

## Tennis Otago Senior Interclub Rules and Policies 2023-24

### 1. Powers

- a) The Senior Competitions Committee (SCC), being the governing body for Tennis Otago Tecnifibre Senior Interclub 2023-24 (Senior 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 Senior 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 Senior Interclub season. Each club represented in person at that meeting shall have one (1) vote. In the event of a tied vote the SCC Chairperson shall exercise a casting vote.

### 2. General

- a) All Senior Interclub in Otago is to be played according to the ITF Rules of Tennis and the Tennis New Zealand (TNZ) Player Code of Conduct (effective August 2020)  
<https://tennis.kiwi/assets/2020-Code-of-Behaviour-pre-board.pdf>

#### *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 SCC. The Committee may hear 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 Senior Interclub contests.
- b) Each team shall supply the following amount of new balls required for each contest:
  - i. Division 1: 3 pairs of balls per team
  - ii. Division 2: 2 pairs of balls per team
  - iii. Tuesday senior interclub: 1 pair of balls per team
  - iv. Mixed Section 1: 1 pair of balls per team
  - v. Mixed Section 2: 1 pair of balls per team
  - vi. Women's Competition: 2 pairs of balls per team
  - vii. Premier Doubles: 2 pairs of balls per team
- c) Senior Interclub in Otago shall be known as Tecnifibre Senior Interclub.

### **4. Eligibility**

#### *Clubs*

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

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

- b) Subject to the exception for out of town students, or to any other exception the SCC deems appropriate, any player seeking to play Senior Interclub must be a member of a club affiliated with Tennis Otago.

#### *Eligibility of Out of Town Students*

- c) *The Otago University Tennis Association (OUTA)* is an entity that enables out of town students who will only be present for the early and late parts of the season to affiliate with a club and participate in Senior Interclub.
- d) Players may not enter as a team under the OUTA banner. OUTA players will be spread around club teams by the SCC.

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

- e) Other players (non-students) who are members of a club affiliated with another association may play for a Tennis Otago affiliated club in Senior Interclub. Fees and other costs applicable to such players are a matter between club and player.

*MatchHub Player Code Requirement*

- f) Any player seeking to play Senior Interclub must have a player code under the MatchHub Rankings system administered by Tennis NZ (or any rankings system that replaces MatchHub).
- g) Clubs must set up new player codes for those without them.

*Eligibility of Juniors*

- h) Subject to meeting other eligibility requirements, any player aged 15 or over may play Senior Interclub regardless of their MatchHub band.
- i) Players aged under 15 and ranked S8 or higher may play senior interclub however:
  - i. These players must still participate in Junior interclub unless granted dispensation by their club and Tennis Otago
- j) No player aged under 15 who does not meet any of the above criteria shall be eligible to play in the Senior Interclub competition.

*Player Eligibility: Grades*

- k) All players may play in the following grades without restriction (subject to the availability of grades):
  - i. Division 1
  - ii. Women's Competition
  - iii. Division 2
  - iv. Mixed Division
  - v. Premier Doubles
- l) Subject to adjustment by the SCC as it sees fit, Division 2 is restricted to players at or below the following MatchHub Rankings bands:
  - i. Females: S4
  - ii. Males: S6

*Loan Player Eligibility*

- m) Clubs may release their players to play for other clubs in Senior Interclub. Players in this category are deemed to be 'loan players'.

- n) Loan players shall only play for their adopted club in one nominated grade. No loan player shall play for their adopted club in another grade.
- o) 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.

*Example: Player A is a member of Club A but is lent to Club B to play in Division 1 for the season. Player A must play for Club B when playing in Division 1, but must play for Club A if playing in another grade from time to time.*

- p) For the avoidance of doubt, any player who belongs to two or more clubs may play in different Senior Interclub grades for more than one club provided they play for the same club and team in any particular grade.

#### *Eligibility of Female Players to Play as Males in Division 1*

- q) Any female ranked S3 or above may apply for a dispensation to play as a male in Division 1.

#### *Non-Affiliated Player Participation Exemption*

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

#### *Players Playing for Another Team in Same Grade*

- s) 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 to help prevent Team B from defaulting provided that player is not one of the two highest ranking players in Team A. If Team B uses a Team A player ranked in the top two players in Team A, no competition points earned from matches involving that player shall count. This shall apply regardless of whether the opposition team agrees in advance to the player's participation in the contest.
- t) The restriction on the two highest ranking players in a team referred to in Rule 4 (t) applies to Division 1 and Division 2 only; i.e. it does not apply to Tuesday Senior Interclub or the Mixed Division.

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

- u) 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 season. If they have not and there are extenuating circumstances, a dispensation may be sought from the SCC.

## 5. Entries

- a) All entry forms must be completed in full, including the captain'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. **Entries close on Friday 15 September 2023 at midnight.**
- c) Online entries in all grades shall be submitted via the following link:  
<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/253515>
- d) Competition costs do not include entry to the Edgar Centre.

## 6. Draws

### *Publication*

- a) Draws will be published weekly:
  - i. In the Otago Daily Times each Thursday, and on the Tennis Otago website <https://clubspark.kiwi/TennisOtago>

### *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 (Saturday contests)*

- c) Cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced by WhatsApp message to team 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 one hour 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 one hour 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) Unless decided and communicated otherwise before the start of the season, the competition format in all grades shall comprise round robin contests, rewarding teams for consistency across the season.

### *Contest and Match Formats*

- b) The contest and match format in each grade shall be as set out in Appendix 1. In Division 1 and Tuesday Senior Interclub, singles (and mixed doubles in the case of Tuesday Senior Interclub) shall be played before doubles unless the captains agree otherwise before play starts. In Division 2, doubles shall be played before singles unless the captains agree otherwise before play starts. In the Mixed Division, men's and women's doubles shall be played before mixed doubles unless the captains agree otherwise before play starts.

### *Playing Order*

- c) In Division 1 and Division 2, players must play in MatchHub points order. There is now a unified (male and female) Grading List in which mixed gender matches count for points without having to make any adjustment to the female player's grading. The requirement to play in MatchHub points order applies equally to singles and doubles. In determining playing order for doubles, the combined doubles ranking points of the two doubles combinations in a team are compared and the higher ranked pair plays in the top doubles slot. (Example: a combination of 1100 points + 1200 points plays ahead of a combination of 1400 points + 800 points). 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 who has more MatchHub points without first obtaining a dispensation from the SCC. Any team that plays a contest out of MatchHub points order is liable to forfeit any points earned by higher ranked players who play below lower ranked players.

### *Rain Interrupted Matches*

- i. *Fewer than 50% of matches completed* – contest cancelled and no points awarded.
- ii. *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 MatchHub to allow individuals to gain points.

## 8. Results

### *Submitting Results*

- a) Winning captains in all grades must electronically load results into MatchHub within 48 hours of completion of the contest. Failure to comply will result in no team points or MatchHub points.

### *Calculation of Contest Results*

- b) Points awarded to each team in each contest shall be calculated as set out in Appendix 1 below.

### *Countbacks in Division 2*

- c) If two Division 2 teams finish a contest level on rubbers, the contest result shall be determined as follows:
  - i. Countback on sets (each tiebreak 3<sup>rd</sup> set won counts as a set);
  - ii. Countback on games (each tiebreak 3<sup>rd</sup> set won counts as a game);
  - iii. If the teams are still tied after a countback on games, the result is deemed to be a tie and each team will be awarded two bonus points.

### *Grades Where Countbacks Not Required*

- d) If two Mixed Grade teams finish a contest level on rubbers, the contest result shall be deemed to be a tie and each team will be awarded one bonus point.

## 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;
  - ii. Tennis Otago (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 [4] 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.
- e) In Division 1 and Women's Competition, should a team have three players or fewer at the playing venue 30 minutes after the scheduled start of play, and the opposing team has the required number of players at the playing venue, the opposing team captain shall have the right to declare the contest a default, in which case all contest points shall be awarded to the non-defaulting team.
- f) In Division 2 or the Mixed Grade, should a team have two players or fewer at the playing venue 30 minutes after the scheduled start of play, and the opposing team has the required number of players at the playing venue, the opposing team captain shall have the right to declare the contest a default, in which case all contest points shall be awarded to the non-defaulting team.

#### *Right to Exclude Defaulting Teams*

- g) Where the SCC feel it is in the interests of the Senior 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 SCC at [admin@tennisotago.org](mailto:admin@tennisotago.org) with *SCC 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 SCC 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 SCC, provided the amendment shall not take effect until the following season.

**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
Division 1	4 men	Singles	4	1 point per rubber; 2 points for winning contest overall	Two tiebreak sets to 6 (long deuce) and a super tiebreak to 10 (must win by 2 points) if required	Two tiebreak sets to 6 (short deuce) and a super tiebreak to 10 (must win by 2 points) if required.
		Doubles	2			
Division 2	4 players of either gender	Singles (matches can be mixed gender)	4	1 point per rubber; 4 bonus points for winning contest overall	Two tiebreak sets to 6 (long deuce) and a super tiebreak to 10 (must win by 2 points) if required	Two tiebreak sets to 6 (short deuce) and a super tiebreak to 10 (must win by 2 points) if required
		Doubles (matches can be mixed gender)	2			

<b>Mixed Grade</b>	<b>2 men, 2 women</b>	<b>MD</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 point per rubber; 2 bonus points for winning contest overall</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<p><b><u>Pre -Xmas combined competition:</u></b>  <i>-All matches play 3 point deuces.</i></p> <p><i>- Men's and Women's Doubles play 2 sets, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> set as a Super Tie Break to 10.</i></p> <p><i>- Mixed Doubles play to 9, tie breaks at 8 all, to 7.</i></p> <p><b><u>Post-Xmas split competition:</u></b> Sets for section 1, play to 9 for section 2.</p>
		<b>WD</b>	<b>1</b>			
		<b>XD</b>	<b>2</b>			
		<b>Reverse XD</b>	<b>2</b>			
<b>Reverse XD</b>	<p><i>*3 point deuce sudden death, receiver's choice on second deuce for Men's and Ladies doubles. In Mixed Doubles server will serve to the same gender i.e. man to man or lady to lady</i></p>					

<b>Women's Competition</b>	<b>3 women</b>	<b>Singles Doubles</b>	<b>2 2</b>	<b>1 point per rubber; 2 bonus points for winning contest overall</b>	<b>Two tiebreak sets to 6 (long deuce) and a super tiebreak to 10 (must win by 2 points) if required</b>	<b>Two tiebreak sets to 6 (short deuce) and a super tiebreak to 10 (must win by 2 points) if required.</b>
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Premier Doubles	4 players of either gender	Doubles		1 point per rubber; 2 bonus points for winning contest overall	n/a	2 sets to 6, 3 point deuce. Super tie break for 3 <sup>rd</sup> set
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