

RULES FOR COMPETITIONS

Bairnsdale Tennis Club has formulated guidelines for competitions to use in relation to various aspects of play. There will obviously be variations in application between different competitions.

We want each competition to run their comps largely as they see fit, but feel these general guidelines will be helpful for organisers. We want each competition to sort out its own problems on an ongoing basis, but if any problems between players or between competition & player are not able to be resolved; either party can then refer the matter to the general committee for assistance. (see dispute resolution process)

EMERGENCY / FILL IN PLAYERS

There should be an up to date list of possible fill ins, their contact numbers and suggested playing line (or above). Non members may be used up to 5 times per year only (by all comps combined) – after that they need to become paid up members to play again. To keep track between competitions, we will have a book in the office (not pro shop) with alphabetical player listings for fill ins. Please enter the date & comp played. Once a player has ‘filled in’ five times, the need to take out membership should be brought to the attention of the player by the comp making that fifth entry. We ask the competition making that fifth entry to also notify the membership officer.

There have been instances where a fill in has been organised & that person has subsequently been needed by their own team – usually in juniors. If that is the case, there should be a cut off time eg Thursday evening for Saturday morning comp where the fill in is deemed to be committed to the other team and another fill in be found. Mutual consent can always vary this one.

LATENESS FOR START OF PLAY

Players should really be ready to play by the starting time – this is being considerate to other players. As competition numbers increase we may have to look at court sharing, so this is also important for smooth running.

The BTC general position is: 10 minutes late – lose 1 game, 15 minutes - 2 games, 20 minutes – 3 games. At 30 minutes loss of the first set / match depending on format of comp. If people are going to be late and notify the organisers, obviously the rules may be relaxed at the discretion of that competition...

HEATOUTS

We recommend no play commence if the temperature is 33^C in the shade under the big oak tree. A thermometer can be found attached to the corkboard in the clubhouse office. Progress of matches already in play as temperature rises could be stopped at the request of either player. The junior committee may wish to vary this down. The recommended waiting time to see if there is a change in conditions is 30 minutes.

WASHOUTS

Each competition should have its own set process & notification procedure eg a telephone tree or radio announcement time once organisers make a cancel play decision. If a player has not been notified of cancellation of play 20 minutes before starting time they should come prepared to play. It is not the responsibility of pro shop staff to be taking phone calls & making decisions. The office does have an answering machine which can be used for recorded messages.

The recommended waiting time to see if there is a change in conditions is 30 minutes.

DRESS CODE

Players should wear proper tennis clothing for play at all times. Acceptable tennis fashion changes, but shoes must not have heels or soles that may damage the courts.

Beach wear, street clothing or other sporting code gear is not acceptable.

Caps or hats should be worn in sunny or hot conditions. We recommend all players wear protective headwear in school terms 1 & 4.

Player clothing should have somewhere to put the second ball when serving eg a pocket or clip.

SCORING & UMPIRING

Players at all levels should be in the habit of calling out the score after each point – the server should take responsibility each game.

We recommend juniors learn to score on their own at an early age.

BAD BEHAVIOUR

This includes: swearing, disrespect to partner or opponent, unsportsmanlike behaviour, abuse of racquet or part of the facility (eg court), excessive noisiness, coaching during a match.

Suggested penalties:

- 1st offence – polite warning
- 2nd offence – official warning.
- 3rd offence – 2 week suspension from team
- 4th offence – exclusion from team – to emergency list

These penalties & warnings may be issued by the particular competition organising personnel or by a member of the general committee of BTC.

DUTY TEAMS

We suggest all comps have duty team rosters – it is not fair to continually leave cleaning up to the same few people. Duties are posted in the clubhouse & include:

- clean & put away dishes
- wipe down bench tops & tables
- vacuum floor depending on need
- empty all bins and put new bin liners in bins in clubhouse
- make sure all fridges and doors are locked with alarm set

A large sign can be found in the kitchen.

MEMBERSHIP

To be placed in a regular playing position or team, players must be current financial members. Committee persons will help different comps to sign people up at the start of new competitions.

PLAYING FEES

We recommend each competition have a designated person to collect and secure all playing fees prior to commencement of play. Reconciliation forms need to be completed after each competition round.