

BENDIGO TENNIS ASSOCIATION



COMPETITION BY-LAWS

1/10/2021

GENERAL BYLAWS

REGISTRATION

1.1 Membership

Players in Bendigo Tennis Association (BTA) Pennant competitions must be a member of a BTA affiliated club prior to the season commencing.

Players in BTA social competitions are not required to be a member of the Bendigo Regional Tennis Centre (BRTC).

1.2 Affiliated Clubs

Bendigo Tennis Association Affiliated clubs as of 1 October 2021 consist of:

- Castlemaine Tennis Club
- Bendigo Tennis Club
- Ironbark Tennis Club
- Maiden Gully Tennis Club
- South Bendigo Tennis Club
- Spring Gully Tennis Club
- Strathdale Park Tennis Club
- Strathfieldsaye Tennis Club
- Woodvale Tennis Club

1.3 Player Registration

All Pennant competitions require affiliated clubs to return teams no later than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled commencement of the pennant season

All social competitions require teams to complete a registration form no later than (7) days prior to the scheduled commencement of the competition.

1.4 Player Fees

All fees are payable prior to taking court each week unless otherwise stipulated within specific competition by-laws.

The BTA reserves the right to alter payment policy

1.5 Compliance

Failure to comply with law 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 will result in the offending team losing the sets of the offending player or players.

The offending team will receive no games and the non-offending team receive full sets and games.

GENERAL RULES

2.1 Governing Body

All matches played shall be governed by the By-Laws of the Bendigo Tennis Association.

Where an abnormality may appear, the BTA committee of management or relevant sub-committee will provide clarification.

2.2 Rule Clarification

BTA ran competitions may differ in formats. The relevant formats will be published on season registration forms.

Any clarification of a rule must be directed to the relevant sub-committee.

2.3 Score Cards

All names must be completed on the scorecard before the commencement of play.

No alterations are to be made after the card is filled in, unless in the event of an injury.

Sets can be played out of order, but only if both teams agree.

If there can be no agreement reached, then matches must be played in order.

All scorecards must be completed, checked, and signed prior to handing in. No changes will be accepted after lodgement.

2.4 Start of Play

All matches will begin at the scheduled start time.

Players must warm-up prior to the scheduled starting time.

Where commencement of play is delayed by 15 minutes on any of the match allocated courts the offending team must forfeit the set.

2.5 Finish of Play

All matches must be completed within the allocated time.

If the match cannot be completed within allocated time, the result is upon the agreement of both teams by one of the following procedures:

- The result stands as at all completed games
- The match is moved to an available court (subject to availability)
- Both teams agree to continue until match is concluded on the same court (subject to availability)

Upon conclusion of the match, completed score cards and balls are to be returned to the Tournament Office to allow other matches to access the courts if required.

2.6 Match results

All match results will be in the following format where applicable unless stipulated in specific competition By-Laws.

A team is declared having won a match by number of sets won.

If teams have equal sets, a winner is declared by number of games won.

If teams cannot be split by the above, the match will be declared a draw.

2.7 Premiership Points

All matches premiership points will be based on the following format where applicable unless stipulated in specific competition By-Laws.

- One (1) point for each set win
- Two (2) points for a match win
- One (1) point allocated to each team in the event of a match draw

If 2 teams are on the same premiership points, percentage will be used to decide team placings.

Percentage will be calculated by using games for and against.

2.8 Fill-ins

It is the responsibility of teams/clubs to find their own fill-ins.

It is not the responsibility of the BTA employees to help teams find fill-ins.

A fill in must abide by the following criteria:

- Be a registered member of an affiliated BTA Club (Bylaw 1.2)
- A player cannot play in a lower grade once they have played five (5) games in a higher competition.
- An unregistered player approved by the pennant committee chairman.

The fill in must pay the associated competition fee specified within specific competition By-Law.

A fill in must only play for the same team a maximum of three (3) times.

2.9 Injury during play

If an injury occurs during play, the injured player must cease play and forfeit the remaining games of that set.

A substitute player who is registered in that team can take such players place in remaining un-started sets only provided they are available to play within 30 minutes of the injury occurring.

If no registered player is available, the team must forfeit the injured player's sets.

If the set has commenced and needs to be forfeited, the non-affected team receives full set and games, and the affected team receives their games won only.

2.10 Incomplete Sets

If a player needs to leave early and cannot fulfil their commitment of playing out any of their sets, the team must forfeit the players remaining sets.

If the set has commenced and needs to be forfeited, the non-offending team receives the full set and games, and the offending team receives their games won only.

2.11 General Play

General play rules will be governed by Tennis Australia Guidelines for matches played without a chair umpire. This can be found online at www.bendigotennis.com.au or a copy can be asked for at the Bendigo Regional Tennis Centre.

Players are expected to umpire their own matches

2.12 Scheduled Season

The BTA reserves the right to schedule all competitions, alter or cancel competitions at any given time.

2.13 Breach

A breach of any rules within the association by laws will be adjudicated by the relevant sub-committee.

Where a breach has occurred, the offending team will receive zero (0) games for applicable sets and the non-offending team will be awarded all games.

2.14 Disputes

All disputes must first be communicated to the relevant sub-committee in writing

The competition sub-committee will assess the breach and apply By-Laws accordingly.

Where an outcome is not reached or needs to be appealed, a final decision will be reached by the Bendigo Tennis Association Committee of Management at the appropriately arranged meeting.

TEAMS GRADE AND GRADING

3.1 Team Grading

The BTA reserves the right for the competition's sub-committees to re-grade any team in any competition prior to or up to three (3) weeks into the competition.

In the event of a team being re-graded, all existing premiership points will be transferred.

3.2 Combining of Grades

In the event there is less than four (4) teams entered in a grade of a competition, the grade will be combined with a similar standard competition.

3.3 Splitting of Grades

In the event of a grade having more than eight (8) teams, the BTA reserves the right for the relevant sub-committee to split the competition into separate grades at their discretion.

FINALS

4.1 Finals Format

All finals will be completed in the following format, unless otherwise stipulated in specific competition by-laws:

Week 1 (Semi-Finals)

Match 1 - 1st position V 4th position

Match 2 - 2nd position V 3rd position

Week 2: (Grand Final)

Match 3 – Winner of Match one (1) V Winner of Match two (2)

In the event any finals match being cancelled (EG: COVID19) the higher ranked team will be declared the winner.

4.1 Finals eligibility

In order to be eligible to play in all competition finals By-Laws 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 must be fulfilled.

Players must also have played three (3) games for the team and be a fully financial member to qualify to play finals.

In the event a player is injured during play and cannot continue, teams must seek approval for a substitute to compete in any un-started sets from an independent member of the relevant sub-committee.

The substitute player must adhere to By-Laws 1.1 and 1.2 2 and be available to compete within 30 minutes of the injury.

4.2 Weather interference

In the event of weather interference, players will refer to the BTA Extreme Weather Policy.

This is available for download at bendigotennis.com.au or a copy is available at the Bendigo Regional Tennis Centre.

In the event extreme weather causes play not to commence or conclude as scheduled in a final, the higher ranked team for each match will be declared the winner.

In the event of extreme weather causing play not to commence as scheduled in all finals, the ladder will stand as the determining team placings.

In the event a finals match cannot be completed, the team higher on the ladder will be deemed winner subject to the result of the match being inclusive at the time.

4.3 Drawn Matches

In the event a winner cannot be determined by By-Law 2.6 in any final or Grand Final a championship tiebreak between teams will be used to declare the winner.

The championship tiebreak will consist of the first set on the scorecard and follow the same format of players.

4.4 Determining players for finals

Each team is responsible for selecting their finals team

FORFEIT

5.1 Forfeit Policy

In the event of a team needing to forfeit, the following disciplinary procedure will apply:

- First (1) Forfeit: An official warning from the relevant sub-committee.
- Second (2) Forfeit: A forfeit fee may apply to the club payable to the BTA.
- Third (3) Forfeit: Team will be removed from the competition.

5.2 Forfeit due to injury

In the event of a team's player being injured prior to match, the forfeit policy still applies.

The team and player should make every effort to organise a fill in to ensure both teams still get a match.

WEATHER

6.1 Extreme Weather Policy

All Competitions will follow the policy and procedures of the Bendigo Tennis Association Extreme weather policy.

This is available for download at bendigotennis.com.au or a copy is available at the Bendigo Regional Tennis Centre.

SPECIFIC COMPETITION BYLAWS

7.1 Overreaching By-laws

All competitions conducted by or on behalf of the BTA will be governed by the BTA By-laws.