

2009/10 INTERCLUB

2.2 RULES & REGULATIONS

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 All contests shall be played in accordance with the ITF Rules of Lawn Tennis, code of conduct as adopted by Tennis New Zealand and rules and regulations of the Slazenger Wellington interclub competition insofar as they are applicable.

1.2 Definitions of a Match, Contest and Competition

- (a) **Match:** In these regulations "a match" means one competitive singles or doubles event played between the members of opposing teams.
- (b) **Contest:** In these regulations "a contest" means the total number of matches played between two teams during one contest between such teams.
- (c) **Competition:** In these regulations "a competition" applies separately to both pre-Christmas and post-Christmas play in a particular grade of Interclub.

2.0 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

2.1 **Results of each match are to be recorded by each team on their own result sheet and when the tie is completed, both sheets are to be signed by both captains**

2.2 **The winning captain is responsible for entering the results of each match in the tie into the Tennis NZ Top Dog ranking system by 5pm on the Monday following the scheduled date of the tie.** In the event of a dispute following posting of the results, BOTH team captains are required to retain their (signed) copy of the result sheet, and must be able to produce this to the Interclub committee to validate their dispute. Failure on behalf of one team captain to produce their sheet will result in the other team's result sheet being taken as fact. Failure on BOTH captains to produce their sheets will result in the match being defaulted by BOTH teams.

2.3 **Penalty:** If a result is not updated in the TNZ Top Dog system sheet **within 48 hours** of playing the contest, the Interclub Committee shall have the power to cancel the championship points gained in a contest and to impose a **\$40 fine** on the offending team/s. **These regulations should be particularly brought to the attention of captains of teams.**

3.0 ELIGIBILITY OF CLUBS AND PLAYERS

3.1 (a) The competition shall be open to all clubs directly affiliated to Tennis Central (Wellington and Kapi-Mana Tennis). The interclub committee reserve the right, under genuine and/or exceptional circumstances, to allow teams from other Associations to play in the competition. Teams will only be accepted with the approval of the other Association.

(b) The qualifications to play for a club shall be a bona fide (fully affiliated) membership of such club for at least seven (7) days prior to the contest. "Fully Affiliated" means the member is eligible to full playing rights at the club, including weekends.

- 3.2** No player shall play for more than one club in any one season except by permission of the Interclub Committee.
- 3.3** (a) If a player has played in three or more contests in higher grades, that player will not be eligible to play in a lower grade without prior permission of the Interclub Committee. This rule **includes** players competing in the Regional Competition, and the rule is applied to all Interclub competitions whereby there is a natural progression through to the Wellington Regional Competition.
- (b) If a club has entered more than one team in a grade, then once a player has played for any one of these teams he/she will be regarded as a member of that team and may not play for another team from the same club in that grade without prior permission of the Interclub Committee.
- 3.4** If a breach of either Reg. 3.1, 3.2 or 3.3 has occurred, the Interclub Committee shall have the power to forfeit all matches in which the offending player or players were involved and where appropriate award the contest/matches to the opposing team.

4.0 AVAILABILITY OF CLUB COURTS AS AN ENTRY CONDITION

- 4.1** A condition of entry for teams from a club to the interclub competition shall be the availability of courts of such club on which to play Interclub contests. The more teams each club enters, the more courts are to be made available.
- 4.2** The Interclub Committee shall schedule contests based on 4.1.

5.0 FEES

- 5.1** Entry fees shall be as follows:

An entry fee of \$150 (incl GST) per team per season (includes pre and post-Christmas) is payable on entry of a team or teams.

- 5.2** An entry fee of \$75 (incl GST) per team is payable on entry of a team or teams who enter for the post-Christmas section only.

6.0 DRAW TO BE ADHERED TO

6.1 DISPENSATION FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- 6.2** If, on a day scheduled for an interclub match, a team has at least two (2) players required for one or more of the events listed in Rule 6.5, the team's Club may apply to the Interclub Committee for the matches that involve those two (2) players to be rescheduled. All other matches must be played as scheduled.

- 6.3** All reschedule requests must be made in writing to the Interclub Committee at least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled date of the tie and the opposing team must be notified of the date and time of rescheduled matches at least seven (7) days before the scheduled date of the tie.

- 6.4** Rescheduled matches must be completed within fourteen (14) days of the original scheduled date.

- 6.5** Events for which dispensation may be granted under Rule 6.1 include:

- 6.5.1 TNZ National Senior Teams Event.
- 6.5.2 The New Zealand Residential Championships.
- 6.5.3 TNZ National Junior Age-Group Championships and Teams Events
- 6.5.4 All events at which New Zealand representative team(s) compete
- 6.5.5 All professional ITF/ATP/WTA events held in New Zealand
- 6.5.6 All ITF junior circuit events held in New Zealand
- 6.5.7 The Spring Tri Series and Tennis Central Masters Event

7.0 CAPTAINS

- 7.1 Each team shall be under the control of a captain. The Team Captain's home phone number and/or mobile phone number must be included in the draw. *"Where there is any doubt as to the ability to play on the scheduled date, ALL captains are to make every effort to contact opposition captains, AND make themselves available for contact."*
- 7.2 *"In the event of a Team Captain's contact details changing from that shown in the interclub booklet, (or, indeed, the Team Captain changing), it is the club's responsibility to notify Tennis Central AND all the other Team Captains in that competition of the changes."*

8.0 PLAYERS TO PLAY IN ORDER OF MERIT

- 8.1 Team sheets including names of team members are to be exchanged between captains before start time. These team sheets must show players' names in order of merit for singles. Doubles' pairings may be any combination of players; however, the top seeded singles player on the day that is playing doubles must play in the top doubles pairing. *"If the highest ranked player playing doubles does not play in the top pairing, then that player's team is deemed to have defaulted the bottom doubles match to the opposing team."*
- 8.2 Teams may comprise of 4 or 5 players. This allows for teams to bring in a specialist doubles player.

9.0 PROVISION OF BALLS

- 9.1 Each club must supply a minimum of two (2) pairs of balls for contests in all grades. First (1st) Grade SLAZENGER BALLS are the only balls to be used for Interclub.

10.0 PLAYING OF CONTESTS

- 10.1 Subject to Regulations 10.2 and 10.3, all contests shall be played as published and there shall be no postponement of contests, except where wet weather conditions apply and **team captains mutually agree**, or at a specific direction of the Interclub Committee.
- 10.2 Contests played at the Wellington Renouf Tennis Centre, Taylor Park, Tawa and at Clubs are subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) All Saturday and Sunday morning contests are scheduled to commence at 8.30am, while all Saturday and Sunday afternoon contests are scheduled to commence at 1pm. Monday interclub contests are scheduled to commence at 6pm. Morning contests must commence at the scheduled time. Contests not completed by 1:00 pm may have to transfer to other courts (dependent on other contests scheduled for the same venue) except where there is mutual agreement

from the "other" team captains to allow the contest to be completed). Unfinished contests must be rescheduled as per Rule 15.0

- (b) If any player is not available for play **within 15 minutes** of the starting time, **matches** in which he/she is involved may be awarded to the opposition team unless an explanation acceptable to the opposing team or Interclub Committee is received. If no player from a team is ready for play **within 15 minutes** of the start time the **contest** will be awarded to the team present. If any player is not ready for play **within 15 minutes** of the completion of the previous match, the **match** in which he/she is due to take part may be claimed by the opposing team.

Also refer to Rule 16 Defaults.

- (c) Play shall be confined to the courts specified and shall not be varied unless directed by the Interclub Committee. Hit up prior to each match shall be limited to 5 minutes. Courts are to be vacated at the conclusion of a contest.

11.0 MATCHES AND GAMES TO BE PLAYED

- 11.1** In all mens and womens grades each contest shall consist of 6 matches (4 singles and 2 doubles). The matches shall be the best of 3 sets each with a tie-breaker at 6 games all. **Doubles are to be played first unless captains mutually agree otherwise.**
- 11.2** In mixed grade each contest shall consist of 6 matches (2 doubles and 4 mixed doubles). The matches shall be the best of 17 games each with a tie-breaker at 8 games all. Doubles are to be played first unless captains mutually agree otherwise.

12.0 POINTS WON AND COMPETITION WINNERS

- (a) For each match - 1 point
For a contest win - 2 point i.e. Team A beats Team B by 4 matches to 2 matches.
Team A records 6 points and Team B records 2 points.
 - (b) In the event of matches being equal, sets and, if necessary, games shall be counted to determine the winner.
 - (c) If matches, sets and games are equal, a draw shall be recorded and a bonus point shall be awarded to each team.
- 12.1** In pre and post-Christmas competitions the grade winners shall be the teams who have won the most points.
 - 12.2** Where two or more teams have equal points, the ranking of the team will be determined by the number of outright wins, or, in the event of outright wins being equal, then the best sets differential or, in the event of sets differential being equal, then the best games differential.
- Note:** "Differential" is sets won minus sets lost.
- This is to encourage teams to play to optimum level at all times.
- 12.3** When a club has two or more teams entered in a grade and one team from such club defaults to another team from the same club, neither team shall be awarded any points for the contest.

- 12.4 If two teams agree they are unable to play a contest, no points will be awarded for this contest to either team. NB default fees apply refer to rule 16.

13.0 **PROMOTION / RELEGATION**

- 13.1 Promotion and relegation of teams shall be on the basis of the accumulated points at the completion of each competition but, where necessary, positions in a competition will be determined according to rule 12.2.

- 13.2 **Pre-Christmas:** Promotion between Slazenger Interclub Grade 1 and ASB Regional Interclub grades of the same type (men's and women's) shall be a minimum of 2 teams up before Christmas, and none down from ASB Regional. See rule 13.3.

Within the Slazenger competition, a minimum of 1 team and up to 3 teams will be promoted to the higher grade for men's grades 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 and for women's grades 2, & 3.

Note: Any team winning M6 grade which does not wish to be promoted (Sunday to Saturday) must indicate that on their interclub entry forms for the following competition. Teams relegated from M5 to M6 (Saturday to Sunday) must be prepared to field a team on Sunday.

For Men's A/B grade competitions, a minimum of 1 team and up to 2 teams will be relegated from A and promoted from B for both Pre – and Post Christmas competitions.

Post-Christmas: A minimum of one team will go up (excluding 1st Grade) and two or more teams will go down. This will vary depending on teams affiliated to Tennis Central (Wellington and Kapi Mana Tennis) that are relegated from ASB Premier Regional 3 competition.

NB 1: Up to four teams may be relegated.

NB 2: Teams relegated from M5 to M6 (Saturday to Sunday) must be prepared to field a team on Sunday for the following pre-christmas season

In the Saturday mixed grades, pre-Christmas, the top two teams in B & C grades will be promoted to A & B grades respectively, while the bottom two teams in A & B grades will be relegated to B & C grades respectively. The same will apply after the post-Christmas competition.

13.3 **ASB Premier Regional Three Competition**

For Men and Women, the top two teams from the Hutt Valley and Wellington divisional interclub competitions, pre-Christmas, shall be promoted to Premier three for the subsequent draw, post-Christmas.

NB. The bottom 4 teams after the post-Christmas Regional 3 competition will be automatically relegated back to their Association competitions.

14.0 **POSTPONEMENT OF CONTESTS**

It is the intention of the Interclub Committee that all reasonable attempts be made to play and complete contests as per the timetable/draw. Therefore, Team Captains must make every effort to contact opposing Captains if the weather looks doubtful, since conditions can vary in different parts of the city and clubs have a variety of court surfaces. It is strongly recommended that teams do not make a decision to postpone the contest until they reach the venue.

- 14.1** Postponement of contests due the condition of the courts and/or weather conditions shall be at the discretion of the Team Captains by **mutual agreement**. In the event that the Team Captains cannot reach agreement an interclub committee member is to be contacted.
- 14.2** In the event of postponement of the contest, the reverse side of the result sheet must be completed, showing the date and venue for the re-scheduled contest, and must be sent to the Tennis Central office within **24 hours** of the postponement.
- 14.3** Postponement of contests for other reasons shall only be at the discretion of the Interclub Committee. Refer to rule 6.0 regarding adherence to the draw and exemption there from. Only under **exceptional** circumstances will the Interclub Committee consider the postponement of contests.
- 14.4** Except when a specified time is established for playing of contests postponed under 14.3, postponed contests shall be played within **14 days** of the original date of play at a time arranged between the team captains. Any disagreement, or refusal to reschedule, shall be referred to the convener of the Interclub Committee within **3 days**. Any refusal by one team to reschedule may result in that team being defaulted, and a fine imposed as per rule 16.2.

Notwithstanding, all pre-christmas contests must be completed by no later than December 13, 2009, and all post-christmas contests must be completed by no later than April 11, 2010.

- 14.5** Should the postponed contest not take place at the rescheduled time, due to weather and therefore not be played within **14 days** of the original date, the contest will be abandoned and the points for that contest will be equally shared, i.e. 3 points each, (no bonus point to be allocated). Should the postponed contest take place on the rescheduled time but not be completed, "unfinished contest" **within 14 days** of the original date the contest will be treated as an Unfinished Contest, see (15.6.1 (iii)) below, for points.

15.0 CONTESTS STARTED BUT NOT COMPLETED

15.1 Definitions

A contest not completed on the day it is started because of rain, bad light or other reason (excluding default or injury to a team member during play), shall be called

- (a) A "postponed contest" if no match has been completed when play is interrupted.
- (b) An "unfinished contest" if at least one match has been completed when play is interrupted.

15.2 Replay of a Postponed Contest

15.2.1 The contest shall be played within **14 days** of the original date at a time arranged between the team captains. Any disagreement shall be referred to the convener of the Interclub Committee within **3 days**.

Refer 14.4 for final completion date.

15.2.2 The contest will be played as a completely new contest, starting at love-all with no special restrictions on team personnel.

15.2.3 The result sheet for the postponed contest must be filed within **24 hours** of completion.

15.3 Arrangements to continue Unfinished Contest

15.3.1 An "unfinished contest" must be continued to completion not later than **14 days** from the original date of scheduled play.

15.3.2 The team captains, shall, before leaving the courts, arrange date, time and courts for the continuation. Any disagreement shall be referred by each team captain to the convener of the Interclub Committee within **3 days**

Refer 14.4 for final completion date.

15.4 Reporting of Postponed or Unfinished Contests

15.4.1 A result sheet signed by the captains of both teams shall be filed in the normal way. In addition to the exact score at the moment of interruption, the reason for interruption must be clearly stated.

15.4.2 The result sheet for an "unfinished contest" must show either the date, time and courts mutually agreed upon for the continuation of the contest, or a statement of the reasons for the failure to agree.

15.4.3 When an "unfinished contest" has been completed, the result must be recorded as per 2.0.

15.5 Playing an Unfinished Contest

15.5.1 Any uncompleted match shall be continued from the exact score at the time of the interruption, unless the team captains mutually agree to replay the match from love-all.

15.5.2 If any player or pair taking part in an interrupted match is unable to play in the continuation, this match shall be awarded to the opposing team. If both players or pairs are unable to play in the continuation this match shall be declared a draw.

15.5.3 Substitutes shall not be permitted for players unavailable to continue uncompleted matches, but lower ranked substitutes are permitted as replacements for other players unable to play in the continuation of the unfinished contest. Any disputes regarding player eligibility shall be referred to the Interclub Committee within **3 days**.

15.6 Failure to complete an Unfinished Contest

15.6.1 When an "unfinished contest" has not been completed within **14 days** of the original date:

(i) If the reason for its non-completion is the refusal of one team to play, then the contest may be awarded by the Interclub Committee to the other team who must file reasons and result sheet within **48 hours**.

(ii) If the reason for its non-completion is other than the refusal of one team to play AND if one team has achieved the winning lead by matches, sets or games completed, then the contest shall be awarded to that team. The remainder of the contest shall be abandoned and points awarded for completed matches, with incomplete matches declared a draw, ($\frac{1}{2}$ point per team per incomplete match)

16.0 DEFAULTS

- 16.1** In the event that less than two players show up to play on the day of the contest, that contest will be awarded to the opposing team, and the offending team is to pay the default fine.
- 16.2** A fine of \$40 will be made on any team who defaults an interclub contest during the season.
- 16.3** Notwithstanding fines applied under 16.2 where a default occurs the result of which is to effect promotion/relegation of third party teams the Interclub Committee shall have the right to require the playing of the contest, or regrade the defaulting team.
- 16.4** Any club defaulting two successive contests in a grade shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition unless a prompt explanation in writing, acceptable to the Interclub Committee, is received. Withdrawn teams will not be subject to or liable for further default fines.

17.0 DRESS AND BEHAVIOUR

- 17.1** All players shall dress and present themselves for play in approved tennis clothing. Where a club has an "official" club top, players are encouraged to support their clubs and wear the top. None of the following attire may be worn: t-shirts, singlets, dress shirts, gym shorts, bermuda shorts and lycra shorts or any other inappropriate attire.
- 17.2** Appropriate tennis footwear must be worn at all times, this excludes plastic or rubber hard soled, ripple soled or rigid soled shoes or any other shoe that could be damaging to the court surface.
- 17.3** A committee person from Tennis Central or club official has the authority to enforce Rule 17.1 and 17.2 and order players to comply with that rule.
- 17.4** Any player guilty of offensive or insulting behaviour, or any behaviour that distracts or inconveniences other players at the same venue, may, if he/she persists in such behaviour after being warned by a Tennis Central committee person at the Renouf Centre or a club official at a club venue, be suspended from that competition, and his/her team penalised by forfeiture of matches in which he/she has taken part.

18.0 UMPIRING

- 18.1** Except when all players of both teams are playing, each contest shall be umpired, if requested, in accordance with the ITF Rules of Lawn Tennis and these regulations, and each team shall undertake the umpiring of an equal number of matches.

19.0 DISPUTES/APPEALS/PROTESTS

- 19.1** The Interclub Committee shall have full power to control the competition and authority to legislate for and determine all matters not specifically provided for by these regulations. To call for and hear any matter pertaining to the Interclub competition and to reprimand, fine or disqualify any team or player for breach of these regulations.
- 19.2** Any team wishing to protest against its opponent must do so in writing to the Interclub Committee **within 2 days** of the contest being played. The Committee shall respond **within 3 days** of receipt of the protest. Any team objecting to the Committee decision is referred to (19.3) below.

- 19.3** Any club objecting to a decision of the Interclub Committee may appeal to the Committee for reconsideration. This appeal must be received in writing **within 3 days** of advice of the Committee's finding stating why the club opposes this decision. A reconsidered decision shall then be communicated to the club, **within 3 days** of receipt of appeal.
- 19.4** Subject to 19.1, 19.2 and 19.3 a club may make a final appeal to the Tennis Central Appellate Committee. The appeal must be received in writing, include all previous correspondence and to be received **within 3 days** of the reconsidered decision of the Interclub Committee. The Appellate Committee's decision to be communicated **within 3 days** of receipt of the appeal. The Appellate Committee's decision shall then be final.
- 19.5** No fine shall exceed \$40 for each offence.