

TNR JUNIOR INTERCLUB RULES & GUIDELINES 2021/22

The Purpose of TNR Junior Interclub is to provide a platform for competitive and social juniors, that facilitates game development and delivers a positive experience, which will keep juniors playing into adulthood.

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1 TEAM SUBMISSION DEADLINES

- Teams should be entered online no later than Sunday 3rd October 2021. No late entries accepted.
All teams are entered automatically into the Post-Christmas competition unless notified.
- For clubs wishing to enter a NEW team in the post-Christmas competition, it should be submitted by email to TNR no later than 31 December. This gives coaches the opportunity to prepare inexperienced players for interclub.

2 AGE GROUPS

A player must be a member of a tennis club affiliated to TennisNZ and must play in his/her own age group based on his/her age as at 30th April 2022 i.e. If a player turns 13 years old on or before **30th April 2022** he/she cannot play 11-12 year grades.

Only 25% of the team (e.g. 1 player in a team of 4) may play up an age group with prior approval from the Interclub Committee. Players who do play up an age group do not qualify to reserve down.

There are four 'age-group' based competitions (9-10 years, 11-12 years, 13-15 years, 16-18 years) and one premier competition (11+) that will be based on ability, rather than age, for juniors playing and training regularly (these players must be consistently winning in the top of their age group). A player cannot be listed in both an age group and a premier team.

All grade (except Premier) teams are made up of a minimum of four players. Premier grade teams are made up of a minimum of two players.

9-10 year teams may be composed of a combination of both boys and girls. All other age groups are separated by gender.

3 MANAGERS

All teams must have a nominated Team Manager.

Manager contact details, including name, email address, phone number & mobile phone number, must be included in the online team submission at the time of entering the Interclub Teams. Teams may be withdrawn by TNR prior to the draw without this information.

Mobile and home telephone numbers MUST appear on the interclub draws so matches can be rescheduled in the event of last-minute cancellation.

Please double check your start time and venue on the interclub draws the night before a match as matches may have to be rescheduled at anytime due to unforeseen reasons.

For tips on how to be 'the perfect team manager' please check out the poster at your club or on our website www.tennisnorthern.co.nz.

4 MATCH COMPLETION

Team Managers should work together to ensure matches finish within the set time. Look at ways in which you can encourage players to speed up their play; be it serving, retrieving balls, warm-up, changing ends or resolving conflict.

If the match time expires players should complete the game they are playing. The score (at the end of that game) should be recorded, UNLESS the game score is tied. If the score is tied players should play the first to THREE points (with a maximum of five points played), using regular tiebreak serving. This should be recorded as an extra game. **No match should finish as a draw.**

5 ORDER OF PLAY

- **Teams are expected to play in order of ability** to ensure all players have competitive matches, but do not have to be listed as such on the team list. This is to allow players with similar abilities to play in different positions.
- The Manager of each team must list all players, in their playing order for that day, in their interclub booklet, before the first game start.
- One player may be replaced for doubles on the day. The replacement player must play in the same playing position as the player they have replaced. The replacement player must be written on the team sheet at the start of the contest and no alternative/replacement players can be added once the matches have started.
- For doubles the number one & two players and number three & four players **must** play together.
- Teams may agree on their own order of play, however if this cannot be agreed then the number one and three singles will play first, followed by the second and fourth singles, followed by the first and second doubles.
- If only three quarters of the team are available, then you must default your number 4 singles and number 3 & 4 doubles.

6 RESULTS SHEETS

- Please record all match results in the Interclub booklet provided. In the event of any disputes your interclub booklet may be requested by TNR. Failure to complete all result sheets may result in rulings going against your team.
- **Player names should be written in FULL (i.e. Rebecca Smith, not just Rebecca)**, as this will help the winning manager to correctly select opposition players, especially reserves, when entering results online.

7 SERVICE

The choice of service or ends is to be decided by the toss of a coin or the spin of a racquet.

Underarm serve is legal as long as the player doesn't bounce the ball before hitting it. The server does not have to notify the opponent that he/she is going to serve underarm.

8 SPECTATORS

Under no circumstances is the manager, coach or other spectator allowed to make calls as to whether the ball is in or out. Players must **not** enlist the aid of spectators in making calls.

Spectators must stay off-court, outside of fenced court areas.

The call (in or out) can only be made by the player on that side of the net.

If a player is consistently getting calls wrong the team manager of that player should ask him/her at the next change of ends to pay closer attention to their calls. Team managers should be pro-active in ensuring their own players behave appropriately both on and off the court, as they act as ambassadors for your club. Team managers should work together to ensure all players have a fun and fair tennis experience.

No adults or non-playing team members are permitted to umpire a match, only players who are playing in the match can call lines.

Team managers (not other parents) and non-playing team members may assist the players with filling out the score sheet and keeping track of the score. Players may sit in the umpire chairs, but only to assist in keeping score.

Players must use scoreboards whenever available.

Players, especially those in the 10u and 12u grades, should call out the score after every point to help them keep a track of the score. Team Managers should actively encourage players to score out-loud.

Players in the 15u and 18u grades are expected to take greater personal responsibility for their matches and should be able to keep track of their score.

'Out' calls should be made instantaneously (i.e. 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.

If a player incorrectly calls a ball out, then realises that the ball was good, the player who called the ball 'out' loses the point.

9 9-10 year grades (players born between 1st May 2011 and 30th April 2013)

All matches are played on Wednesdays, starting at 4pm.

Grades from A-C or, as dictated by total number of team entries.

Wilson green low compression balls must be used. Reduced pressure balls will create longer rallies with the rationale being the lower bounce keeps the ball within the 'correct hitting area' for a smaller child. I.e. fewer wild overhead swings, aiding the development of correct technique.

Green balls should last for several matches, but may need replacing mid-season if wet or lost. Clubs should have a supply of green low pressure balls if required. These can be purchased from the TNR office.

The use of regular tennis balls is against interclub rules. Teams using them may lose all points for that tie.

Teams should bring one four ball can of green low pressure balls to each interclub match.

Each team is made up of four players.

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All grades singles matches are the first to **SEVEN** games, with a regular tiebreak at six games all.

All doubles matches are the first to **SEVEN** games, with **sudden-death deuce** scoring. This means that at 40-40 the receiving team chooses which side they wish to receive the final serve. The winner of that final point wins the game. A regular tiebreak (to seven points) is played at six games all.

Please be aware that senior ties may start at 6pm so it is important to start these matches quickly upon arrival.

10 11-12 year grades (players born between 1st May 2009 and 30th April 2011)

All matches are played on Saturday mornings.

Grades from A-E or, as dictated by total number of team entries.

For matches starting at 8.00am, please ensure your team arrives at 7.45am, to warm-up. The match should start at 8.00am.

Getting the first matches started on time is essential to staying on schedule for the rest of the day.

If starting at 10.30am please arrive at 10.15am to warm-up. Players are encouraged to warm-up off-court (by jogging, skipping and stretching, just as they would with netball, football or, rugby) to ensure matches are completed within the allotted time.

All matches are the first to **SEVEN** games with a tiebreak to seven points at six games all and normal deuce.

Teams must use good used regular tennis balls with the Wilson or Dunlop brand clearly visible. This equates to one four ball can of good used balls per team per week.

11 13-15 year grades (players born between 1st May 2006 and 30th April 2009)

All matches are played on Saturday late morning or afternoon.

Grades from A-E or, as dictated by total number of team entries.

If starting at 10.30am or 1.00pm please arrive at least 15mins early to warm-up. Players are encouraged to warm-up off-court (by jogging, skipping and stretching, just as they would with netball, football or, rugby) to ensure matches are completed within the allotted time.

All matches are the first to **EIGHT** games, with a regular tiebreak at seven games all and normal deuce.

Teams must use good used regular tennis balls with the Wilson or Dunlop brand clearly visible. This equates to one four ball can of good used balls per team per week.

Matches start at 10.30am and 1.00pm

12 16-18 year grades (players born between 1st May 2003 and 30th April 2006)

All matches are played on Fridays, starting at 5 pm.

Grades from A-E or, as dictated by total number of team entries.

All matches, are the best of, **two regular sets**. A tiebreak (to 7 points) should be played at six games all. At one set all a super tiebreak to ten points will be played to determine the winner.

18A grades must use one pair of new Wilson or Dunlop brand tennis balls for each singles match and best pair for the doubles. This equates to one four ball can of new tennis balls per team per week.

All other 18u grades must use good used balls with the Wilson or Dunlop brand clearly visible. This equates to one four ball can of good used balls per team per week.

All teams should have a recognised team manager in attendance and as a point of contact.

13 PREMIER GRADES

This grade is open to all junior players between the ages of 11 and 18 years old who are consistently winning in the top grades for their age group.

Initial grading is decided by the combined Match Hub Rankings points of the two highest ranked players in each team. TNR reserves the right to amend grade composition as required.

Once all teams have been entered online, TNR will split them into appropriate grades.

All matches are played on Sundays.

Each team will play two singles and one doubles.

A minimum of two players are required each week, but clubs are encouraged to list a minimum of three players to play on rotation and cover illness, injury, school commitments and holidays.

A maximum of three players can play each week, with one player being replaced for the doubles. Team selection, including the doubles pairing should be recorded in the interclub booklet prior to the start of the match.

Teams are expected to play in order of ability.

All singles matches, are the best of, **three regular tiebreak sets**.

All doubles matches, are the best of, two tiebreak sets, with a third set super tiebreak to ten if required.

Round 1 – Singles	10.15am* – 12.30pm	Team A Player 1 v Team B Player 1	Team A Player 2 v Team B Player 2
Round 2 – Doubles	12.15pm – 1.30pm	Team A v Team B	Team C v Team D
Round 3 - Singles	1.30pm – 3.30pm	Team C Player 1 v Team D Player 1	Team C Player 2 v Team D Player 2

*** Warm-up from 10.15am-10.30am. Match must start by 10.30am.**

Teams arriving at 10.15am MUST start with their singles ties, or the rest of the rounds will not be able to start on time.

Teams arriving at 12.15pm should take the first available court they are scheduled on to start their doubles match.

Teams arriving at 12.15pm should let 10.15am singles ties finish in full.

Players have a maximum of ten minutes rest time between their singles and doubles ties.

The first singles match to start in round three should be the second singles, followed by the top singles.

Teams will be re-graded over the Christmas break for the second term of competition.

For singles matches starting at 10.30am, **teams must use one pair of new Wilson or Dunlop tennis balls, for each singles match and the best pair of balls for the doubles.**

For singles matches starting at 1.30pm, teams should provide new Wilson or Dunlop tennis balls, for both singles ties, not using balls from the doubles played earlier.

14 RESERVES

If for any reason a player in a team is unable to play, a reserve may be played. Players can only play for the club they are listed for and may not reserve for another club.

A player cannot play down a grade, but can reserve up - except a player in the lower premier grades (non- Elite), who is eligible to reserve in an age group **A grade** team if he is within the age limit for the grade.

Players from 9-10, 11-12, 13-15 & 16-18 year grades can reserve up into the Premier grades.

A substitute player from a lower grade must play below permanent team members unless their Match Hub Rankings grade is higher than the player they are filling in for at the time the game is played.

Players cannot play out of their regular team more than **three times** in either the pre or post-Christmas competition. That equates to playing up to a maximum of six times across the whole season. Any player who is not listed in a regular team that reserves three or more times for that same team, must then be listed in that team.

If a club has two teams in the same grade one permanently listed player can fill-in for the other team each week (but cannot be the same player each week).

If a reserve cannot be obtained then all singles players must move to the highest positions possible in the team, i.e. 1st, 2nd & 3rd singles and 1st doubles. 4th singles & 2nd doubles will be defaulted.

No 4 person age grade team may play with less than two players. A default of the whole contest is not recorded as long as a team fields at least 50% of its players. Premier teams must have two players present.

Players cannot reserve out of their age group for a team if that team has less than 75% of its players outside the age requirement (see rule 2) and they may only reserve up one age group

15 GRADE FORMATS

- Please note – Grades with an even number of teams could have a ‘bye round’ during the season. This is simply due to the number of regional, club and school courts available.
- **8 Teams in grade** – Seven-week round-robin draw. Team with most points wins grade. If points are tied the grade winner will be decided by the head to head result between those teams.
- **7 teams in grade** – As per 8 teams, with a bye round.
- **6 teams in grade – playoff system shall be used to determine any other positions for promotion and relegation** **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 points 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 TNR assess that a team has brought in a higher ranked player than usually used, as a reserve for the final rounds to enhance their side, without prior approval from the interclub committee, this team may forfeit points. All teams will play seven matches.**
- **5 teams in grade – This format will be avoided wherever possible, playoff format will be determined by competition administrators**
- **4 teams in grade - This format will be avoided wherever possible, teams to play each other twice in round-robin format.**

16 POINTS & GRADE WINNERS

Premier grades - one point for each match won. The team winning the greater number of matches shall receive 1 bonus point.

All other grades – one point for each match won. The team winning the greater number of matches shall receive 1 bonus point. 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 neither teams will be awarded the bonus point.

Partially completed matches do not earn a bonus point.

1. If player A does not take the court, Player B wins the match 6-0,6-0 (16-18 years) / 8-0 (13-15 years) / 7-0 (11-12 years & 9-10 years).
2. A 3rd set super tie breaker 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.

If two or more teams finish on the same number of points at the end of the season head to head results will determine the winner.

If that result is tied a count back of sets, then games in that Head to Head will determine the winner.

If that result is tied a count back of sets won throughout the season will determine the winner.

If that result is tied (or not applicable) a count back of games won in a season will determine the winner

17 WEATHER

If owing to inclement weather, a contest is un-played or unfinished, clubs must play or complete the contest within **two weeks of the original tie**. The responsibility for arranging an alternative date lies with the team managers.

If club courts are unavailable team managers can call the Tennis Northern pro-shop on (09) 414 5530 ext 704 to book courts, at the Albany Tennis Park, at no charge. Simply state the grade, teams involved and contact number and courts will be assigned. Please note, at peak interclub times, court availability will be limited.

No contest shall be postponed before the scheduled commencement time unless both team managers agree. If a contest remains unplayed, or if no result is entered before the last scheduled match of the season, no points are awarded for that round.

18 RESULTS

To be recorded on Match Hub Rankings within **48 hours** of the match being completed.

The score should be entered by the manager of the winning team, although either manager can enter the result. If the result has already been entered, Match Hub Rankings will not let the result be added twice. Managers of both teams may be contacted with a reminder if this is not completed.

Results **MUST** also be written in the Managers booklet and signed by both parties at the end of the match. TNR may call for booklets to be returned if there is a dispute so accurate records are required.

Please ensure all results are recorded as your fixture could determine final grade standing and players will be keenly waiting on them.

19 JUNIORS PLAYING SENIOR INTERCLUB

Juniors wishing to play senior interclub must be at least **15** years of age on or before the 31 December 2021 Dispensation for younger players will not be considered.

Junior and senior competitions are considered separate competitions so there are no restrictions on eligible juniors playing both and getting more tennis practice.

Juniors playing senior interclub are expected to act maturely and behave appropriately.

20 DEFAULTS

- Any team which fails to present three-quarters of its team members for a match is liable to default. The following applies:
- All claims for defaults must be lodged with TNR **within three days of the contest**. TNR 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 played.
- **The team that wins by default receives the average of their total win points (including contests played that earned no points) scored during the season in that grade. These points can therefore only be calculated at the end of the season and will be added at that time.**
- Any team that turns up over 30mins late is deemed to have defaulted that tie.

21 CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

Proper tennis attire must be worn at all times, including the correct footwear. No black marking soles will be allowed for play on any TNR, school or club courts.

Players MUST have pockets or ball clips for the second ball to speed up the game. Balls should not be left on the court behind them when serving, as this is dangerous and significantly slows down the game.
Players should ensure they are 'Sun-Safe' and have a hat, sunscreen and water before stepping onto court to play.

22 GRADE WINNERS

There are two competitions of equal standing – Pre-Christmas and Post-Christmas.
Grade winners will each receive a club pennant and winners certificate at the end of the interclub season. These can be collected by Junior Organisers at the end of the season and distributed at Club Prizegivings.
Promotion into Premier Grades is optional as they are played on a different day under a different format.
The Interclub Committee reserves the right to re-grade teams at their discretion. This is frequently a two team up, two team down system, but may result in more/less being promoted or relegated during the Christmas re-grade period if it is deemed appropriate.

23 COURT COURTESY & CONDUCT

As a courtesy, TNR ask the following of all players/parents/coaches involved with the junior interclub competition:

Parents/Spectators

That any communication to a player during a match be in English to avoid any misunderstandings that may otherwise arise.
Parents should not get involved with any of the players whilst they are on court.
Parents should not call lines for their child whilst they are playing.
Parents should treat both their child and their opponent with the same respect.
Parents must not coach their child whilst they are playing.
Parents should respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow parents, team managers and spectators.
Parents should praise both players for good play and not just the child you are supporting.

Players

Conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times relating to language, temper and punctuality.
Care and respect all your equipment and the courts.
Do not ask for any help from spectators, especially parents or coaches, in making calls, keeping the score or other on-court matters. If you are in any doubt, ask your Team Manager. That players be courteous to their opponents, do not sulk, stall, complain or practice gamesmanship.
That all mobile phones be turned off for the duration of the match itself.
That players have a quick change of ends and jog to retrieve balls prior to their serve.
That players hold two balls on their person (pocket or clip) when serving to ensure fast play under time limitations.
That players warm-up off court between matches, are ready to go on immediately and use no more than three minutes to warm-up on court before starting their match.
If crossing a court to retrieve a ball please wait until the rally has come to an end, excuse yourself, then run, across the court to get it.
To return a ball to an adjacent court, roll it to the closest back corner of the court at the fence or windbreak. Don't roll it into the playing area as this is both disruptive and dangerous. If the players on the adjacent court have ended their rally simply let them know 'ball coming' and toss the ball to the nearest player.
If a player is persistently foot-faulting (i.e. when the server fails to keep both feet behind the baseline until he/she has served) ask the opposition team manager to speak to the player at the next change of ends. The team manager should ask that player to be aware of their foot position and take a half/full step back to ensure it is no longer a problem.
When calling a ball, 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".
Play to your best ability every point.
Show good sportsmanship, including praising your opponent's good shots, apologising for net cords and shaking hands at the end of a match.

24 BEHAVIOUR

It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure his/her players behave appropriately on-court and that the game is played to both the rules and in the spirit that it is intended. The following behaviour will not be tolerated during junior interclub matches:

- Turning up late for a match
- Inappropriate/offensive language
- Racquet or equipment abuse
- Parent interference beyond rule stipulations
- Coaching of a player during a match by a coach, parent or other
- Defaulting of matches for reasons other than injury or illness
- Filming and publishing of footage or images online without consent.

Team Managers who wish to complain about misconduct, such as that listed above, should contact their club's Junior Organiser with the following:

- Club and grade they are playing in
- Date of match
- Name of player the complaint refers to
- Which of the above behaviour guidelines were broken

If a Junior Organiser wishes to address the matter further, they should contact TNR. TNR will then follow the disciplinary process below:

First complaint – the player receives an official warning. This will be sent to the Junior Organiser and the team manager by email from TNR.

Second complaint – the player is stood down from the next match after receipt of complaint. Confirmation of the suspension will be emailed to the Junior Organiser and the team manager by TNR.

Third complaint – the player will be suspended for the season. Confirmation of extended suspension will be emailed to the Junior Organiser and the team manager by TNR.

After each complaint TNR expects Clubs to take their own disciplinary action to ensure that appropriate behaviour is displayed by all junior ambassadors of their club.

25 COMPLAINTS

Complaints between teams must be reported back to your club in the first instance. There is a standard complaint form available on TNR website www.tennisnorthern.co.nz under Interclub.

Any complaints or problems concerning nets at schools or TNR courts must be referred immediately to Tennis Northern – admin@tennisnorthern.co.nz.