



Blackburn & District Night Tennis Association

By-Laws - July 2026

1 GENERAL RULES & GUIDELINES

The Rules of Tennis as adopted by TENNIS VICTORIA shall apply to all matches except as hereinafter modified. These By-Laws are subject to alteration at any meeting of delegates of the VENUE CLUBS or by electronic mail poll where a majority of Clubs that have replied agree to the changes.

Any such alteration(s) shall not take effect in any current season and all clubs shall be notified of any such alteration(s) before the commencement of the next season.

Any question arising as to the interpretation or meaning of these By-Laws shall be decided by the Competition Organiser/s and any situation, circumstance or dispute requiring a ruling other than those provided for by the By-Laws shall be considered at a special or other meeting of the Competition Organiser/s.

Such Special or other meeting shall require a **quorum of 5 delegates** from Affiliated Venue Clubs.

2 AFFILIATION / TEAM ENTRY FEE

The affiliation/team entry fee per team shall be determined each season by the VENUE CLUBS.

3 TEAM ENTRY

Teams shall be entered on the official entry form at online TROLS accompanied by the appropriate entry fee and shall contain a nominated list of players together with details of their previous competition experience as required by the entry form.

NB: Team Entry Fees for Spring 2025 onwards \$35.00 per team

4 GRADING OF TEAMS

Teams will be graded according to the nominated list of regular players and the playing of emergencies, whether nominated on the official entry form, or later in the season, shall be subject to By-Laws 9 & 10.

NB: All players listed on the Team Entry Form will be graded with the relevant team prior to the start of each season.

5 TIMES FOR MATCHES & LATE ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

The starting time for all matches shall be **7:00pm**

a) Home Teams:

(i) If home teams do not have their courts and facilities ready for the first set to commence by 7:20pm then the visiting team shall claim the first set.

(ii) If home teams do not have their courts and facilities ready for the first set to commence by 7:40pm, the visiting team shall also claim the second set.



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(iii) If home teams do not have their courts and facilities open by 8:00pm then the visiting team shall claim the match six sets to love, 36 games to nil.

(iv) The exception to the above is in the event of lighting failure, inclement weather, or damage to facilities etc beyond the control of the home team.

(v) If a Club is aware in advance that a match cannot commence due to lighting failure, damage to facilities, court works etc., and steps are not taken by the Venue Club to notify the competition organizers & visiting teams in advance, the match shall be awarded to the visiting team six sets to love, 36 games to nil.

(Venue Clubs who need to re-locate matches for any reason must advise the competition organiser/s in advance providing reason for requesting re-location. Competition Organiser/s will attempt to re-locate matches to other existing BDNTA Venue Clubs when requested.)

b) All Teams:

(i) Each team must have at least two players (at least 1 for singles/doubles format) ready to commence a set at 7:20pm. The defaulting team shall forfeit the first set six games to nil.

(ii) If a team still does not have at least two players ready to commence a set at 7:40pm, the defaulting team shall forfeit the second set six games to nil.

(iii) All players from both competing teams must be in attendance by 8:00pm. The defaulting team shall forfeit the remaining sets of the missing players six games to nil. If both teams are at fault the match shall be cancelled and no points awarded.

6 COSTS

The cost per team shall be:

\$32.00 per night (i.e. \$8.00 per player per match) for all Doubles Only Sections payable to the Venue Club.

\$30.00 per night (i.e. \$10.00 per player per match) for Thursday Singles/Doubles Sections payable to the Venue Club.

7 REFUNDS

SETS	COST PER TEAM	COST PER PLAYER
No Doubles sets played *	No charge	No charge
One Doubles set warm up or One Doubles set played	\$10.00	\$2.50
Two Doubles sets commenced	\$12.00	\$3.00
Three Doubles sets played	\$16.00	\$4.00
No Singles sets played *	No charge	No charge
One Singles set warm up or One Singles set played	\$9.00	\$3.00



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Two Singles sets commenced	\$12.00	\$4.00
Three Singles sets played	\$15.00	\$5.00

*Provided that the warmup has not started.

8 COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

Open & Ladies Doubles Sections: Matches shall be played between teams of four players, together playing six sets of doubles as listed on the Scorecards. The order of play of sets may be varied by mutual agreement between captains.

Thursday Open Singles/Doubles Sections: Matches shall be played between teams of three players, each playing one set of singles and two sets of doubles as listed on the Thursday Singles/Doubles Scorecards.

OPEN TEAMS: Shall be made up of four players (three players per team for singles/doubles) - men, women or any combination of both.

LADIES TEAMS: Shall be made up of four women.

9 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

a) In any one season, except with the prior permission of the Competition Organiser/s, a person having played three matches with a team shall not play with any other team in the same section, and having played four matches in any higher section, shall not play in a lower section, but remain in the highest section played.

b) Players must play at least **3 home and away matches** in order to qualify for finals for a particular night. Being named in a "complete" washout/heat out/blackout **does not** qualify as a match played towards finals eligibility.

A **complete washout/heat out/blackout** is a match in which not a "single game" in any set has been completed. When a team receives a forfeit — only the players named for the team "winning" by forfeit will count towards finals eligibility. (*i.e. The team losing by forfeit cannot name players.*)

c) This ruling may be varied upon written request by Club Convenors to the BDNTA organisers, in cases where there is a genuine difficulty in fielding a team of qualified players.

Clubs with teams in multiple sections on the same competition night must first seek to use a qualified player (who was listed as regular player during team registration) from a lower section by requesting approval from the BDNTA organisers.

d) Players must not play for more than one club during the same season on the same playing night. (Example) If Joe Tennis plays for Blackburn on Thursday nights (Doubles or S/D) then he cannot play for another club on Thursday nights (Doubles or S/D) during the same season.

10 EMERGENCIES & SUBSTITUTES

Where persons other than those nominated as regular players with original team entries, are used as emergencies or substitutes, and deemed by the Competition Organiser/s to have strengthened the



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team, then such players shall be deemed ineligible and that team shall forfeit all sets in which it was represented by such emergency/substitute.

If a player cannot continue a SET due to illness or other emergency, he/she **SHALL FORFEIT THAT SET**. A substitute who is eligible may play **ANY REMAINING SETS**.

In a **FINAL** if a player cannot continue a SET due to illness or other emergency, an eligible substitute may replace the player and continue the set from **WHERE LEFT OFF** and may play **ANY REMAINING SETS**.

In an **UNFINISHED FINAL**, an eligible substitute may replace a player who is unable to continue the match due to illness, injury, or any other valid reason, provided that written approval is obtained from BDNTA prior to the next scheduled match date.

PLAY SHALL CONTINUE FROM WHERE IT LEFT OFF.

11 DETERMINATION OF MATCHES

(i) Matches shall be decided on **SETS** won. If SETS are equal, then GAMES decide.

(ii) All SETS possible **SHALL** be played before a FORFEIT is claimed.

(iii) A 12 point tie-break shall be played at 5 games all.

(iv) **POINT SCORE:** Total Points = 8

2 points for a win; 1 point for each draw, washout/no result, plus 1 point for each SET WON, ½ point per team for EACH UNCOMPLETED SET, 1 point for EACH FORFEITED SET.

(v) In the case of lights shutting off before a match is finished, the result is a draw unless a team has sufficient SETS and GAMES to claim a WIN. Likewise with washouts/heatouts.

(vi) In the case of power restrictions/blackouts, matches shall be declared Drawn. In any UNFINISHED FINAL play shall continue from where it left off, on a date to be decided.

(vii) **DRAWN FINALS:** In the case of a drawn final, the last four players listed on the card shall play a 12 point tie-break to decide the match.

12 FORFEITS

If a team proposes to forfeit a match, they should notify the opposing team contact and a person from the Venue Club, within a reasonable time to avoid unnecessary travel or inconvenience to opponents.

Teams receiving a forfeit will receive **8 points** and a games total of **36/0**.

Where a team forfeits **three times** during a season that team will be ineligible to continue in the competition, unless a good and sufficient reason (in the opinion of the Competition Organiser/s) is given in writing. In this case if a team is removed from the competition (withdraw penalty applies; refer to By-Law 17) all points will be adjusted to reflect a bye from the beginning of the season.



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13 BALLS

Venue Clubs are to provide **FOUR NEW BALLS** per match. Extra pairs of good used balls should be made available by VENUE CLUBS in case of loss or damage.

FINALS MATCHES: Venue Clubs to provide **FOUR NEW BALLS** for each finals match scheduled at their courts.

14 FINALS

The finals system shall be as per the fixtures for each season and may be either of the following, or any other finals format deemed suitable by competition organiser/s:

FORMAT A:

SEMIS: 1st vs. 4th, 2nd vs. 3rd

GRAND-FINAL: Two semi-final winners to play off.

FORMAT B:

PRELIMINARY-FINAL: 2nd vs. 3rd (6 teams draw)

GRAND-FINAL: 1st vs. Winner of 2nd vs. 3rd

15 RESULTS

a) Results must be entered online via the BDNTA TROLS system by the "HOME" team. Results must be entered before the "ENTRY DEADLINES" specified on the fixtures for the relevant competition night.

b) In the last round of the season, the Home team is responsible for entering the scores by the cut-off time. Failure to do so will result in the Home team losing points, as determined by the Competition Organiser(s).

c) In the Semi-Finals, Preliminary Finals, and Grand Finals, the winning team is responsible for entering the scores by the cut-off time. Failure to do so will result in the winning team losing points, as determined by the Competition Organiser(s).

16 COURTS

a) When the club dedicates all the courts under lights to BDNTA Competition from 7pm, VENUE CLUB shall make available **ONE COURT** for each match scheduled at their club. Additional courts can be shared by mutual agreement between captains.

Example: If a club has 3 courts under the lights, and all 3 courts are allocated to the BDNTA Competition. Two BDNTA teams are playing at home; each team will have one permanent court, and the 3rd court will be shared between both teams.

b) When the club allocates partial courts under the lights to the BDNTA competition from 7pm, the remaining courts under the lights are allocated to Coaching, Social tennis, or other club activities from 7pm. VENUE CLUB shall make available **TWO COURTS** for each match scheduled at their club.



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Example: If a club has 6 courts under the lights and 4 courts are dedicated to the BDNTA competition, the remaining 2 courts are allocated to Coaching or Social Tennis. In this scenario, the club can have a maximum of 2 home matches, and each team will get 2 courts.

17 WITHDRAWAL OF TEAM

Any club that withdraws a team **after grading** (Fixtures are published on the TROLS website, but the season has not commenced) will be issued a **\$100 per team penalty**.

Any club that withdraws a team **after the season commences** will be penalised **\$200 per team**.

The individual players registered for that team will not be permitted to play in another team or to transfer to another club without prior approval from the Competition Organiser/s.

18 EXTREME HEAT PROCEDURES

Temperature limits for playing matches: the BOM (The Bureau of Meteorology – www.bom.gov.au) local information is to be consulted;

Matches may be called off as early as 6:00 pm if the BOM app shows a forecast temperature of **35°C** or higher at 7:00 pm in the match suburb. In this case, teams are not required to attend the venue. Heat out decisions cannot be made before 6:00 pm.

Matches may be suspended after commencement if the BOM app at the venue shows a temperature exceeding **35°C**.

If, after suspension, the BOM indicates the temperature will remain above **35°C** for more than 60 minutes, the match may be declared a Heat-Out and points awarded accordingly.

A screenshot of the BOM app at the match location is required to verify match cessation or cancellation. The home team captain is responsible for providing this information to BDNTA upon request.