

## **REDESDALE & DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC.**

Incorporation No. A0016580L

### **Playing Rules**

(September 2013)

1. All rules inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.
2. All members of the Redesdale District Tennis Association (Association) shall play under the laws of the game laid down by Tennis Australia and the current rules of the Association.
3. Prior to the first match of each season, each club shall pay team affiliation fee(s) to the Association.
4. Each club shall pay additional fees as authorised by the Association. The Association Executive shall notify club secretaries, in writing, of said fees and date(s) payable.
5. Fees payable to the Association under rules 3 and/or 4 shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Association by the due date.
6. Failure to pay fees as stated in rules 3 and/or 4 shall result in a loss of 5.5 competition points per team entered by the offending club for each match or bye programmed to be played, whether played, forfeited, or abandoned whilst that club is in breach.
7. Appropriate conduct, tennis attire and footwear must be adhered to for all pennant matches. Failure to adhere to this rule, after a written warning from the Association Executive shall result in loss of points won by the player concerned for each subsequent offence. The player shall be ineligible for Most Consistent Awards.
8. The season details shall be decided at a General Meeting of the Association.
9. At the beginning of each season the Association Grading Committee shall grade all teams. In extraordinary circumstances, the Association Executive has the discretionary power to convene the Grading Committee to negotiate team placements in grades.
10. The competition shall consist of any number of rounds of home and away matches as the Association shall decide.
11. Matches to consist of three mens, three ladies and three mixed doubles sets. Sets to be the first to seven (7) games with a tie break to be played at six (6) all. Sets are to be played concurrently if multiple courts are available. Matches shall be decided on the games won. In the event of equal games, the match shall be decided by sets won. One (1) point is allocated for each set won, and two (2) points for the winning team.
12. Teams shall consist of three ladies and three men or such other members as decided at a General Meeting. Ladies are permitted to play in the place of men throughout the season, including finals. In the event of a team being short of players it shall be debited with twenty-one games for each player short. This shall not apply to finals matches, where clubs must have full teams or forfeit the match.
13. Each team shall supply new branded balls for each match as specified by the Association. The home team shall supply a score sheet.
14. Captains exchange list of players before the specified starting time. Such lists to name gents' and ladies' doubles. Before the start of the mixed doubles, the captains shall fill in the pairs for the mixed doubles.
15. All Home and Away matches shall commence no later than 1.30pm on the days and at the places indicated in the current season draw.
16. Each team must have at least two men and two ladies present prior to the specified commencement time. The penalty for late starting shall be the loss of one set for every 15 minutes that lapse after the specified commencement time. Start time to be recorded on the score sheet.
17. The captain of the winning team shall forward the completed score sheet to the Statistician to be received no later than the Thursday following the match. Failure to ensure that the score sheet reaches the Statistician by the Thursday

- following the match shall result in loss of the winning teams points. The losing team however will be credited with their points.
18. In an abandoned match, one (1) point to be awarded for each completed set. Remaining points to be shared by both teams, unless a decision has been reached, in which case the winning team receives the two (2) points. Any remaining set points shall be shared equally. Where no sets are completed each team to receive 5.5 points.
  19. A forfeit match shall be considered to have been won by the maximum games to nil. Teams with a bye will receive 5.5 points.
  20. In the event of a team forfeiting a match to another team, the latter team shall notify the relevant grade Statistician of the names of the players they intended playing in such match, in writing by Thursday after such match was to have been played, and to regard such players as having played in a match. In the event of a match or round being abandoned, all teams shall forward a score sheet listing players who were scheduled to play.
  21. The finals system shall be determined by the Association Executive with preference to be given to the Paige system.
  22. All finals matches shall be played at a time, place and date specified by the Association Executive, preferably on neutral courts.
  23. In the event of any finals matches being incomplete and no result evident on the day of their commencement, the matches shall be replayed on the following Saturday or earlier by mutual agreement.
  24. A referee shall be appointed by the Association Executive for all finals matches. The referee will have the authority to organise umpires and lines persons on request from the participating teams. They will also adjudicate on playing rules and conditions during finals matches.
  25. The Association shall provide balls for all finals matches (excluding juniors).
  26. All clubs must have a first aid kit and thermometer available at match venue(s).
  27. Conditions for delaying play or abandoning matches for player health or safety are;
    - Wet weather,
    - Electrical storms,
    - Fire and/or Smoke,
    - Ambient temperatures of 36 degrees C or greater as measured with a dry bulb thermometer outside in the shade at match venue.

Delaying play or abandoning a match shall be by mutual agreement between team captains. As a guide for abandoning matches, team captains are to use a completion time of 7.00pm for matches interrupted by heat, fire, wet weather or electrical storms.

The Association Executive reserves the right to abandon all matches in a round in the interest of players health or safety, not prior to 10am on the day of said round.
  28. In the event that team members are required to attend a Public Emergency and are unable to commence or complete the match, and if suitable replacements cannot be found the match may be abandoned as per rule 18.
  29. If a player sustains an injury during the course of finals and/or a home and away match, an eligible replacement player may play in any remaining sets excluding any set already commenced.
  30. No player shall be eligible to play in any final unless they have played at least five (5) home and away matches with the club or three (3) matches with the team. For ladies to be eligible to play in the place of men in finals, they must have played at least three (3) home and away matches with the team as a man.
  31. Once a player has played five (5) matches in any higher grade that player will be ineligible to play in lower grade matches including finals.
  32. When a club enters more than one team in the same grade, no player shall be interchangeable in that grade after that player has played five (5) matches with a team in the grade.

33. Once a player has played with a club, they are ineligible to play with any other club in this Association for the remainder of that season without the permission of both clubs.
34. Where a player plays more than two (2) matches with a club after teams have been submitted to the Grading Committee, and permission has not been granted by the Grading Committee, all games played by the ineligible player will be forfeited.
35. Disputes in relation to rules as stated under Association Rule 2, must be lodged in writing to the Secretary of the Association within four (4) days of the infringement.
36. A Member of the Association Executive will set time, date and location of Tribunal hearings. And appoint chairperson and tribunal members.
37. Disputes shall be dealt with by the Association Tribunal:
  - within 21 days (ordinary Home and Away matches);
  - prior to commencement of the next final match (ordinary Home and Away matches that may affect finals and Finals matches).
38. At the Association General Meeting, prior to the start of the season, each club will nominate a member to be available to adjudicate at the Tribunal. The Tribunal shall consist of 3 Neutral club delegates. Decisions at the Tribunal will be deemed ratified by ballot passed in the majority. The Executive will give written notice of Tribunal decisions to the club lodging the protest.
39. If either the third or fourth placed teams forfeits the first week of the finals, they need to give notice to the Secretary of the Association by the Wednesday before the match. Then the next eligible team will be given an opportunity, if able to field a team, to play in that final
40. To be eligible for the Most Consistent Player Award, a player needs to have played at least half of the available home and away matches plus one. (For example, where there are 16 home and away matches in a season, the player needs to have played at least 9.)
 

Ladies who have played as men, need to qualify in either the ladies' or mens' section. There is no aggregation of the results.
41. If a player is named on the team sheet in a forfeited match, they do not receive any points towards the Most Consistent Player Award, but the match does count towards being eligible for the finals and for the Most Consistent Player Award.

**With and subject to any alteration that may be made from time to time the foregoing rules shall govern the Association. The Association and Club Secretaries must receive any proposed alteration in writing fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting before any such alternation can be made.**