

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 summarized below. Any matter not specifically covered in these Rules shall be resolved by the Committee [or any appointed Delegate(s)], 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 (www.itftennis.com/abouttheitf/rulesregs/rules.asp).
PLAYING TIME	Play commences at 6 p.m. [Wednesday Evening (Pairs)], 7 p.m. [Monday Night (Mixed), Monday Summer (Mixed), Tuesday Night Mixed, Tuesday Night Special & Tuesday Summer (Pairs)] or 7:30 p.m. [Wednesday Night (Threes) and Wednesday Summer (Threes)] and stops at 7:30 p.m. [Wednesday Evening (Pairs)], 9 p.m. [Monday Summer (Mixed) & Tuesday Summer (Pairs)] or 10:30 p.m. [Monday Night (Mixed), Tuesday Night Mixed, Tuesday Night Special, Wednesday Summer (Threes) & Wednesday Night (Threes)], 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. 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.
LATE START	Teams can be penalized for being late. If a team is not ready to play at the designated starting time, the opposition <u>may</u> claim the 1 st set after 5 minutes. Other sets can be claimed 15 minutes after a forfeited set (up to and including the 4 th 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. Note: 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 and 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. Note: 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>Monday Night (Mixed):</i> 4 players only (2 men & 2 women, although 1 woman may substitute for a man) <i>Monday Summer (Mixed):</i> 3 players only (2 men & 1 woman, although 1 woman may substitute for a man) <i>Tuesday Night Mixed:</i> 5 players only (3 men & 2 women, although 1 woman may substitute for a man) <i>Tuesday Night Special:</i> 3 players only (any gender) <i>Tuesday Summer (Pairs):</i> 2 players only (any gender) <i>Wednesday Evening (Pairs):</i> 2 players only (any gender) <i>Wednesday Night (Threes):</i> 3 players only (any gender) <i>Wednesday Summer (Threes):</i> 3 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.

Note: If a team in the Wednesday Night (Threes) was a player short, the match would not be a forfeit as it would be possible to draw the match by winning the 3 sets that could be played 6/0. If a team in the Wednesday Evening (Pairs) was a player short, the match would be a forfeit as only 1 of the 3 sets could be played.

MATCH FORMAT

A match consists of 3 sets [Wednesday Evening (Pairs)], 3 ‘pro’ sets [Monday Summer (Mixed), 4 sets [Tuesday Summer (Pairs)], 6 sets [Tuesday Night Special & Wednesday Night (Threes)] or 8 sets [Monday Night (Mixed) & Tuesday Night Mixed]. Refer to the specific competition Draw for the detailed playing format and playing order.

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.

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 2 [Wednesday Evening (Pairs) & Monday Summer (Mixed)], 3 [Tuesday Summer (Pairs)], 4 [Tuesday Night Special & Wednesday Night (Threes)] or 6 [Monday Night (Mixed) & Tuesday Night 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 all remaining games and sets).

ENDS & SERVE

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:

- (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
- (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
- (iii) to require their opponents to make one of the above choices.

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.

Note: There is a variation on this rule for the Monday Night (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).

HIT-UPS & BREAKS

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.

SETS

A set is won by the player/pair first to win 6 games. A Tie-Break is played to decide any set where the score reaches 5-all. A ‘pro’ set is won by the player/pair first to win 8 games with a Tie-Break played if the score reaches 7-all.

TIE BREAK

At 5-all in a set (or at 7-all in a ‘pro’ set), 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 player/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(s).

DEUCE

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(s).

UMPIRING

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 Pairs competitions, players must call their own lines in the Doubles set. In sets played without umpires, the players are required to call their own lines. 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.

FILL-IN PLAYERS

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:

- (i) from a team in the same grade or a lower grade in the SAME competition; and/or
- (ii) from players of a suitable standard not registered in the SAME competition (this is an emergency player).

Details about fill-in players must be written on the back of the result card (i.e. first name, surname and fixture teams & grades where applicable) and must be clearly identified as a fill-in from the same competition or an emergency player. Sets played by fill-ins not so identified on the back of the result card may be forfeited.

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 and may not play again in the higher grade team unless transfer to this team is approved by the Committee.

Teams are able to use up to four emergency players for free but thereafter a \$5 emergency player fee applies for each player per 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 Finals). Emergency players are not covered by Tennis Queensland's Sports Injury Insurance unless they pay the Tennis Queensland Player Registration Fee of \$30 to the BNTA or have paid this fee elsewhere.

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.

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 and Tennis Queensland Registration Fee to play a fourth time in that competition).

Note: A team in the Monday Night (Mixed) 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 Monday Night (Mixed) competition. However, if the Monday team wanted to use a fill-in from a Wednesday Night team, approval would be needed as the player is an emergency player for the Monday 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 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 Finals).

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.

FORFEITS

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 remainder of the competition.

If a team using an outdoor court forfeits, the forfeit shall be cancelled if all other outdoor 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 at that particular court 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 (or notifying the Results Officer).

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 Finals when a 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 Night (Pairs), Monday Summer (Mixed) & Tuesday Summer (Pairs)] or 3 points [Wednesday Night (Pairs), Monday Summer (Mixed) & Tuesday Summer (Pairs)].

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 retained and 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, the match result and details of any fill-in players.

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 [all competitions except Wednesday Evening (Pairs), Monday Summer (Mixed) & Tuesday Summer (Pairs)] or 4 points [Wednesday Evening (Pairs), Monday Summer (Mixed) & Tuesday Summer (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.

