

Senior Interclub Rules 2019/2020

(Note: Chelsea Cup has a separate set of rules)

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1 MEANINGS

In these rules:

- a) **Contest** means the total matches between one team and another.
- b) **Match** means one individual singles, doubles or mixed doubles.
- c) **TNR** shall mean Tennis Northern Region Incorporated.
- d) **Interclub Committee** means those persons ratified by the TNR board.
- e) **Words importing one gender** shall include the other gender and words importing the singular or plural numbers shall include the plural or singular numbers as the case may be or as the context shall require.
- f) **Interclub coordinator** shall be a person or persons appointed by the TNR management.
- g) **Interclub Panel** is a panel appointed by the Interclub Committee to make quick decisions on interclub matters that do not require the formal meeting of the full Interclub Committee.

2 INTERCLUB COMMITTEE

The Interclub Committee manages Interclub, under delegated authority from the TNR board, with the following powers:

- a) To arrange and control all Interclub competitions and rules.
- b) To interpret these rules.
- c) To decide any matters arising not covered by these rules.
- d) To disqualify, in its discretion, any club or player for any breach of these rules or to impose any penalty.
- e) To order, in its discretion, any contest or match to be replayed.
- f) To re-grade or decline any entry.

3 ALTERATIONS

- a) These rules supersede all previous Interclub Rules. All previous rules are to be disregarded whether or not they are directly covered in these rules.
- b) The Interclub Committee shall undertake a review of the Interclub Rules each season. The review shall include consultation with clubs.

4 COMPETITIONS

- a) **CHELSEA CUP (CC)**

This competition has its own set of rules. CC players may play in Grade 1 Singles and Grade 1 Doubles in certain circumstances as detailed in **Rule 9c**).

b) **SINGLES GRADES**

Men's and Women's singles grades. These grades are made up of 4 players that play on an evening from Monday to Thursday. Evening matches are generally played at the Forrest Hill and Albany Tennis centres although club courts are also used.

c) **DOUBLES GRADES - MIXED**

Each team consists of 4 men and 4 women. Teams play on a Saturday afternoon on club courts.

d) **DOUBLES GRADES - MEN'S/WOMEN'S**

Each team consists of 4 players, either 4 men or 4 women. Teams play on Thursday evenings.

e) **WINTER INTERCLUB**

Winter and other interclub Grades and sections as decided by TNR.

5 ENTRIES

- a) Ranking points will be calculated for each team from the Match Hub points of the top 4 players in singles grades and the top 4 men and top 4 women in the doubles grades. Points will be as at 31 August prior to the start of the season.
- b) The composition of grades will be decided by the calculated average Match Hub ranking points.
- c) In determining the final composition of the grades, promotion based on the previous season's results will be taken into account.
- d) Clubs may apply to the Interclub Committee to have a player's Match Hub points reviewed. Applications must include sufficient evidence to justify an amendment. Only amendments greater than 300 points (a band) will be considered.
- e) Applications can be made by a combination of 2 clubs to field a combined team. Eligible reserves can be drawn from both clubs.

6 MAKE UP OF GRADES

The singles and doubles grades shall be composed of a maximum number of teams as determined by the Interclub Committee with not more than three teams from any one Club, per grade.

7 TEAM LISTS

- a) Clubs shall each season submit separate Singles and Doubles team lists to the TNR office by the date notified.
- b) The list must include all regular men and women players for each team entered. If a player is going to play singles and doubles regularly they must be on both singles and doubles team lists. Players may appear in a different order on the two lists.
- c) Players **must be ranked in order of merit** for the teams they play for. Clubs may use Match Hub to do this but it is **not** a requirement.
- d) On the Singles Team List each team must contain at least 4 designated singles players. On the Doubles Grading List each team must contain at least 4 men and 4 women as designated doubles players. Clubs may designate more players for singles and doubles teams if they wish however only the top four player's Match Hub points on each list will be used for team Match Hub points. One of the players must be named as captain and that person's telephone numbers and email address included on the team list.
- e) If a Club has more than one team in the same grade, players must be allocated to a specific team.
- f) Listed players may play out of their team SIX times in a season for singles, SIX times for midweek doubles and SIX times for weekend doubles provided they have a Match Hub ranking for the relevant competition. Players who play a seventh and subsequent time without prior permission from the Interclub Committee will default that match and all subsequent matches played as a reserve. If the player becomes listed in a new team then they may no longer reserve for any other team including the team they were originally listed in.

Explanatory note:

- This rule means a player can reserve up or down grades so long as their Match Hub ranking at the time qualifies them to do so under the Reserve Band set for that grade.
- Where a club has more than one team in the same grade, players may reserve for their other club teams, as long as they meet the reserve band requirement for that grade.
- g) Any club members may reserve for any club team provided they have a Match Hub

ranking for the relevant competition (i.e. doubles or singles). A Match Hub reserve band will be set for each grade at the start of the season and reserves cannot play for teams, at any time throughout the season, where their Match Hub grading/ranking is greater than the band set e.g. a D5 player may not reserve for a team with a D6 designation or lower.

The Match Hub grading/ranking that applies is that recorded at the time the reserve plays. Ensure the Match Hub ranking of the reserve is checked the day before the match. A reserve can only play a maximum of 6 times in singles, 6 times in midweek doubles and 6 times in weekend doubles. Reserves that play a seventh and subsequent time without prior permission from the Interclub Committee will be defaulted. It is suggested that clubs ensure all likely reserves have a Match Hub ranking.

h) For singles competition it is the singles Match Hub ranking that applies to the reserve band requirement. For doubles only competition, it is the doubles Match Hub ranking that applies to the reserve band requirement.

NOTES:

1. It is the responsibility of clubs, not TNR, to monitor the number of times reserves play and that their Match Hub ranking is within the reserve band required for the grade they are reserving for.
 2. It is the Match Hub grading/ranking at the time the reserve is playing that should be used in determining eligibility.
- i) A club member may be added to a team list during the season by notifying TNR, however they cannot be added to a team which has a band set below the member's Match Hub band at the date of application/date of match. For example a D5 ranked player may not be added to a team with a D6 designation or lower as per g) above.

8 REGRADE APPLICATIONS

- a) A Club may make applications, **through their Club Captain or approved Interclub person**, to the Interclub Panel before 31 October to alter the playing order of a player on the team list. Such applications should be sent to the TNR office at least 5 working days before the player is due to play and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances with the club providing substantiated reasons for the application. Clubs should not consider their application to be successful until they have had confirmation from the TNR office.
- b) Between 24 December and 15 January Clubs may alter the ranking of their players by submitting to the TNR office a new Team List to apply for the remainder of the interclub season.

NOTE: This re-ranking applies to the team list only. It does not allow players to change teams.

9 PLAYERS PLAYING IN SINGLES AND DOUBLES

- a) Singles and Weekend Doubles and Weekday Doubles are considered separate competitions and players may be nominated to play permanently in a singles and a weekend doubles and a weekday doubles team. There are no cross grade restrictions.
- b) Players may play singles and doubles for different clubs. If a player plays for two clubs they may only reserve up for the respective clubs in the competition they represent that club in. (i.e. they may only play up in singles for the club they play singles for and likewise for doubles). This applies to regular listed players only.
- Special note: This rule is designed to increase the opportunities for enthusiastic players to play more tennis. The Interclub Committee will not allow clubs to use this rule to gain an unfair advantage in lower grades.
- c) Chelsea Cup (CC) players will be entitled to play CC and in the club's Grade 1 Singles and Grade 1 Doubles as long as their Match Hub singles ranking is **S2** or lower. Nominations for all CC players playing in these grades must be made by 31 October and no further nominations will be accepted.

10 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- a) Interclub teams can only be entered in the Tennis Northern interclub competitions by clubs affiliated to Tennis Northern.
- b) Players listed or reserving in teams must be a member of a tennis club affiliated to Tennis New Zealand. They do not have to be a member of the club they are playing for.
- c) Players can only play or reserve for one club in each competition i.e. only play for one club in the singles competition, one club in the doubles competition and one club in the mixed double competition. They may be different clubs in each competition or they may play for the same club.
- d) Juniors must be 16 years of age at the start of the season, October 1st, in order to play senior interclub. Clubs wanting a junior (under the age of 16) to be listed in teams must

apply to the Interclub Panel for dispensation. Only juniors who have played and won consistently in the junior premier grades will be considered and they must continue playing in junior grades for as long as they are eligible. However, juniors aged 14 and 15 are eligible to reserve 6 times only in the season (singles and doubles combined) without dispensation requirements imposed. There is a junior dispensation application form available to download from TNR website www.tennisnorthern.kiwi.

e) If a club informs TNR that a player is unfinancial from the previous season that player will not be eligible to play interclub until the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Interclub Committee.

11 CONTESTS

a) Night singles are scheduled to commence at 6pm and weekend contests at 1.00pm. Note that some weekend contests may be delayed until 1.30pm due to junior interclub requirements. In this event the weekend teams must allow the junior team use of the courts until 1.30pm. Team Captains should be aware of varying floodlight shut-off times which may vary between club and TNR venues and with changes to daylight saving.

b) Team Captains should be aware of varying floodlight shut-off times which may vary between club and TNR venues and with changes to daylight saving. For night matches at club courts, the home club should make both clubs aware of the time their floodlights switch off and both teams should agree prior to starting a match that, if necessary, either play a shorter match or reschedule to complete the rest of the match on another day agreed by both teams. If an agreement cannot be reached, then whoever was leading at the time of the lights going out, will be deemed the winner of that contest. **If no one was leading when the lights go out, then it's a countback on games. If there is still no agreement or it's a true tie or can't agree to reschedule then results will show as is and points are split, or the match is abandoned and no points awarded for the unfinished match.**

c) The captain of each team must supply the opposing team captain with a list of players (including first name and last name) in playing order before the start time. The team sheet must be fully filled out prior to the match commencing and may not be amended, once play has commenced.

d) Unless agreed between the captains beforehand the first matches to play at starting times are:

Singles on 3 courts - 1&2 play singles, 3&4 play doubles. **Singles on 2 courts** - No.1 plays singles, 3 & 4 play doubles.

Doubles on 3 courts - the top men & women combinations and either the bottom men or the women combinations.

Doubles on 4 courts – 2 Mens doubles and 2 Womens

e) Any team which does not have sufficient players (75% of the team) 30 minutes after the start time may be liable to default.

f) Clubs shall have available on the day set down for the contest a minimum of 2 courts per singles contest and 3 for doubles, in good order and condition.

g) Weekend Doubles contests shall consist of 2 men's doubles, 2 women's doubles and 4 mixed doubles. Matches shall be decided by the best of two 7 point tiebreaker sets with a ten point 3rd set super tiebreaker if required. A 3rd set tiebreaker should be shown on Match Hub as a 1-0 result.

h) Weekend doubles teams may elect to play a full normal 7 point tiebreaker 3rd set instead of a 10 point super tiebreaker. This can only be done with the agreement of both pairs and must be decided before the commencement of the super tiebreaker. If any player in the 2 pairs does not agree then the 3rd set will continue as per rule 11g).

i) Midweek singles matches will consist of four singles and two doubles. Singles matches shall be decided by the best of three 7 point tiebreaker sets with the tiebreaker at 6 all. Doubles matches shall be decided by the best of two 7 point tiebreaker sets, with a ten point 3rd set super tiebreaker if required.

j) Midweek Men's and Women's Doubles matches will consist of four doubles matches. Matches shall be the best of two 7 point tiebreaker sets, with a ten point 3rd set super tiebreaker if required.

12 PLAYING ORDER

a) In singles grade contests the highest team listed player on the night must play number 1 singles. Other players may play singles in any order. In the event that no permanent team listed players are available teams may play in any order. For the doubles the players must play based on the singles order listed on the night 1&2 v 1&2, 3&4 v 3&4.

b) In doubles grade contests the highest team listed man and woman on the day must play in the number one men's and women's doubles matches. The players from the top 2 men's and women's doubles combinations on the day must make up the top 2 mixed doubles combinations. (i.e. can either be 1&1, 1&2, 2&1 or 2&2).

c) In midweek doubles grade contests the playing order can be any pairing but they must stay together for both matches.

d) In singles grade contests teams may substitute one player for the doubles. The substitute player must be included on the starting team list prior to the commencement of play as per Rule 11c). If the substitute is the highest listed in the team for that contest, they must play in the top doubles and one of the top 2 players left out. If the substitute is not the highest listed player they may substitute directly for any player but all other players remain in the doubles pair originally set by the singles playing order.

e) In doubles grade contests teams may substitute one man and one woman for the mixed doubles. They must be included on the starting team list prior to the commencement of play as per Rule 11c). If the substitute is the highest listed player in the team for that contest, they must substitute into one of the top 2 pairs and one player from the top 2 pairs must drop out. In midweek doubles grade contests teams may substitute one player for one of the reverse doubles match. The substitute player must be included on the team playing list prior to the commencement of play as per Rule 11c).

f) In matches where the incorrect playing order is used, the match or matches affected will be defaulted and the points awarded to the opposition. The results are still recorded for ranking purposes.

Special Note: It is the order as per the entered team lists and not Match Hub Rankings for both Singles and Doubles.

13 POINTS

Points shall be awarded in each contest as follows:

a) Each team shall receive one point for each match it wins. The team winning the greater number of matches shall receive 2 bonus points.

b) Should the teams win an equal number of matches the winning team is the team which won more sets or if sets are equal won more games. If matches, sets and games are equal both teams will be awarded 1 bonus point.

Notes: In these calculations any match won by default will be:

i) If Player A does not take the court, Player B wins the match 6-0, 6-0. When a match in progress is defaulted by Player A, Player B receives all remaining sets and games.

ii) A 3rd set super tiebreaker is counted as a set when a set count back is required. If sets are even and a count back of games is required then the super tiebreaker is counted as a game. This means the super tiebreaker could potentially have 2 values.

14 RESULTS

a) Team captains will have a handbook in which they should record the contest results and have them signed off by the opposing captain. The books will be used by the Interclub Committee if it needs to resolve any disputes.

b) The winning captain, or team member (see 14d) of any contest must enter the results in Match Hub on the TNR website within 48 hours of the contest being completed. Match results older than 4 weeks may be excluded from counting for grading points in the Match Hub Rankings System.

c) The losing captain should check the Match Hub entries. If there is a disagreement the losing captain should first contact the winning captain to resolve the matter. If Match Hub needs to be adjusted the winning captain should email the TNR office ASAP to arrange it.

d) Any team member can record a result providing that they are listed as a result recorder for that team and their email address is correct on the Match Hub system. To record a result players must enter their Match Hub player code into the 'Capture Results' section of the TNR website and request a password. The password will be automatically emailed to the listed email address for the player to record team results.

e) Match results older than 4 weeks cannot be entered in the Match Hub system.

15 GRADE WINNERS

a) The grade winner, except for grades designated by the Interclub Committee (see b) below), shall be the team which has accumulated the most points during the season. If two or more teams are equal on points at the end of the season a count back will be made to determine the winner, firstly of contests won and if these are equal of matches won and

if these are equal of sets won and if these are equal of games won over the entire season. If points, contests, matches, sets and games are equal a playoff shall take place between 3 permanent mixed doubles pairs for doubles and 3 permanent players for singles in each team. The playoff shall be a super tiebreaker. The team winning 2 super tiebreakers shall be the winner. The same count back and playoff system shall be used to determine any other positions for promotion and relegation.

b) TNR try their best to avoid the use of play-off rounds where possible. Where team numbers dictate the necessity to have grades with play-offs, we will use accumulative point's systems rather than semi and finals format. The format will be advised at the top of the draw at the start of each season. If necessary, the same count back and play off system in a) shall be used to determine a winner.

16 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

a) Grade 1 singles to Chelsea Cup. The first eligible team in the top 3 of grade one singles will automatically be promoted to the Chelsea Cup for the next season and the last placed Chelsea Cup team automatically relegated. An eligible team is one whose club does not already have a team in the Chelsea Cup. If there isn't an eligible team in the top 3 in grade one then the next eligible team in that grade will play a promotion and relegation match against the bottom placed Chelsea Cup team.

b) Other Grades: The highest placed team in each grade will be offered promotion to the next grade up in the following season regardless of Match Hub ranking points, provided that they are substantially the same team that won the grade. It is expected that the winning team will usually be promoted on the basis of their Match Hub ranking points but occasionally this may not happen. If a team is promoted this way they will replace the lowest ranked team in the next grade as per the Match Hub ranking points list.

17 WEATHER

a) Contests may only be postponed due to inclement weather by agreement of both team captains. Contests may NOT be postponed until at least 1 hour after the scheduled start time i.e. 2pm for mixed doubles, 7pm for singles and 8pm for men's and women's doubles. Teams must always turn up for contests and play as many matches as possible as weather conditions in Auckland change very quickly. This particularly applies to matches on artificial grass.

b) Any outstanding contests must be completed within **4 weeks** of the original scheduled contest date. Unfinished matches in a contest shall be continued from the last point score when the match was halted. This applies whether play recommenced on the same day or on another day. Rescheduling of the contest is to be agreed between the two team captains. **If play had already commenced, then the same players listed must complete that contest.**

c) If the outstanding contest is not played within **4 weeks** of the original contest date then the contest is abandoned and NO points will be awarded to either team. If the contest was partially completed then points for the completed matches will be awarded and NO points awarded for the unplayed matches. Bonus points will not be allocated for partially completed contests.

d) TNR will assist clubs to find courts if requested but the rescheduling of the contest is the sole responsibility of the team captains.

18 RESERVES

a) If for any reason a player in a team is unable to play, a reserve (being a player qualified to play in that team according to the rules 7g) may be played.

b) A reserve shall not play in the place of a player who has played or commenced to play in a match.

c) Any club member may play a maximum of 6 times as a reserve for singles, 6 times for midweek doubles and 6 times for weekend doubles, provided they have a Match Hub ranking for the relevant competition. Players who play a seventh and subsequent time without prior permission from the Interclub Committee will be defaulted. Refer to rules 7f & 7g.

d) Juniors aged 14 and 15 are eligible to reserve a maximum of 6 times for both singles and doubles. No dispensation requirements are imposed. Juniors under 14 must apply for dispensation to reserve in senior interclub.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of clubs, not TNR, to monitor the number of times reserves play.

19 BALLS

- a) All teams shall provide two pairs of new top grade canned balls of the brand adopted by TNR.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FIXTURES

- a) In the event of a contest clashing with a TNR/TNZ Representative Match or a TNR/TNZ controlled fixture, any team having two or more players in the Representative Team shall, if they so desire, have the Interclub Contest postponed. Notice to this effect must be given to the Interclub Committee one week prior to the date set down for the contest.
- b) Where a player has been selected in a TNR/TNZ Senior or Junior Representative Team or a TNR/TNZ controlled fixture and has declined selection for any reason, then that player cannot take part in Interclub matches on the date set down for such Representative match, and a substitute must be played by the Club concerned.

21 DEFAULTS

- a) Each time a team loses a contest wholly by default it will have to pay the standard default fee of \$50. If a team defaults a third time it will lose all competition points for the season. The default fee will normally be invoiced to the club within 2 weeks of each default notified. A default is not recorded as long as a team fields at least 75% of its players.
- b) All claims for defaults must be lodged with the TNR office within three days of the contest on the official complaint form.(available to download from TNR website www.tennishorthern.kiwi) The Interclub Panel will then contact the clubs concerned and after giving full consideration to the facts decide whether the default will be awarded or the contest be replayed.
- c) Teams that win a contest by default will receive points for that contest equal to the average of the points they have accumulated in the other contests they played over the season. These points will be awarded upon completion of their final match of the season.

22 CLOTHING

In all matches players must wear clothing and shoes specifically designed for tennis.

23 PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

- a) Players must conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the game of tennis during all matches. The Tennis New Zealand Player Code of Conduct and Tennis New Zealand Self Umpiring Code shall apply to all interclub contests. These codes form part of these rules.
- b) Players guilty of verbal or physical misconduct shall be liable to default.
- c) Reports of misconduct must be made by Clubs through their club captain or approved interclub person in writing or by email to the TNR office within 7 days of the alleged offence. The Interclub Committee shall have the power to default a player if it thinks fit.

SELF UMPIRING CODE

Rules for interclub contests played without umpires:

- All calls on your side of the net are your responsibility. That is you cannot ask an opponent for a let because you do not agree with their call. If you have any doubt as to whether a ball is out or good you must give your opponent the benefit of the doubt and play the ball as good. You should not play a let.
- Any "out" call must be made instantaneously, that is made before either an opponent has hit the return or the return has gone out of play, otherwise the ball continues in play. The call should be made both verbally and by using a hand signal.
- Important: Do not enlist the aid of spectators in making calls
- If a player incorrectly calls a ball out, then realises the ball was good, the player who called the ball "out" loses the point.
- To avoid controversy over the score, the server should announce the set score (e.g. 5-4) before starting a game and the game score (e.g. 30-40) prior to serving each point. If players cannot agree on the score they must come to a mutual agreement over the last point and score they remember and replay all points thereafter.
- Be courteous to your opponent, do not stall, sulk, complain or practice gamesmanship.
- If the players cannot settle a dispute the team captains should be consulted and the dispute resolved.
- It is the responsibility of team captains to ensure their players behave appropriately on court and that the game is played to the rules and in the spirit that is intended.

24 COMPLAINTS AND RIGHT OF APPEAL

- a) Complaints or reports on breaches of these rules are to be made by Clubs (Club Captain, President or approved Interclub club contact person), in writing or by email, to the TNR office, within 7 days of the alleged breach. There is an official complaint form available to download from TNR website www.tennisnorthern.kiwi. All complaints or reports must include club name, team name, grade and competition, opposing club name, date, players' full names and a clear description of the nature of the complaint. Where the complaint may affect the outcome of the contest, a copy of the result sheet for that contest must be attached.
- b) The Interclub Panel will consider the complaint in the first instance and make a ruling.
- c) Clubs have a right of appeal to the Judiciary arm of the Interclub Committee if they disagree with a ruling made by the Interclub Panel. The appeal fee of \$200 is payable at the time of lodging the appeal. The appeal fee of \$200 will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- d) Clubs have a right of appeal to the Interclub Committee decisions under Rule 16 of the TNR constitution. This rule is titled "Discipline, Disputes and Appeals" and outlines the procedures for such appeals.
- e) If the Interclub Committee rules that disciplinary action is necessary the following procedure will usually be followed:
- First complaint- the player concerned receives an official warning. This will be sent to the player's club captain by TNR.
 - Second complaint- the player concerned will be stood down from the next interclub match after the ruling. Confirmation of the suspension will be sent to the player's club captain and team captain by TNR.
 - Third complaint- the player concerned will be suspended for the season. Confirmation of this will be sent to the player's club captain and team captain by TNR.
 - After each complaint it is expected that clubs will take their own disciplinary action to ensure that appropriate behaviour is displayed by club members.