

## **Tennis Otago Junior Interclub Rules and Policies 2023-24**

### **1. Powers**

- a) The Junior Advisory Group (JAG), being the governing body for Tennis Otago Tecnifibre Junior Interclub 2023-24 (Junior Interclub), has the power to:
- i. Arrange and control competitions between affiliated clubs and players, and to deal with all matters arising;
  - ii. Deal with eligible entries received from affiliated clubs;
  - iii. Place new teams and individual players in grades it deems appropriate, subject to positions being available;
  - iv. Hear disputes;
  - v. Exercise its discretion to run Junior Interclub as it sees fit in the overall interests of tennis in Otago, and to come to a decision on any matter not covered by these rules and policies.
- b) These rules shall be adopted by a simple majority vote at a meeting of affiliated club delegates held before the start of the Junior Interclub season. Each club represented in person at that meeting shall have one (1) vote. In the event of a tied vote the JAG Chairperson shall exercise a casting vote.

### **2. General**

- a) All Junior Interclub in Otago is to be played according to the ITF Rules of Tennis and the Tennis New Zealand (TNZ) 2020 Player Code of Conduct.

#### *Player Conduct*

- b) Players are expected to play the game in a sportsmanlike manner and to accord respect to their own teammates, the opposition, media, officials and spectators. In the unlikely event this doesn't occur, any person may lodge a complaint about a player's behaviour to the Tennis Otago JAG. The Committee may deal with the matter in any manner it considers appropriate, and may draw on supporting documents such as the TNZ Player Code of Conduct.

#### *Player Safety*

- c) Players must act responsibly to safeguard the health and safety of themselves, their opponents, and spectators, and to ensure safe conditions at the playing venue.

Those responsible for management of the playing venue should be advised of any hazard, significant incident or accident, or damage that occurs.

### **3. Adopted Ball**

- a) The Tecnifibre X-One Ball is the official ball of Tennis Otago and must be used for all Junior Interclub contests other than Hot Shots Green Ball Grade contests, for which the Tecnifibre Soft ball shall be used.
- b) Each team shall supply the following amount of new balls required for each contest – 1 can of balls per team:
  - i. Division 1 and 2: one can of yellow balls per team in good condition
- c) Worn out balls are not acceptable for Junior Interclub and must be replaced.
- d) Junior Interclub in Otago shall be known as Tecnifibre Junior Interclub.

### **4. Eligibility**

#### *Clubs*

- a) Any club seeking to enter one or more teams in Junior Interclub must be affiliated with Tennis Otago.

#### *Players Must Be Members of Affiliated Clubs*

- b) Subject to c) below, any player seeking to play Junior Interclub must be a member of a club affiliated with Tennis Otago.

#### *Eligibility of Other Out of Town Players*

- c) At the discretion of the JAG, teams entered by clubs affiliated with another association may play in Junior Interclub. Fees and other costs applicable to such teams are the same as for those applicable to Tennis Otago affiliated club teams.

#### *MatchHub Player Code Requirement*

- d) Any player seeking to play Junior Interclub must have a player code under the MatchHub system administered by Tennis NZ (or any rankings system that replaces MatchHub).

- e) Clubs must set up new player codes for those without them.

*Player Eligibility: Age/Grades*

- f) Junior Interclub is limited to players aged 17 or under. The Hot Shots Green Ball Grade is limited to players aged 12 or under.

*Loan Player Eligibility*

- g) Clubs may release their players to play for other clubs in Junior Interclub. Players in this category are deemed to be 'loan players'.
- h) Loan players shall only play for their adopted club in one nominated grade.
- i) When not required to play for their adopted club in their nominated grade, loan players may return to play for their home club's teams in other grades.
- j) For the avoidance of doubt, any player who belongs to two or more clubs may play in different Junior Interclub grades for more than one club provided they play for the same club and team in any particular grade.

*Non-Affiliated Player Participation*

- k) A non-affiliated player can play to help prevent a team from defaulting. However, any team that uses a non-affiliated player in a contest shall not earn any competition points from matches involving the non-affiliated player. This shall apply regardless of whether the opposition team agrees in advance to the non-affiliated player's participation in the contest.

*Players Playing for Another Team in Same Grade*

- l) Likewise, a player belonging to one team (Team A) in a particular grade can play for one of the same club's other teams (Team B) in that grade or a higher grade to help prevent Team B from defaulting. No competition points earned from matches involving a second or subsequent replacement player shall count. This shall apply regardless of whether the opposition team agrees in advance to the player's participation in the contest.

*Eligibility to play in semi-finals and finals (where played)*

- m) Any player who seeks to play in a semi-final or final (where played) must have played for the team in at least three contests during the regular round robin part of the competition. If they have not and there are extenuating circumstances, a dispensation may be sought from the JAG.

## 5. Entries

- a) All entry forms must be completed in full, including each player's mobile phone number (or home phone number if they do not have a mobile phone) and email address.
- b) Entry in all grades shall be online only. No hard copy or email entries will be accepted.
- c) Online entries in all grades shall be submitted via the following link:  
<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/99279>
- d) Competition costs do not include entry to the Edgar Centre.

## 6. Draws

### *Publication*

- a) Draws will be published:
- In the Otago Daily Times every Thursday (the first week's draw may be emailed to clubs due to tight time constraints); and
  - On the Tennis Otago website [www.tennisotago.org](http://www.tennisotago.org)

### *Edgar Centre Contests*

- b) If a team is scheduled to play at the Edgar Centre they are **not** permitted to play at another venue.

### *Cancellations*

- c) Cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced by a Whatsapp message to junior club captains and on the Tennis Otago Facebook page.

- d) *If there is no cancellation notice*, players are to report to the venue. If play is still not possible 30 minutes after the contest was due to start, the captains may then agree to cancel the contest and shall notify Tennis Otago (via email to [admin@tennisotago.org](mailto:admin@tennisotago.org)) if cancelled. Any team that leaves the venue before 30 minutes after the scheduled start time shall be deemed to have defaulted.
- e) Edgar Centre contests are not included in any of the above cancellations unless a Tennis Otago or Tennis Southern Event has to be moved to the Edgar Centre. In any such case, the move will be clearly communicated to the teams and grades affected. *Should an event be moved to the Edgar Centre when interclub contests being played there have been in progress for one hour or less, the Edgar Centre will take a list of names and give each player free entry the next time they play there (check with Edgar Centre management).*
- f) Cancelled matches will be played at the end of each round if scheduling permits.

## **7. Contests**

### *Competition Format*

- a) The competition format in all grades shall comprise round robin contests, rewarding teams for consistency, and playoffs if scheduling allows.

### *Contest and Match Formats*

- b) The contest and match format in each grade shall be as set out in Appendix 1.

### *Playing Order*

- c) Players must play in MatchHub points order, but the playing order may be varied if two or more players are within the same band. This rule applies equally to singles and doubles. In determining playing order for doubles, the combined D bands of the two doubles combinations in a team shall be compared, and the higher ranked pair shall play in the top doubles slot. *(Example: a combination of D10+D11 plays ahead of a combination of D11+D11).* The top ranked singles player in a team is not required to play in the top doubles combination.
- d) No player may play ahead of another player in a higher band without first obtaining a dispensation from the JAG. Any team that plays a contest out of MatchHub order shall forfeit any points earned by higher ranked players who play below lower ranked players.

### *Rain Interrupted Matches*

- e) *Fewer than 50% of matches completed* – contest cancelled and no points awarded. Results of completed matches may be forwarded to [admin@tennisotago.org](mailto:admin@tennisotago.org) to be recorded as Extra Matches in MatchHub.
- f) *50% or more of matches completed* – points awarded 1 point per rubber. No bonus points will be awarded if matches have been won **unless** the majority of matches in the grade have been completed. Scores can be entered on CR to allow individuals to gain points.

## **8. Results**

### *Submitting Results*

- a) Winning team captains in all grades must electronically load results into MatchHub (<https://tennis.org.nz/>) within 48 hours of completion of the contest. Failure to comply will result in no team points or MatchHub points. Score sheets are to be used to help keep score at courtside only and will not be accepted as official results.
- b) Match results shall be recorded in the standard format (winner's score first): *e.g. 6-4 6-7(5) [10-8] indicates the winner won the first set 6 games to 4, lost the second set 6 games to 7 with a tiebreak score of 7-5 (hence "(5)"), and won the super tiebreak 10 points to 8.*

### *Calculation of Contest Results*

- c) Points awarded to each team in each contest shall be calculated as set out in Appendix 1 below. No points table will be kept in the Hot Shots Green Ball Grade.

## **9. Defaults and Withdrawals**

- a) Teams should do their utmost to avoid defaulting. Where a default is unavoidable, the team captain must advise:
  - i. the opposing team captain (captains' contact details are listed on MatchHub: go to Interclub – Points/Draws – Tecnifibre Junior Interclub 2020/21 division ..... – click on Draw for the appropriate grade);
  - ii. Tennis Otago (TOI admin at [admin@tennisotago.org](mailto:admin@tennisotago.org)); and
  - iii. their own club

of the default **at least 24 hours before** the start of the contest. Tennis Otago will not advise the opposing captain; this is the responsibility of the captain of the defaulting team. Any such default shall be deemed a notified default and the defaulting team shall have 2 points deducted from its total on the points table.

- b) All defaults notified within 24 hours of the start of the contest and all no-shows on the day of the contest shall be deemed to be non-notified defaults. The defaulting team in any non-notified default shall have the number of points available for the contest as a whole deducted from its total on the points table.
- c) If a defaulted contest was to be played at the Edgar Centre, Tennis Otago will cancel the booking for the courts concerned provided it receives advance notice of the default.

#### *Incomplete Teams*

- d) Any team without the required number of players at the playing venue 30 minutes after the scheduled start of play shall be deemed to have defaulted all matches involving its absent player(s). All points for the affected matches shall be awarded to the opposing team.

#### *Right to Exclude Defaulting Teams*

- e) Where the JAG feel it is in the interests of the Junior Interclub competition to remove a team from the competition due to repeated defaults, it shall have the power to do so. This includes (but is not limited to) a team responsible for two or more non-notified defaults or a team responsible for repeated defaults whether notified or non-notified.

### **10. Appeals**

Clubs may apply for rule dispensations by emailing the JAG at [admin@tennisotago.org](mailto:admin@tennisotago.org) with *JAG dispensation request* in the subject line. Clubs must clearly outline the nature of the request and the reasons for it. Any such request should be made at least 48 hours before any contest for which they request a dispensation. The JAG shall have no obligation to grant any such request.

### **11. Amendments**

These rules may be amended by an ordinary resolution made at a meeting of the JAG.



## Appendix 1: Contest & Match Formats in Each Grade

Grade	Number of players per team in each contest	Matches	Points awarded in each contest	Singles format	Doubles format
Divisions 1 & 2	4	Singles: 2 Doubles: 1	1 point per rubber; 2 bonus points for winning contest overall	Two tiebreak sets to 6 (long deuce) and a third set played as a super tiebreak to 10 (must win by 2 points) if required	Two tiebreak sets to 6 (short deuce) and a third set played as a super tiebreak to 10 (must win by 2 points) if required

### How to play short sets

- A short set is played to four games instead of six
- A set is therefore won at 4-0, 4-1, or 4-2
- If the score is 3-3, play two more games. If the score is then 5-3 (the equivalent of 7-5 in a set to 6), that is the final set score. If the score is 4-4 (the equivalent of 6-6 in a set to 6), play a standard tiebreak to 7 (2-point margin) to decide the set.
- If after playing two sets the match is tied at one set all, play a standard tiebreak to 7 points (2-point margin) to decide the match.