

ABRIDGED ETHEKWINI TENNIS ASSOCIATION CLUB LEAGUE RULES

1. PLAYER REGISTRATION

All members of a club affiliated to the eThekweni Tennis Association (referred to as the Association) must be registered. This includes members who are listed on the league team list on Sportyhq – regardless of whether they play or are reserves. Members of more than one club must be registered by each club but registration fees have only to be paid once.

New members must be registered before they may play for their new club subject to the provision that if they have not been registered with any other club affiliated to the Association prior to their application for registration, they shall be eligible to play as soon as their registration fee has been submitted and accepted by the Association. Unregistered players will forfeit all their match points for the fixture. In exceptional circumstances, secretaries may register/pay for the player on the Monday 4:30pm latest following the weekend match. Failure to comply will result in a 6:0, 6:0 score to the opposition.

Should a player resign from one club and join another, a clearance certificate from the original club must be sent to ETA office in order for this player to play league for the new club.

Members of clubs affiliated to other Associations but participating in the Ethekweni Association's League competitions must also be registered members with their Associations.

2. PLAYERS BELONGING TO MORE THAN ONE CLUB (DUAL MEMBERS)

Dual members must indicate, in writing, to the Association, per their club secretary, for which club they are going to play league. Should they not do so, they will be considered league playing members of the club for which they play their first fixture.

Dual players having played in one fixture for a club in a league competition, are not then permitted to play in the same league competition for another club (with the exception of pool players - see Rule 3).

3. PLAYING FOR ANOTHER CLUB

A player who wishes to participate in a league but who is not selected by his/her own club, is encouraged to register with ETA as a pool player. Pool player rules apply:

Pool Players: Clubs to submit names, strengths and contact numbers of players to the Association to be placed on the pool player list prior to the league commencing, if they have such players available. Pool players may play for different clubs during that fixture. These pool players can only be utilized in the lowest league team of any club during the league season. Clubs must use their own members before requesting the use of a pool player. The Association must be advised if a pool player is to be used prior to the fixture taking place. The pool players' own club has first call on their services irrespective of whether another club has already secured the player for their team.

4. NUMBER OF TIMES ALLOWED TO PLAY UP IN HIGHER TEAM

Any player playing up three (3) times becomes automatically nominated for the higher team and may not play down again.

5. LEAGUE FIXTURES

League fixtures take preference over club championships and club tournaments.

The venue of a league fixture may not be changed without prior notification to the Association and will not be permitted to be played on courts not affiliated to the Association.

6. POSTPONEMENT OF LEAGUE FIXTURES

League fixtures may not be postponed but may be anticipated (played before the set date) with prior notification to the Association provided both clubs are in agreement. Clubs are asked to co-operate in this respect if the Association has granted permission for a fixture to be anticipated.

A player who has played in an anticipated match may not also play again in any fixture set for the original date.

A team that does not play the fixture on the date set down without ETA's written permission will be scratched from the league and will forfeit all points.

Teams that are scratched from a fixture or withdrawn after the fixtures have been sent to the clubs, will be fined R300 and will be relegated to the lowest league/division of that competition the following year.

Home team to appoint a referee before the start of a fixture. Should there be no person available to serve as the referee, the home captain or both captains can be appointed as the referee(s).

Replacements may not play in place of players injured during a league fixture.

If one team is ready to play the first round of matches of a fixture and the other team is not ready to play any one or more of their matches within 15 minutes after the prescribed start of play, the former will be entitled to claim the match or matches concerned. Players arriving late will not be afforded a warm up time.

If one team is ready to play the remaining round of matches of the fixture and the other team is not ready to play one or more of them within 20 minutes of having completed the first round of matches, the former team will be entitled to claim the match or matches concerned.

Rained out matches will not be replayed and will be seen at a tie. No bonus points will be awarded. In extraordinary circumstances where several rounds were rained out, the Competitions Committee can decide to have the first complete rained out round of matches be replayed.

If one team has achieved a result ie more than 50%, the points achieved up to the cancellation of the match (due to rain) must be claimed by the respective clubs and the winning team is to receive the bonus points. The balance of points unplayed to be shared equally between both clubs.

7. SCORE SHEETS

Score sheets are to be completed in full by both team captains prior to the start of the fixture ie which league/division and players full names. No alteration is permitted once fixture commences.

Anticipated fixtures must also indicate the date in the fixture list on which the fixture was set down to be played.

Both teams shall email the score sheet to ETA within two days of the fixture. In the case of an unfinished fixture, both teams to send in the score sheet whether the match has been completed or not. Match Secretaries or Captains to also enter their team scores online on www.sportyhq.cm within 48 hours of the date of the fixture.

Failure to comply with above will result in a penalty point.

8. STARTING TIMES

Saturdays open ladies / Over 40's and men : 13:15 for knock-up, 13:30 start of play latest.

Sundays : 8:15 for knock-up, 8:30 start of play latest

Midweek : 8:15 for knock-up, 8:30 start of play latest.

In the case of rain causing a late start, Saturday fixtures must start not later than 14:30 hours and Sunday fixtures not later than 09:30 hours. Both teams must be present at the courts where the fixture is due to be played. Both captains will decide whether the courts are playable but shall not call off the match until 14:30 on Saturday afternoon and 09:00 hours on Sunday morning.

The exception to this rule is that if severe weather conditions prevail the fixture may be called off telephonically by mutual consent between the two clubs participating in the said fixture, but within 2 hours

before start of fixture.

Floodlights may be used to finish the match provided both captains are in agreement.

Should a fixture be anticipated or started at an earlier time by arrangement, all the above rules to apply.

Clubs may approach each other to play on a Saturday afternoon instead of a Sunday morning. If both clubs are agreeable the fixture must be played on a Saturday prior to the date that is set down for the said fixture.

Some clubs have entered more teams than they have courts available. Please note Westridge courts can be utilised if available.

Bookings essential - ETA office (031 261 2527).

9. SCORING

Mixed, Midweek, Men's and Ladies Doubles and Over 40's Leagues will play 2 tie-breaker sets. If a 3rd set needs to be played for a result, a super tie-breaker (10 points) will be played. The first team to reach 10 points wins but the winner must lead by 2 points.

The Super Men's league format of play will be the best of 3 tie- break sets, however the third set will start at 2-2.

In all leagues the winning team (team with the greater number of sets won) for the fixture receives two (2) bonus points.

In the event of a set, match and games draw in the Mixed, Open and Over 40's Leagues, each club nominates one couple (any pairing from the 4 players in the team), to play in a super tie break set to decide the ultimate winner of the match. The winning team will be awarded the 2 bonus points.

In the event of extreme heat conditions, if a player is unable to continue, they may concede the match. If able to continue thereafter, they may play in the next round.

Please ensure that neat tennis apparel is worn for all league matches.

Any dispute shall be adjudicated by the Competitions Committee which shall be elected by the Executive committee of the Association to act on their behalf. In the event of a club not accepting this ruling it will be able to lodge an appeal which will be undertaken in terms of Clause 10 of the Constitution.

10. BALLS :

Choice of two brand new Wilson US Open or ProKennex Premium balls per couple of the home team to be used for Midweek, Over 40's, Singles and Open Leagues. Only Wilson US Open balls may be used for Mixed League. Home team to decide choice of balls.

11. REFRESHMENTS :

Hosting club to provide a drink between matches and a drink after completion of fixture. Hosting club to provide light snacks during matches (eg sandwiches, fruit, cake etc).

12. PROMOTIONS AND RELEGATIONS:

The team coming bottom in each division will be automatically relegated to the next lower league.

The team coming top in each division will be automatically promoted to the next division.

If one team wins more matches than the other team it will be the winner of the fixture, even when the sets won by each team are equal. In the event of a set and match draw in the Mixed, Open and Over 40's Leagues, each club nominates one couple (any pairing from the 4 players in the team), to play in a super tie break set to decide the ultimate winner of the match.

Every effort should be made to complete the fixture or achieve a winning score.

At the conclusion of a competition, if two (2) teams have an equal number of points, the team, which won the fixture between them, shall be the winner. If the fixture between them was a draw or if three teams tie with an equal number of points, the winner shall be decided on the overall percentage of sets won to sets played; and if this is also equal, on the overall percentage of games won to games played.

The team winning the 2nd Division and lower divisions/leagues, provided it has not lost a fixture in winning its division/league, shall be entitled to challenge the team finishing second to bottom in the divisions two above it.

If a club already has a team in the Super League, the second team may not challenge from 2nd div to Super

If the challenging team wins the challenge match it will be promoted to the division in which the challenged team finished second last, and the latter team will be relegated to the next lower division.

If the challenge match is drawn the challenger will not be promoted and the challenged team will not be relegated.

The challenge match must be played on the Saturday/Sunday, whichever is applicable to the current league, following the completion of the league (including rained out matches), on a date specified by the Competitions Committee.

All challenge matches must be played at the club that is being challenged. The challenger must provide the balls and refreshments.

Any new teams to the league divisions shall start at the bottom. Should a club want to enter a new team in a higher division in the league, and depending on availability in the higher division, clubs to provide the Competitions Committee with the names of the players and the club's motivation for a higher division.

Notwithstanding the above rules, the Competitions Committee will have full authority to amend these rules if the circumstances are deemed fitting and if it is in the best interests of tennis.

Updated as at October 2022