

3.0 COMPETITION RULES - LADIES MIDWEEK DOUBLES

(As at A.G.M. 10.11.04)

- 3.1 **TEAMS:**
Teams shall consist of four (4) players. A team may register any number of players additional to the team at the time of entry. Players so registered shall have all the rights and privileges of a team member (see also By-laws 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7).
- 3.2 **BORROWING:**
In order to avoid forfeits, a team may call upon a player from a team in the same or lower division except that in elimination matches, a team may not borrow a player from a team involved in an elimination match in the same or a lower division (see also Rule 3.3). An approach by a team to a player as set out above must have the approval of that team's captain and is subject to retrospective approval of the Committee. Result cards must be clearly marked showing the name of the borrowed player.
- 3.3 **POOL PLAYERS:**
There will be a reserve pool. Players who wish to be pool players must register their names with the Competition Secretary and the competition fee shall be paid before the player plays the first match. Pool players may be borrowed an unlimited number of times and may play in Elimination Matches if they have played **TWO** matches in any division. The pool player may play any number of matches in their division or any divisions higher.
- 3.4 **RESULT CARD AND BALLS:**
For ordinary round matches, the home team must provide a result card and at least two new balls of an approved make.
- 3.5 **UMPIRING:**
For all matches, no umpires will be required unless requested by one or both captains involved. If requested, the home team will umpire the odd-numbered sets and the visiting team the even-numbered sets. Where an umpire is in charge, the umpire's decision will be final.
- 3.6 **MATCH COMMENCEMENT TIME:**
Matches shall commence at 9.30am. A team not having a pair of players to commence play within ten (10) minutes of the official starting time will automatically forfeit one set for each ten (10) minutes that expires after the official starting time. Thereafter, a team so forfeiting five (5) sets shall concede the match.
- 3.7 **ORDER OF PLAY:**
Both captains must write the names of their players in their team for the match on the reverse side of the result card before the first set is commenced.
A match will consist of eight (8) sets of doubles.
All players named in a team for the match will play four (4) sets with the same partner. Each pair must meet both pairs in the opposing team, twice. At the completion of the fourth set, a luncheon break of not more than thirty (30) minutes may be taken.
Each set will be the first to six (6) games with a tie-break game to be played at 5 games all.
- 3.8 **NOMINATION OF PAIRS FOR SETS:**
The visiting team captain will nominate its pair for the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th sets while the home captain will nominate its pair for the 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th sets.
- 3.9 **DECIDING FIRST TO SERVE:**
The right to serve or receive in the first set of a match will be decided by toss. The winner of the toss will have the choice of:
(a) the right to be SERVER or RECEIVER in which case the other team shall choose the end; or
(b) the end, in which case the other team shall choose to be SERVER or RECEIVER; or
(c) requesting the opposing team to make a choice of (a) and/or (b).
Thereafter, the right to choose shall alternate each set.
Pairs will change ends on the odd games in each set.
- 3.10 **CONTINUITY OF PLAY:**
During the progress of a match, play must be continuous and a period of not more than three (3) minutes, including warm-up, shall expire between the finish of play in one set and the commencement of play in the following set. Teams not having a pair available to play within three (3) minutes shall forfeit the set concerned and the captains will proceed with the balance of the match.
Each pair shall only have one on court warm-up.

- 3.11 **DECIDING A MATCH WINNER:**
Matches shall be decided on games won against games lost. If, at the conclusion of play, one team has won sufficient games so that it cannot be overtaken on games, then that team shall be declared the winner. If the games are equal and all sets are completed, the team winning the greater number of sets will be the winner.
If the games and sets are equal, the match shall be declared a draw.
- 3.12 **MATCH RESULT CARDS:**
Certified results of all matches on the prescribed card must be forwarded to the Competition Secretary, or placed in the result box provided, by 7.30pm on the day of the match.
A result card must be returned for all matches whether completed, unfinished, deferred, wet or forfeited. (See also clause 3.7)
The winning team will be responsible for the return of the result card for completed matches. The home team will be responsible for the return of the result card for drawn, unfinished, deferred or wet matches. In the event of a forfeit, the team receiving the forfeit should lodge a completed result card, naming their players, who will be deemed to have played.
When a result card is not received within the specified time, the team responsible may be fined then, if the result card is not received within seven (7) days of the match, the points for the match will be shared.
Result cards must be completed showing the names (initials and surnames) of the players in each set, the results of the sets, the name in full of the home and visiting teams, the date of the match, the division and type of competition, the name of the winning team and the sets and games won and lost. All result cards must be certified as correct at the conclusion of play by both captains.
- 3.13 **AWARDING OF POINTS:**
Total points for a match will be twelve (12) and will be calculated as follows:
4 points for winning the match;
1 point for winning each set;
0.5 points for each set undecided or unplayed.
- 3.14 **DEFERRED OR UNFINISHED MATCHES:**
Wet weather: Where wet weather prevents 60% or more of matches being played at all, or where a decision cannot be reached in 60% or more of matches, the programme must be adhered to and, if the result has any bearing on the final placings of the teams, the match missed will be deferred to the end of the competition. In deferred or unfinished matches, play will resume at the exact point at which the match stood when the suspension occurred. (In this instance, result cards must show exact scores at time of suspension and certified by both captains.)
If 60% or more of matches are completed and/or a decision is reached, those matches unplayed or undecided will not be replayed and the points will be shared for the match and/or the remaining sets.
Where wet conditions delay the start of the day's competition, the decision to play rests with the court owner. Similarly, suspension or cessation of the day's play due to rain shall rest with the court owner.
Hot weather: When the air temperature reaches 37°C [98°F] (on the advice of the court owner), play will cease (without penalty) at the completion of the game or set in progress unless BOTH captains agree to continue. Where temperature prevents sets being played or a decision being reached, points will be shared for those unplayed sets. There will be no deferment of unplayed sets due to hot weather.
- 3.15 **MINOR PREMIERS:** There shall be no Minor Premiers. (Deleted AGM 2004).
- 3.16 **ELIMINATION MATCHES:** (In addition to By-laws)
In all elimination matches, if the result is a draw, a tie-break set will be played at the conclusion of the eighth set. Any two players from each team who have participated in the elimination match may play this tie-break set. A maximum ten minutes' break may be called by either team before the commencement of the tie-break set.
- 3.17 **COSTS:**
The costs of the court and balls for each match will be borne by the home team. In the event of a forfeit, the forfeiting team may have court costs only levied against them.
- 3.18 **NO PLAY:**
Matches will not be set down for play during school holidays, or on public holidays.

(Ends)