

TORRENS VALLEY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS

Revised September 2022.

1. All affiliations and block registrations shall be paid by November 21st of each season. Any club not complying with this rule shall, after notification by the Association secretary, forfeit match points until fees are paid.
2. All Clubs have until the completion of the fourth (4th) match to finalise their order of merit. Players may be promoted as required but may only move below 1 player they played above the previous match.

Failure to comply with this rule may result in forfeited sets. The executive committee shall impose such a penalty as they deem necessary.

- a) The Executive Committee shall have the power to alter any clubs order of merit as they deem necessary.
 - b) Higher grade teams must always be filled before lower grades. Where there is a two grade difference due consideration to be given. Players should not be expected to fill in for a higher grade way beyond their standard. This to apply particularly to junior grades. Exceptions may be made upon request to the executive.
 - c) After the fourth round all grades to be assessed by the executive. Promotion and relegation of teams will be determined at this point as necessary. Half of the points to be carried into the new grade.
 - d) The order of merit as played in the last minor round match and submitted to the recorder **prior** to the last match shall be noted and must be adhered to for **ALL** finals.
3. Team composition
 - a) Junior teams are to consist of four (4) players. Teams can be of the same gender or mixed. A maximum of six (6) different players can be used on any game day as long as plyers coming into the team play in correct order of merit.
 - b) Senior teams are to consist of six (6) players. A minimum of 2 players of either gender must be in the team, that is at least two (2) men or two (2) ladies. A maximum of eight (8) players may be used on any given game day as long as they play in order of merit and that each round of matches has at least two (2) members of either gender.
 - c) Junior males may play as a female during the minor round only if a team cannot field two females on a given matchday. Junior A boys cannot play as a female in the senior C grade. An individual junior can play a maximum of four matches in tis

role After that a different junior will need to be used. Juniors playing in this role will need to be marked with an asterix * on the scoresheet.

4. Permit requests

- a) Clubs at AGM can submit in writing any permit requests. All submissions will be considered by the club delegates present. All permits granted at this meeting will be valid until the Christmas break only.
- b) If a permit is granted to play only one (1) player of either gender during this period it is the expectation of TVTA that two (2) players of that gender are to play in finals. If this does not occur, then the affected sets are to be forfeited.
- c) In the event of a permit being required during the season which has not been granted at the AGM for a particular match due to reasons beyond a team's control such as health, injury, or other circumstances the captain shall put in a request to the recorder who then shall notify all club delegates by either email or text and the majority vote will decide the outcome.
- d) Any permits relating to finals are to be submitted at the TVTA finals meeting in writing to be considered.

5. No player shall be eligible to play in finals matches unless he/she has played 25 percent of matches in that grade or lower, or unless approval is given at the finals meeting. The qualification percentage will be applied to the team that the player is to play finals in. Byes and hot weather do not count as matches for the percentage calculation. Any late permit requests to be given in writing via email and will be distributed to the clubs for voting. A result will only be accepted upon a clear majority of half the clubs plus one in favour of the request, with the President to have a casting vote. Each club is entitled to two votes. The 25% figure is to be rounded to the nearest whole number, for example 3.49% will count as 3 matches played and 3.5% will count as 4 matches played. Any queries to be directed to the recorder for clarification.

- a) Any player filling in a higher grade final may return automatically to his/her position in subsequent finals. Providing strict order of merit is adhered to, no permit will be required.
- b) Matches played in junior grades qualify for senior grade finals. (same club only)
- c) Matches called off due to wet weather count for qualification of players for finals.
- d) Matches called off due to hot weather do not count for qualification of players for finals.
- e) Where a Club has two teams in the same grade, once a fill in has played a final for one team they are to be bound to that team for the remainder of the finals series

6. In the event of a team forfeiting, the team receiving the forfeit must submit a team list to the Recorder. That team will then be registered as having played and shall receive the full amount of sets, and 2 points.
 - a) Any Team that has to forfeit a match must let the opposing team know by 7.00am (juniors) and 10.00am (seniors) the day of the match.

7.
 - a) No Player shall be permitted to play Saturday competition for more than one club within the Association during any one season unless given a written clearance by the club concerned. Junior players may play junior competition for one club and senior competition for a different club within the one season No permit required.
 - b) Any player transferring from another Association or Torrens Valley club mid-season must have the majority vote of the Executive Committee.
 - c) A copy of all clearance/transfers must be forwarded to the secretary, and approved by majority vote of the Executive Committee prior to that person playing for the new club

8. The Executive Committee shall have the final decision over grading, with accurate lists submitted at the AGM.
 - a) If there are insufficient teams to fill a grade (or grades) that shield will go into recess for that season. (If A1 and A2 combine, no A2 shield will be contested).
 - b) Where a Club has entered two teams in one grade, they shall be of equal strength. The Club shall, following a "settling in" period of four (4) matches played, submit team lists to the Recorder. These players cannot interchange between teams for the remainder of the season. Reserves are eligible to play for either team.
 - c) When two grades are combined into one competition if a club has nominated a team in both grades then they are to be treated as such making rule 6 b) exempt

9. Captains shall, prior to the match, hand to each other at the same time, a list of their respective players showing the singles and doubles played in the order of merit.
 - a) The number one player must play in the first double, others may move only two positions up or down the singles order.
 - b) If either team departs from such order, the defaulting team shall be deemed to have forfeited the set concerned.
 - c) In an emergency, after the exchange of cards, a "fill in" must be listed as near as possible to his/her correct order of merit and a note of explanation added for the Recorder.

10. All winning teams to email the scoresheets and write ups by 10 am the day following the match to the recorder, unless altered at the AGM. Failure to comply with this will incur a penalty of a warning for the first offence and forfeit of points thereafter to the offending team unless under exceptional circumstances.

11. The system of scoring

Matches shall be awarded on a points system – two points to be scored for a win, one point each for a draw.

The team scoring the greater number of sets in a match shall be the winner. If sets are equal, games to count, and if games are equal the match shall be a draw.

The length and number of sets shall be determined at the AGM

12.

- a) Every endeavour will be made to divide the season into two or more equal rounds of matches or part thereof.
- b) The team scoring the greatest number of points shall be the minor premiers.
- c) If two teams tie on the premiership list, their position will be decided by percentage. (Total sets won divided by total sets played).
- d) The four teams scoring the greatest number of points in each grade shall play off in the following manner

The winner of the third and fourth teams will play the loser of the first and second teams. The winner of that match will play the winner of the first and second teams unless altered at the AGM.

13. Each participating team shall provide new balls for finals matches in all senior grades and Junior A grade unless altered at the AGM.

14. All finals matches will be played on courts allocated at the finals meeting. Teams of the highest rank will have first choice of venue and have the right to choose their home courts if available and deemed suitable for finals matches. This will be for the semi and preliminary finals. The highest grade will have first choice and in the event that a club has two teams of highest rank in different grades the team in the lower grade will have the right to choose an available venue. The loser of the second semi final (teams ranked 1 & 2) will be deemed the highest ranked team for the preliminary final.

15. In the event of wet weather, or extreme heat mutual agreement between the opposing captains is necessary for the abandonment of the match. In case of dispute, an independent member of the executive will have the casting vote.
 - a) No Match shall be cancelled before 2:15 pm unless both captains agree.
 - b) In case of dispute, the Executive's decision shall be final.
 - c) If more than half the matches in any grade have no result because of rain, all matches in that grade shall be considered abandoned.
 - d) For abandoned matches to be counted as qualification, it is necessary for cards to be exchanged if teams have appeared on courts. Such lists are to be sent to the Recorder by the home teams and each team to score one point.

16. Hot weather rules will be set at the AGM each year.

17. In the event of a finals match being abandoned the team ranked higher at the end of the minor round shall be declared the winner for the semi and preliminary finals. The loser of the second semi-final will be deemed the highest ranked team in the preliminary finals. In the event of the grand final being cancelled the team that qualified for the grand final first will be awarded the match.

18. Grand Final venue/s to be decided at the finals meeting by the club delegates

19. In the event of a match being interrupted by fire, or a CFS callout, all remaining sets to be cancelled. If there is not a result both teams to get one point each.

20. Only umpires and competing players are allowed on the court while a set is in progress. Parents are not permitted to umpire their own children. Junior D grade exempt

21. No coaching while matches are in progress. Junior D grade exempt

22. Once a player has played 50% of matches they can no longer be defined as a "fill in " and are to be bound to one team only where a club has two teams within the same grade

23. DISPUTES AND DISCIPLINE

- a) Any dispute arising from a match must be in writing and be in the hands of the Association Secretary by 5.00 pm on the Tuesday following the match.
- b) Reports concerning the conduct of players during matches must be in the hands of the Association Secretary by 5.00 pm on the Tuesday following the match.
- c) Any such disputes or reports must be heard by the Executive Committee within seven (7) days
- d) Before any penalty is imposed the Executive Committee must give the person or Club the opportunity to appear before the Executive Committee and be heard either personally and/or through a representative.
- e) Where the Executive Committee decides that the facts alleged are proven, the Executive Committee shall impose the penalty provided in the relevant by-laws, or where no penalty is provided, such penalty as it sees fit.
- f) A player or Club affected by a decision of the Executive Committee under (e) shall have the right of appeal to the Tennis Appeals Committee of Tennis SA in accordance with the constitution of Tennis SA.
- g) No bullying or harassment of any kind will be tolerated by the association, any breach will be treated with the utmost seriousness and could result in severe penalties as handed down by the Executive.

