles match can be played.

Hit up time for doubles shall be prior to the scheduled starting time. All other matches shall be permitted a maximum of a 3-minute hit up.

**(g) Start and finish times**

- (i) Split-time 12.45 pm commencement – Unless there has been some prior arrangement between the two captains and/or Club Secretaries, it is recommended that all players are to be at the venue by 12.30 pm to enable captains to furnish scoresheets (the delivery of the lists shall be simultaneous) players to have their hit up with match play to commence at 12.45 pm sharp. Any team not prepared to start 2 (Men Only & Mixed) or 4 (Composite) programmed sets shall be liable to forfeit those programmed sets that cannot be played. If further it is not prepared to start the next programmed sets by 1.00 pm, it shall be liable to forfeit those programmed sets that cannot be played. If further again it is not prepared to continue the match by 1.30 pm, (at this time all players must be present) the team shall be liable to forfeit the remaining sets. No sets are to commence after 3.15 pm, but all sets in progress at this time are to be played to completion. However, if rain interruptions occur matches must finish at 4.30 pm.
- (ii) Split-time 3.15 pm commencement – Unless there has been some prior arrangement between the two captains match play commences at 3.15 pm. Any team not prepared to start 2 (Men Only & Mixed) or 4 (Composite) programmed sets upon the availability of courts shall be liable to forfeit those programmed sets that cannot be played. If further it is not prepared to start the next programmed sets by 3.45 pm, it shall be liable to forfeit those programmed sets that cannot be played. If further again it is not prepared to continue the match by 4.00 pm, (at this time all players must be present) the team shall be liable to forfeit the remaining sets. No sets are to commence after 6.00 pm unless 5(g)(iv) applies, but all sets in progress at this time are to be played to completion.

- (iii) Overlap time is from 3.15 pm. In this time late matches should commence as courts become free. Players must be ready to commence their Late matches at 3.15 pm.
- (iv) After 3.15 pm, for every 15 minutes, or part thereof of time, that a court is used for an early match, or is extended due to a rain delay, 15 minutes of time shall be added to the finishing time of 6 pm for late matches for the court affected.
- (v) Extended Time 12.45 pm commencement – Unless there has been some prior arrangement between the two captains and/or Club Secretaries it is recommended that, all players are to be at the venue by 12.30 pm to enable captains to furnish scoresheets (the delivery of the lists shall be simultaneous) players to have their hit up with match play to commence at 12.45 pm sharp. Any team not prepared to start 1 (Men Only & Mixed) or 2 (Composite) programmed sets shall be liable to forfeit those programmed sets that cannot be played. If further it is not prepared to start the next programmed sets by 1.00 pm, it shall be liable to forfeit those programmed sets that cannot be played. If further again it is not prepared to continue the match by 1.30 pm, (at this time all players must be present) the team shall be liable to forfeit the remaining sets. No sets are to commence after 6.00 pm, but all sets in progress at this time are to be played to completion. However, if rain interruptions occur matches must finish at 7.15 pm.
- (vi) In order to complete matches lights may be used during minor round matches.
- (vii) Forfeits may not be claimed where more than the minimum requirement of courts are available and additional sets could commence.
- (viii) Twilight matches commence at 5 pm unless there has been some prior arrangement between the two captains and/or Club Secretaries. Any team not prepared to start 2 (Men Only & Mixed) or 4 (Composite) programmed sets shall be liable to forfeit those programmed sets that cannot be played. If further it is not prepared to start the next programmed sets by 5.30 pm, it shall be liable to forfeit those programmed sets that cannot be played. If further again it is not prepared to continue the match by 5.45 pm, the team shall be liable to forfeit the remaining sets. No sets are to commence after 7.45 pm unless 5(g)(iv) applies, but all sets in progress at this time are to be played to completion.
- (ix) Clubs that make arrangements outside of the published program without the prior approval of the Association will forfeit all sets.

**(h) Balls**

In all composite divisions the home team shall provide a minimum of twelve new balls and in Men Only and Mixed Divisions, a minimum of six new balls. The balls shall be of a brand directed by the Management Committee from the range of balls approved by Tennis Australia.

**(i) Premier / State League players**

Ex Premier / State League players are only able to play in Division 1. Requests by Clubs for exemption may be made in writing to the Association Secretary by 6 pm on the Monday preceding the match.

**(j) Match forfeits**

- (i) Where a match is forfeited, the team receiving the forfeit shall be awarded the appropriate number of points for a win plus one point for each set normally played in that division. Games shall be awarded on the basis that each set is won to love.
- (ii) In the event of a whole team forfeiting (greater than 2 men and / or 2 women forfeiting in composite or 2 men forfeiting in MO will be considered a whole team), the players in the team receiving the forfeit shall be considered as having played the match provided that their names are recorded in Match Centre for the match. The Permit Committee will recommend to the Management Committee the appropriate penalties for the forfeiting team after taking 5 (n) (i) into account and any special circumstances. Note that, for example, weddings will not be considered a special circumstance.

**(k) Forfeits due to injury**

If a player is injured during the course of a match and is unable to continue, then the sets forfeited by that player are those that would have been played as listed on the scoresheet.

**(l) Forfeited sets**

If a team from any Club finds it necessary to forfeit any sets, the forfeits shall be the set(s) they would normally have played in both doubles and singles as shown on the list of players on the scoresheet.

**(m) Explanation of forfeits**

- (i) Any Club which finds it necessary to forfeit any sets due to non-attendance of player(s) must provide a written explanation for that/those forfeits to the Association Secretary by 6 pm on the Monday following the match. Submissions can be sent by email or written on a separate sheet of paper to be provided to the Association Secretary. Failure to make these submissions will invoke a penalty of loss of 2 premiership points per player missing on each occasion, to the team where the forfeit takes place. Additionally, a fine can be recommended by the PERMIT COMMITTEE for endorsement by the Management Committee.

If the reason for the forfeit(s) is acceptable to the PERMIT COMMITTEE, who will meet regularly to review all cases, no penalty will occur. Absence due to accident or vehicle breakdown on the way to the match concerned, last minute sickness or injury, or other circumstances acceptable to the PERMIT COMMITTEE should not incur penalty. However, unreasonable or frivolous submissions, where so determined, may expect loss of premiership points.

Clubs may be asked by the PERMIT COMMITTEE if any circumstance is thought questionable or requires further clarification, to submit in writing, on club letterhead where possible, and signed by the Club Secretary or Club Captain, the reason for any forfeit. Such submissions, if not received by the Association Secretary, within 7 days of the request, will incur the stated penalty (first para).

- (ii) Any Club which is unable to field a complete team (all 4 men and/or women) will incur the aforementioned penalty. In this circumstance submissions to avoid penalty must be in writing or via email, on club letterhead where possible, signed by the Club Secretary or Club Captain, and delivered to the Association Secretary by 6.00 pm. on the Monday following the match concerned. Failure to do so will automatically invoke the penalty. Frivolous submissions, where so determined, may expect additional loss of premiership points which could include penalising other divisions within the club.

**(n) Black-listed players**

Any club which knowingly plays a blacklisted player in a team shall forfeit the match for that team. Refer 5(j). The ASSOCIATION SECRETARY should be notified of any blacklisted player who has played a match.

**(o) Completed matches**

A completed match is one in which every set of the match has been played to a finish. A match has been decided if either team has won more than half of the total number of sets to be played in the match or if a team has won exactly half but has a sufficient number of games in hand that it could not be beaten if the match were completed.

**(p) Recorded scores are binding**

The individual set scores indicated on both teams' scoresheets, when played in accordance with paragraphs 4(b)(c)(e) & (f), are entered into Match Centre by one Club and confirmed by the other, shall be final and binding, except where the PERMIT COMMITTEE or MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE amends such scores for disciplinary reasons. (See also 8(a) re. match result disputes).

**(q) SMS of results**

The captain or delegate of the home team on the day of the match is required to advise the Recording Service by SMS of the completed score of the match.

Twilight matches are exempt.

If a match result or a progress score is not received by the Recording Service by 6.45 pm on the day of the match, the home team will have one (1) premiership point deducted at the discretion of the Permit Committee. In close late matches, draws and unfinished matches, the home captain/delegate should forward the progress score.

**(r) Entering results in League Manager / Match Centre**

Both home and away teams of each round shall be responsible for entering results in League Manager / Match Centre by no later than 11:59 pm on the Monday following the match. The first team logged in enters results and the second team logged in confirms results. Either team may only dispute the match result before 11:59 pm on Monday following the match.

A player recorded as an unspecified player will not be able to be use this record for the purpose of qualification for finals unless the match is disputed to allow the known player's name to be included by the EDTA administrator by 7 pm on the Tuesday night following the match.

Penalty: loss of 2 points to both teams for not entering results by 11:59 pm on Monday following the match will apply

**(s) Playing for more than one EDTA club**

No player who has played for a Club within the Association during the season, shall play for another associated Club in the same season, without having received a clearance from the Club for which he/she has played and a clearance from the ASSOCIATION SECRETARY, who shall have satisfied him/her-self that the original club is prepared to release the player and there is no other impediment.

**(t) Playing in other competitions**

- (i) No player who has played in any other Saturday afternoon competition for another tennis association (excluding Summer Pennant) during the season, shall play in this Association without having received a clearance from the Club for which he/she has played and a clearance from the ASSOCIATION SECRETARY, who shall have satisfied him/her-self that the original club is prepared to release the player and there is no other impediment.
- (ii) Rule 5(t)(i) is not applicable to Clubs whose primary affiliation is not within the EDTA, but a player cannot play senior tennis for both Associations on the same weekend.

**(u) State League/ Metro League / Metro Lawn afternoon competition**

Association players are permitted to play in the Summer State League / Metro League / Metro Lawn afternoon competition for a maximum of 5 matches. Clubs must provide a copy of their nomination form to the Association. Should they play 6 or more matches, a written application, on each occasion outlining exceptional circumstances, requesting permission to play in the Association competition in that season, is required to be submitted and approved by the PERMIT COMMITTEE.

**(v) Ineligibility to play in more than one competition**

- (i) A player shall not play in more than one team in the same round of matches.
- (ii) Summer State League / Metro League / Metro Lawn players cannot play an association match and a State League / Metro League / Metro Lawn afternoon match on the same round or weekend.
- (iii) Summer State League players who are listed as numbers 1 to 4 on their team application form are not eligible to play in this Association. Should a Club believe that a player has exceptional circumstances, they may request permission to play in the Association competition in that season, which is required to be submitted and approved by the PERMIT COMMITTEE.

**(w) Malcolm Winneke Trophy**

On a weekly basis, team captains are required to lodge by 11:59 pm on the Monday following the match via the EDTA website their vote for the Malcolm Winneke Trophy for the opposition players(s) (male and female [Composite], male [Men Only] or male OR female [Mixed Divisions]) who display the best sportsmanship, court manners, attitude and dress. If a team does not record a vote, they will have one (1) premiership point deducted at the discretion of the Permit Committee and they will not receive any votes from their opposition.

**6. CANCELLED & ABANDONED MATCHES****(a) Cancellation due to inclement weather**

- (i) If at 11:30 am, the maximum temperature for Adelaide is forecast to be 37 °C or above on the Adelaide Forecast (to be obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)) all play will be cancelled. A link to this forecast will be made available on the Association website ([www.edta.com.au](http://www.edta.com.au))

If players are unable to access the internet, then the 12 noon news broadcast on MIX 102.3 FM or Five AA (1395 AM) will also provide the forecast.

- (ii) If by a majority vote of 3 officers of the Management Committee (Senior Competition Officer and 2 other officers) it is decided to cancel matches due to wet weather, or other exceptional circumstances, the decision will be provided to a nominated representative from each club on the day of play.

**(b) Match abandonment**

Every match is to be played to completion unless abandoned with the consent of the captains of both competing teams or at the expiration of the matches allotted time. Where no play has commenced up to 1 hour after the scheduled starting time the match can be abandoned. Scoresheets must be recorded in Match Centre in all circumstances.

**(c) Unfinished matches**

If a match stands unfinished and there exists disagreement between captains regarding bad light or wet court conditions, the match shall be treated as an undecided match.

**(d) Undecided matches**

In the case of undecided matches, premiership points will be allocated for sets completed. Four points will be allocated for a win if the match has been decided.

**7. MAJOR ROUND MATCHES****(a) Conduct of matches**

- (i) Matches in the major round will be conducted in the following manner: the first team shall play the second team (2nd semi-final) and the third team shall play the fourth team (1st semi-final).

The winner of the first semi-final shall play the loser of the second semi-final in the preliminary final and the winner of the preliminary final shall play the winner of the second semi-final in the grand final for the premiership.

- (ii) Doubles are to be played first except by arrangement with the Association. Forfeits can be claimed should a doubles match not be able to be played. All matches are to be played in reverse order: i.e. second doubles first, fourth single/fourth mixed double first unless both captains agree on another order with the exception that doubles must be played first.
- (iii) Subject to Permit Committee approval, the semi-final and preliminary final matches are to be played on the courts of the higher placed team at the end of the minor round and if not possible then on neutral courts. Should the minor Premiers win their semi-final match they are further entitled to a home match for the Grand Final. If the Minor Premiers lose the Semi Final, they forfeit that right and the grand final match will be played on neutral courts.
- (iv) Where the first week of finals is cancelled due to weather conditions then the second week will be played by 1 vs 4 and 2 vs 3 and the winners play the following week in the grand final. Should this occur, matches will be programmed to be played at the venue of the highest ranked team.
- (v) If a club has two teams in the same division playing in the Grand Final, they shall be entitled to play at their home courts. Finals matches must be played at the venue that they have been programmed unless prior approval has been received by the Senior Competition Officer who will consult with the Officers of the Association. Grand final matches are to be played at the Club's main venue and if this is not possible the Association will determine the venue. Should a match be moved without the permission of the Association both teams will be disqualified from the finals.

**(b) Eligibility to play**

No player shall be eligible to play in a major round match with a Club in this Association unless such a player has played 6 matches of a minor round of 18 matches in the current season with that Club. In a minor round scheduled for less than 18 matches, or where there have been cancellations due to heat or rain, the number of matches for qualification will be determined by the management committee.

In addition:

- (i) Any player must have played 40% of matches for a given division (or a lower standard division) in the current season to be eligible to play in a major round match of that division;
- (ii) No player having played in a major round match of one division shall be allowed to play in a major round match in a lower division in the same season.
- (iii) A team which has played 5/6 players in a semi-final or preliminary final and loses can only replace one of its players in the preliminary or grand final with a player who has previously played in that team during the year and has played 40% of matches in that division. If they cannot do this, they must use the 4/5 remaining team members to play the match. They cannot use a player who has played finals in their next lowest Division who has been eliminated from that Division. A request to the Permit Committee may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- (iv) If the team has only 3 qualified players available they can play a qualified player, who has not previously played in the team, from a lower Division per the order of merit list as submitted with the nominations for the semi-final match (Refer 7(d)).

Requests by Clubs for exemption of any part of 7(b) may be made in writing to the Association Secretary by 6.00 pm. on the Monday preceding the match. The Permit Committee will adjudicate on any such request and their decision will be final. Should any team not comply with that decision, the match shall be awarded to the opposing side.

Should a Club not be able to fill a complete side as they do not have enough players qualified for that team they will be required to forfeit those sets.

**(c) Guidance for the permit committee**

The PERMIT COMMITTEE MAY be guided by the following reasons:

- order of merit of club players (see 7(d))
- genuine extenuating circumstances

This is a particular problem with most clubs and the intent is to allow all eligible players the opportunity to compete in finals matches, rather than qualify but not then be able to participate because of circumstances not the fault of the player. That is, clubs should be free to field their best available and eligible players in major round matches.

If a Club is still unable to field a full team, they may make a request to the Permit Committee to use a player in their lowest team who has not qualified but is of a similar standard and who has played some matches (as a guide preferably greater than 3) during the season.

In all such cases, a written request for the approval must be put to the PERMIT COMMITTEE through the Association Secretary.

**(d) Order-of-merit lists**

- (i) The Secretary or another official of each Club which has teams competing in a major round, shall in the first week, submit to the Association Secretary by 12 noon on the Sunday preceding the first major round match an order of merit list for the Club. This order shall be by player and not by team, giving consideration to clubs which have both composite and men's only divisions. The Permit Committee will review all lists for veracity. Any order which is perceived to be deliberately misleading by the Management Committee may result in the removal of 2 points for each occurrence and therefore change the finals points positions of teams in a Division.
- (ii) A list of players, using this order of merit (including fill-ins and reserves), should also be submitted for each team in a final. This team, if accepted, will be the relative playing order for that team for all finals. The order of merit will not change during finals, regardless of results.

Clubs should nominate sufficient reserves for approval so that when changes occur notification to the Association is not required as the PERMIT COMMITTEE will be using the Order of Merit which was submitted to approve players and reserves.

- (iii) Doubles can be played in any combination but cannot be changed in the following finals (including swapping the first doubles to the second doubles and vice versa) unless a new player has been introduced to the team. If a new man is introduced to the team, the men's doubles may be changed. If a new woman is introduced to the team, the women's doubles may be changed.

For Mixed Divisions the Men's/Women's doubles must be listed in order as per the submitted Order of Merit. Please also note the Men's/ Women's doubles cannot be changed after the first final in any following match unless a new man or woman is introduced to the team.

- (iv) If, in the previous week of the finals, a team played with five players and in the subsequent final one of the doubles players does not play then the singles player may come into the doubles and the combinations may be changed.

A player introduced to a team in a Grand Final cannot be considered as new if that person is the same person who played in doubles in the semi-final. The previous semi-final combinations must then be the same for the Grand Final.

- (v) Should the Club wish to change the approved players in that team for subsequent major rounds a new team list should be submitted to the ASSOCIATION SECRETARY by 6 pm on the Monday preceding the match.
- (vi) Any team fielding players not approved by the PERMIT COMMITTEE will be disqualified. The Association Secretary will provide a photocopy of the approved order of play for finals to each club for its teams. Clubs are required to check the sheets for accuracy and have 48 hours to contact the ASSOCIATION SECRETARY if they believe an error has been made.

**(e) Disqualification due to altered team placing**

Any subsequent alteration to team placing, unless fully justified by injury or sickness and with the consent of the opposing captain, automatically disqualifies the offending team and the match shall be awarded to the opposing side.

**(f) Referees**

- (i) A Referee appointed to a major round match shall have the power to decide any matter raised during play and to rule on continuity of play in the event of both team captains being unable to agree. An appeal against the Referee's decision shall not be upheld unless it can be shown that the decision is a breach of the rules and By-Laws of the Association or the rules of tennis. Instructions will be issued to Referees.
- (ii) Every club is obliged to make available one person each week of the finals series to be a referee. The PERMIT COMMITTEE will select from those nominated.

**(g) Incomplete matches**

If a major round match is incomplete or a draw, this match shall be continued under lights or at a time mutually convenient to both captains on the Sunday following the match. If a decision is then prevented from being reached, i.e. due to inclement weather or any other reason, the match must be decided before the next Saturday by arrangement between the two captains. If no agreement can be reached between the two captains as to a suitable time to complete the undecided match, then the Association Secretary must be notified by the Sunday night immediately after the match. The PERMIT COMMITTEE will then direct when the match is to be decided.



**(h) Drawn matches**

When a match is drawn in a final, the match will be decided by replaying all men's (men only) and men's and women's doubles (composite and mixed). Doubles will be one six game set with a tiebreak at 5 all. Should the match still be tied, the first men's (men only) and the first men's and women's doubles (composite and mixed) will be replayed. Should the match still be tied the second men's (men only) and the second men's and women's doubles (composite and mixed) will be replayed. The first and second doubles will continue to be played in this sequence until a result is obtained. Matches can be played under lights and if necessary transferred to a venue with lights.

**(i) Start time for matches**

Unless there has been some prior arrangement between the two captains and/or Club Secretaries to commence individual matches earlier, it is recommended that for major round matches, all players are to be at the venue by 12.30 pm to enable captains to furnish scoresheets (the delivery of the lists shall be simultaneous) players to have their hit up with match play to commence at 12.45 pm sharp in the extended time format with the matches being played to completion at the location notified by the PERMIT COMMITTEE and with all players present. Depending on the number of courts available as many sets as possible are to be commenced immediately starting with doubles and followed by singles except by arrangement between captains

**(j) Forfeits**

Any team not prepared to start 1 (Men Only & Mixed) or 2 (Composite) programmed sets shall be liable to forfeit those programmed sets that cannot be played. If further it is not prepared to start the next programmed sets by 1.00 pm, it shall be liable to forfeit those programmed sets that cannot be played. If further again it is not prepared to continue the match by 1.30 pm, (at this time all players must be present) the team shall be liable to forfeit the remaining sets.

In order to complete matches, lights may be used.

**(k) Playing to completion**

All finals matches should be played to completion or teams should agree who forfeits the remainder of the incomplete sets. Please note that should scores be altered by the Permit and/or Management Committee the winning team may not have enough winning sets depending on how many sets were not played to completion.

**(l) Balls for finals**

Each participating team shall supply half the number of new balls as prescribed in By-law 5(h).

**(m) Interpretation of by-laws**

The provision of By-law 4 applies for major round matches where necessary. Should any conflict occur between provisions of By-law 4 and 5, provision of By-law 5 will prevail.

**(n) Entering and confirming results**

Each team shall be responsible for entering or confirming results in Match Centre by no later than 6.00 pm. on the Monday following the match, or other stipulated time necessary and advised by the ASSOCIATION SECRETARY.

**(o) Postponement of matches**

If any major-round matches are cancelled due to heat or rain, the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE will advise when these matches will be played. This may include twilight matches during the week and would be with the same approved players as approved for the cancelled match. See also 7(g).

## 8. DISPUTES

### (a) **Reports, disputes and complaints**

All reports, disputes or complaints must be made in writing. Such correspondence must go to the ASSOCIATION SECRETARY by 11:59 pm on the Monday following the match and shall be endorsed and submitted by an official of the Club involved. The Permit Committee will adjudicate on the dispute. Any Disciplinary decision shall be applied immediately but is subject to review at the next scheduled MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meeting.

### (b) **Communication of disputes**

The ASSOCIATION SECRETARY shall forward to the Secretary of the other Club involved details of the dispute, seeking a written response to the allegation made. Such response shall be endorsed by the Secretary of the Club.

### (c) **Disputes or appeals from a referee's decision**

In the case of major round matches, all disputes or appeals from a referee's decision shall be in the hands of the ASSOCIATION SECRETARY by 11:59 pm. on the day following the match of the dispute and shall be dealt with by the PERMIT COMMITTEE. Their decision shall be applied immediately, subject to review at the next scheduled MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meeting.

## 9. GENERAL

### (a) **Foot-faulting**

In the case of a complaint against a player who is foot-faulting it is recommended that the matter be discussed between the two opposing captains and, if necessary, that one of the captains be asked to police it.

### (b) **Net straps**

Net straps are compulsory for match play. The MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE may set penalties ranging from warnings, forfeiture of premiership points, or Club fines.

### (c) **Availability of club courts**

All Club courts used for minor round matches must be available for major round matches and Association closed tournaments.

### (d) **Inspection of courts**

The FACILITIES OFFICER is required to report on the suitability or otherwise of courts nominated by Clubs for match play. Where court or courts are deemed to be not of suitable standard, the Club concerned shall be responsible for the allocation of suitable alternative courts and the advice of changed venue to the ASSOCIATION SECRETARY and Clubs affected. The MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE may appoint a sub-committee to assist the FACILITIES OFFICER.

### (e) **Code of Behaviour**

The rules relating to the Code of Behaviour, as published by Tennis Australia and the EDTA, apply and team Captains are expected to exercise control over their own players in all respects relating to match play, discipline, sportsmanship, etc. The PERMIT COMMITTEE in the first instance shall adjudicate on breaches of the Code of Behaviour, subject to review by the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE at the next scheduled meeting, if any disciplinary action is imposed.

**(f) Attire**

All players are required to adhere to acceptable standards of attire. Note that suitable attire does not include singlets, T-shirts with motifs or advertising material, football shorts or socks. The MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE shall set penalties for breaches of acceptable tennis attire. Penalties may range from warnings, forfeiture of premiership points, or Club fines.

**(g) Penalties for breaches**

Breaches of any by-law not already indicating a range of penalties, are subject to adjudication by the PERMIT COMMITTEE with final approval by the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, with penalties appropriate to the matter to be set under the authority of the CONSTITUTION.

**(h) Affiliation and Registration Invoices**

- (i) On the last day of November all clubs must have paid their Affiliation and Registration Invoices to the Association and Tennis SA.
- (ii) All players must be registered (if not already so) with Tennis SA after playing three (3) matches.  
Players must be registered with Tennis SA to compete in finals.
- (iii) Any Club which has not completed their Affiliation and Registration obligations (to cover the number of teams entered) by the last day of November may, at the discretion of the Management Committee, lose all points (Seniors and Juniors) until they have been totally completed.

**(i) Member Protection Policy**

The Association endorses the Tennis SA Member Protection Policy which is available on the EDTA website ([www.edta.com.au](http://www.edta.com.au)).

**ADMINISTRATIVE BY-LAWS****10. ACCOUNT APPROVAL AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES****(a) Approval of Orders**

- (i) No member of the committee shall order goods or services or otherwise commit the Association for a sum exceeding \$100 without the prior approval of the Management Committee at a Management Committee meeting.
- (ii) Such approval may be implied if it is contained in, and within the limits of a sub-committee budget which has been approved by the committee. If any item in a sub-committee budget exceeds the budgeted amount by more than \$100 it must have the committee's prior approval as in 10(a)(i) above.
- (iii) In special circumstances, where it is impracticable to wait for the next committee meeting, verbal approval by at least two other committee members must be obtained (preferably the President, Secretary or Treasurer).

**(b) Invoices**

Invoices presented for payment must be signed to indicate that the goods or services have been received.

**(c) Accounts**

Accounts presented for re-imburement of expenses should be presented on a reasonably sized sheet of paper containing the name of the payee and the nature of the expense. It must be accompanied by a receipt or a statement that a receipt was not obtainable.

**(d) Financial Reports**

At each meeting, the Treasurer shall distribute to each member a written financial report containing:

- (i) a Profit and Loss Account for the differing entities of the Association;
- (ii) a Balance Sheet showing balances of bank and investment accounts, debtors and creditors;
- (iii) outline purchases for approval for items greater than \$100 [see 10(a)(i) above] containing supplier name, reason for expense, and quoted or approximate price.

**(e) Public Liability Insurance**

It is mandatory for all clubs to have Public Liability Insurance to the value of \$10 million to compete in this Association. The Clubs must provide the Association with a copy of the current policy upon receipt from their insurance company.

**11. AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS**

The MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE may repeal or amend the By-Laws as necessary, for the management and well-being of the Association, provided such action is in accordance with the CONSTITUTION of the Eastern Districts Tennis Association.

In general, by-laws should be introduced in a step-wise fashion over several meetings; a discussion on the proposal, exact wording, adoption. Once introduced, by-laws should remain in force for 12 months before being considered for a change.