

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND SUMMARY OF RULES FOR BRISBANE NIGHT TENNIS ASSOCIATION FIXTURES

FIXTURE RULES	All BNTA Fixtures shall be played in accordance with the Fixture Rules adopted by the BNTA Management Committee as summarised below. Any matter not specifically covered in these Rules shall be resolved by the Committee, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.
PLAYING RULES	The ITF Rules of Tennis shall apply in all matches, unless modified herein. The Rules of Tennis can be downloaded as a PDF file from the International Tennis Federation Website ( <a href="http://www.itftennis.com/abouttheitf/rulesregs/rules.asp">www.itftennis.com/abouttheitf/rulesregs/rules.asp</a> ).
PLAYING TIME	Play commences at 7 p.m. (Tuesday & Wednesday) and stops at 9 p.m. (Wednesday Pairs) or 10:30 p.m. (Tuesday Mixed), irrespective of the score and irrespective of whether the lights are still on. However, the Committee may extend the finishing time for Finals to facilitate the completion of all sets and may vary these starting and finishing times in special circumstances (e.g. to fit in with local Council restrictions). <b>Note: To avoid disputes over the finishing time, teams should decide on the official timepiece for the match. This is particularly important at courts where the lights are not switched off and should be decided before the commencement of the last set.</b>
LATE START	Teams can be penalised for being late. If a team is not ready to play at the designated starting time, the opposition <u>may</u> claim the 1 <sup>st</sup> set after 5 minutes. Other sets can be claimed 15 minutes after a forfeited set (up to and including the 4 <sup>th</sup> set, if relevant, after which only 5 minutes is allowed) or 5 minutes after a completed set. Any forfeited set must be claimed immediately (and recorded as such on the result card) or it cannot be claimed on forfeit at all. <b>Note:</b> In the interests of good sportsmanship, allowance should be made for emergencies (e.g. traffic held up because of a car accident) and sets should be played out of order in preference to claiming forfeits. Forfeits should only be considered if it is impossible to play any sets. Teams are reminded that most players' watches will vary by a few minutes and it is not the intention of this rule that forfeits should be claimed at 5 min 0.1 sec past the starting time.
COURT	Each team is responsible for booking a suitable court for its Home matches for the season and for ensuring the court operator is aware of the Home match dates. Matches are to be played using ONE court only and at the time and on the dates specified in the Draw, unless otherwise approved by the Committee.
HOME TEAM	The Home Team pays for the court and provides a result card & a pen or pencil. Unless the court hire is waived by the court operator, the Home Team must pay for the court for byes and forfeits.
VISITING TEAM	The Visiting Team provides three new balls (Tennis Australia approved). A team failing to supply new balls can be forfeited sets in the same manner as for a late start until the balls are provided. <b>Note:</b> Commonsense and good sportsmanship should prevail, particularly if the match is not being played at a tennis centre and there is nowhere to buy balls on the night. If the player with the new balls is late or the tennis ball can is faulty and the new balls are flat, good used balls could be used or the Home team could loan some new balls so the match could be played.
WET WEATHER	Contact the operator of the court where the match is to be played to check on the state of the court in case of wet weather. In the event of wet weather, court owners are required to make a decision an hour before the scheduled starting time. Refer to the Courts List in the Fixture Book and on the BNTA Website for court phone numbers. Irrespective of the court operators decision, if both team captains believe the court is too dangerous to play on, their decision shall be final and the match will be deemed to be unplayed for the allocation of points. Prior to Finals, any match not started or not completed because of rain or any other reason which is, in the opinion of the Committee, beyond the control of the Home Team, shall be deemed to be unplayed for the allocation of points.
TEAM COMPOSITION	The team to play each match shall consist of: <i>Tuesday Mixed:</i> 5 players only (3 men & 2 women, although 1 woman may substitute for a man) <i>Wednesday Pairs:</i> 2 players only (any gender) If a team arrives to play but is short of a player (or players), it shall be permitted to play by forfeiting the sets involving the absent player(s); however, should such team not field sufficient players to make possible a win or draw, it shall be deemed to have forfeited the match for the allocation of points. If a player in a team is ruled ineligible for whatever reason (e.g. unapproved emergency registration or a registered player from a higher grade) the team shall forfeit all of the sets played by such player but shall not forfeit the match.

MATCH FORMAT	<p>A match consists of 4 sets (Wednesday Pairs) or 8 sets (Tuesday Mixed). Refer to the specific competition Draw for the detailed playing format and playing order.</p> <p>Prior to Finals, the Home Team shall nominate its players first. Preferably, the Home Team shall list its players in order for all sets on the result card and then the Visiting Team must nominate its players; but, if this is not possible, the Home Team must nominate its player(s) first before each set.</p> <p>The match is won by the team winning the greater number of games (or sets, if the games are tied). A match equal on completed games and sets is a draw. If all sets are not completed, the match result is decided by the number of games and sets completed at the end of play, provided a minimum number of sets have been completed. The minimum number of sets is 3 (Wednesday Pairs) or 5 (Tuesday Mixed). If the minimum number of sets has not been completed, the match is deemed to be unplayed unless one team has an unbeatable lead (i.e. the leading team would still win even if it lost <u>all</u> remaining games and sets).</p>
ENDS & SERVE	<p>Choice of ends and the choice to be server or receiver are decided by the toss of a coin. The team winning the toss may choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to be server or receiver in the first game of the first set, in which case the other team shall choose the end for the first set; or</li> <li>(ii) the end of the court for the first set, in which case the other team shall choose to serve or receive for the first game; or</li> <li>(iii) to require their opponents to make one of the above choices.</li> </ul> <p>In subsequent sets, serve in the first game and ends alternate. To save time, players do not change ends during a set in BNTA Fixtures.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> There is a variation on this rule for the Monday Mixed competition where the order of serve (but not the rotation of ends) is reversed for the second men's and second women's doubles (see the Monday competition draw for more details).</p>
HIT-UPS & BREAKS	<p>Hit-ups before a set are limited to 3 minutes. There shall be no hit-ups after each player has completed his/her first set. Players may not take breaks during a set. Play shall be continuous in each set with a maximum of 20 seconds allowed between points.</p>
SETS	<p>A set is won by the pair first to win 6 games. A Tie-Break is played to decide any set where the score reaches 5-all.</p>
TIE BREAK	<p>At 5-all, the player whose turn it is to serve, serves two points and, thereafter each player shall serve two points in rotation and in the same order as previously in the set. This continues until one pair reaches 5 points. If the score reaches 4-all, the player who has just served, shall serve the deciding point to the court nominated by the receiver.</p>
DEUCE	<p>A sudden-death point is played to decide a game if the score reaches deuce TWICE. The sudden-death point is served to the court nominated by the receiver.</p>
UMPIRING	<p>Teams must umpire if one team requests umpires. The team receiving first in a set is the team that must supply an umpire for that set if requested. In sets played without umpires, the players are required to call their own lines. In Pairs competitions, players must call their own lines in the Doubles set. Refer to the "Tennis Australia Tennis Etiquette and Rules for Non-Umpired Matches". Players cannot call foot faults or time violations in non-umpired matches. If there is a problem, an umpire must be appointed.</p>
FILL-IN PLAYERS	<p>Prior to Finals, a team can use fill-in players provided at least ONE player is a registered member of that team. Fill-in players can be obtained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) from a team in the same grade or a lower grade in the SAME competition; and/or</li> <li>(ii) from players of a suitable standard not registered in the SAME competition (this is an emergency player).</li> </ul> <p>Details about fill-in players must be written on the back of the scorecard (i.e. first name, surname and fixture teams &amp; grades). A 'BNTA Fill-In player Information' form should also be lodged for insurance purposes the first time a person is used as a fill-in.</p> <p>If a player, registered in a competition, plays in a higher grade team in the same competition on 3 occasions in a season, that player may not play in his/her original team again that season.</p> <p>Teams are able to use up to four emergency players for free but thereafter a \$5 emergency player fee applies for each match. If the \$5 emergency player fee applies, it must be paid within 1 week of the match (or within 2 business days in the case of the last match before the Semi-Finals). Emergency players are not covered by Tennis Queensland's Sports Injury Insurance unless they lodge a BNTA 'Fill-In Player Information' form or have been registered elsewhere.</p> <p>Where prior approval of an emergency player has not been obtained, all sets played by the new player shall be forfeited if the player is not subsequently approved by the Committee.</p>

A person can only play THREE TIMES as an emergency player in the one competition without registering in a team (i.e. the player must pay the full BNTA Registration Fee to play a fourth time in that competition).

*Note:* A team in the Wednesday Pairs competition could borrow, without obtaining approval or paying any extra fee, a registered player from another team in the same or a lower grade of the BNTA Wednesday Pairs competition. However, if the Wednesday Pairs team wanted to use a fill-in from a BNTA Tuesday team, approval would be needed as the player is an emergency player for the Wednesday Pairs competition (and the \$5 emergency player fee would apply if the team had already used its four free emergency players for the season).

#### ADDITIONAL REGOS

Up to and including the last match before the Semi-Finals, teams may apply to register extra players in addition to those listed on the original Team Registration Form, provided that an Additional Registration Application is lodged along with all fees owing. All additional registrations must be approved by the Committee.

Where prior approval of an additional registration has not been obtained, all sets played by the new player shall be forfeited if the registration is not subsequently approved by the Committee. Registration fees must be paid within 1 week of the new player's first match (or within 2 business days in the case of the last match before the Semi-Finals).

#### FORFEITS

*Note:* Individual UQ Tennis Club teams cannot register additional players. Additional registrations for UQ teams will only be accepted from the UQ Tennis Club Secretary. Applications & fees should be sent to the Club.

Any match not played because one team cannot field a team shall be designated as a forfeit. If a team has to forfeit, it must notify the opposition team as soon as possible. It may still be possible to have a social game. *The team winning on forfeit must lodge a result card claiming the forfeit.*

Teams that forfeit 3 times in a season can be excluded from the competition.

If a team forfeits, the forfeit shall be cancelled if all other matches on the same night were not played because of rain. A forfeit may also be cancelled if, in the opinion of the Committee, the match could not have been played on account of rain or any other cause, provided a written request, endorsed by the court operator, is lodged not later than 2 business days after the date set down for the match.

#### RESULT CARD

**The winning team is responsible for lodging the result card.** However, in the case of a draw or unplayed match, the Home team is responsible for lodging the result card.

The result card should be lodged with the relevant BNTA Results Officer within 2 business days of the match but teams will have 1 week to lodge the card before the late card penalty is applied (except for the last match before the Semi-Finals when the 2 day deadline applies).

Under the late card penalty, the team responsible for lodging the card loses 1 point for each week or part thereof that the card is late, up to a maximum of 5 points (all competitions except Wednesday Pairs & Wednesday Summer) or 3 points (Wednesday Pairs & Summer).

**Result cards must be filled in legibly showing the date, team names, first name & surname of each player, the score for each set and the match result.** The card must be signed by both captains to verify that the result is correct as shown on the card.

Where a Result Officer gives teams the option of lodging the result by e-mail, a result card must still be completed and signed and must be provided (for points to be awarded) if requested by the Results Officer. Results lodged by e-mail must include the date, team names, first name & surname of each player, the score for each set and the match result.

*Teams should keep a copy of all results in case the result card goes astray or the winning team fails to lodge it. If the winning team does not lodge the result card, the losing team should lodge result information; in which case, points may be awarded to the losing team at the discretion of the Committee.*

For the last match before the Finals, the result card must be lodged by 5 p.m. on the second business day following the match. Both teams may receive zero points for any match where no card has been lodged by this deadline.

#### POINTS

For all matches that are decided, the winning team receives 6 points (Tuesday Mixed) or 4 points (Wednesday Pairs) and the losing team receives 2 points. In addition, each team receives 0.1 points for each game won.

For forfeits, the winning team receives the points for winning all sets & games and the forfeiting team receives 0 points. For byes and unplayed matches (including wet matches), teams receive the average of the total points gained for all matches played for the season. For draws, teams receive half the sum of the winning & losing points plus 0.1 points per game. Refer to the specific competition Draw for more details.

#### COMPLAINTS

If any player or team disputes the result of a match, a written protest must be lodged with the relevant Results Officer (by hand, post, facsimile transmission or e-mail) no later than 2 business days following the match and the protest must be accompanied by a \$5 deposit which shall be returned if the protest is upheld.

Any player or team wishing to complain about the behaviour of any player during or incidental to a match must lodge (by hand, post, facsimile transmission or e-mail) a written complaint with the BNTA Secretary no later than 1 week following the incident.

## FINALS

At the end of the Fixture rounds, the leading teams on points play-off in the Finals to decide the premiership. Finals may consist of Semi-Finals involving the top 4 teams on points (followed by a Grand Final between the winning Semi-Finalists) or just a Grand Final between the top 2 teams on points. The format for Finals shall be advertised at the start of the season with the Fixtures Draw.

If, in determining the final positions, any teams are tied on points, their positions shall be decided on the basis of the average number of games won for the matches played; if still tied, on the basis of the average number of sets won for the matches played; if still tied, on the basis of the total games and then sets won in the head-to-head matches involving the tied teams; and if still tied, by the toss of a coin.

The relevant Results Officers will endeavour to publish the Finals draws by all of the means available to them. However, the onus is on teams to contact the relevant BNTA Results Officer to ascertain the final points & positions and the Finals draw. Finals draws may not be available until 4 business days after the last match.

Teams share the cost of balls and court hire in Finals (Semi-Finals and Grand Finals). Teams in Finals should contact their opponents to determine who is bringing the balls. A team forfeiting in Finals is required to pay the whole court cost if it forfeits after the Committee has booked a court for the match.

In the case of a washout in a Semi-Final or Grand Final, the match will be postponed to the following week (at the same court) unless directed otherwise by the Committee. If a match has started, it will continue on from the exact position at which play was suspended (i.e. all completed sets, games and points stand).

Only registered players who have played in at least three decided matches for the team in which they are registered are eligible to play for that team in Finals without the express permission of the Committee. New players cannot be registered for Finals. Additional registrations can count matches played as an emergency player for eligibility to play in Finals. However, forfeits and unplayed matches do not count towards eligibility to play in Finals. To avoid forfeits, the Committee will consider requests to use registered players from other teams in the same or a lower grade in the same competition and, depending on the circumstances, may relax the three-match eligibility requirement. In extenuating circumstances, the Committee may approve the use of players registered in another BNTA competition and in extreme circumstances, where no appropriate registered players are available, may approve a non-registered player. Approval for all substitutions must be obtained BEFORE the match or the sets played by such player shall be forfeited. Approval will only be granted where, in the opinion of the Committee, the substitution shall not strengthen the team.

In Finals, both teams must list their players in order for all sets prior to the first set and then exchange lists so that the names can be entered on the result card.

In the Tuesday Mixed competitions, teams must toss for the right to choose to be the Home or Visiting team for the purposes of determining the playing order.

If a result is not obtained, because the minimum number of sets have not been completed or the teams are tied on sets and games won, the teams shall complete the match, from the point at which play was suspended, in the manner and at the time directed by the Committee.

If a Finals match is drawn after all sets have been played, the winner shall be decided on the basis of a tie-break between the players who contested the final set (with choice of ends and right to serve decided by the toss of a coin).

If an unfinished Finals match has to be completed at another time, the Committee may, in extenuating circumstances, allow a team member to be substituted for the remainder of the match, even if that person has already played.

In a Finals match, if a player is injured during a set and cannot continue, the player must forfeit the remainder of that set; but another player (not playing on that night but registered in the team and eligible to play in Finals), may substitute for any remaining sets.

Trophies for winners and runners-up will be presented at the conclusion of the Grand Finals. Teams in Grand Finals should stay for the Trophy Presentation.

Trophies shall be provided for the number of players registered in the winning and runner-up teams up to a maximum of 3 (Wednesday Pairs) and 7 (Tuesday Mixed).

The Committee accepts no responsibility for delivering any trophies not collected at the Trophy Presentation and any trophies not collected within 1 month of the Trophy Presentation shall be forfeited.

*Issued August 2017*