



MIDWEEK INTERCLUB RULES

2023/2024

Midweek mailbox

In these rules, wherever there is a requirement or opportunity to notify or otherwise contact Tennis Central by email, use this address: midweek@tenniscentral.co.nz¹

Suggestions

Any player or club may, by email to TCR, make suggestions at any time in relation to these rules and the running of competitions.

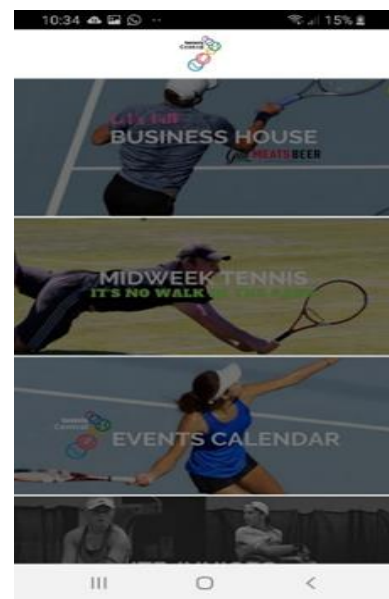
Using Match Hub

Go to Tennis Central's website for the login for entering interclub competition results and for information and guidance on how to do so:

<https://clubspark.kiwi/renouftenniscentre/Play/Senior> (then scroll down to the **Midweek Interclub** section on the webpage).

The 'TCR Comps App'

Try Tennis Central's free competitions app for smartphones. Super convenient and user friendly. You can access all interclub rules, draws, results, and much more besides. Team captains can use it to enter their interclub results. Available in Google's Play Store and Apple's App Store.



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1 Introduction

1.1 Preamble

In recognising the changing demographics and availability of midweek players, our overarching aim with these rules is to provide a fair and stable rules framework that maximises the opportunities for club members to participate in our midweek interclub competitions. The rules recognise our present competitions and provide a framework for establishing new competitions.

They support administrative efficiency by relying on mutual cooperation between team captains acting in good faith; by anticipating a wide range of contingencies; by minimising the options to grant exceptions; and otherwise by assuming self-management by clubs and captains as much as is reasonable and practical. Good faith is taken to mean dealing with other people honestly, openly, in a timely manner, and without misleading them.

Changes of significance to clubs, team captains, and players

Multi-club teams (teams with players from more than two clubs)

The option of entering a multi-club team was discontinued at the end of last season, as stated in last season's edition of the rules. All previous references to multi-club teams are now removed.

Playing in the final rounds of a competition (section 3.5.3)

A relaxation of the rules around eligibility of players for the final rounds of a competition was introduced for last season's post-Christmas competitions. This relaxation is continued in this edition of the rules (with some refinement of the text to improve clarity).

Deadlines for suspended and postponed ties (section 3.7.5)

The previous deadlines for completion of all rescheduled ties was within 15 days of the date originally scheduled in the draw and, in all cases, within 15 days of the last round of a competition. Both deadlines are now removed. This rule now provides for the deadlines to be determined by the Match Committee, and to be a single date for all pre-Christmas competitions and another date for all post-Christmas competitions. The dates that are set are intended to provide reasonable opportunity for rescheduling on the same day of the week as the day of usual play for each competition (e.g., Mondays or Fridays, as the case may be). The purpose of relaxing this rule is to make the midweek competitions more accessible for players who have regular commitments such as work that tend to limit their availability to particular days of the week.

1.2 Scope

These rules apply to the 2023/2024 midweek interclub competitions that are promoted and administered by Tennis Central Region Incorporated. Any alteration to these rules made

after the commencement of any draw will not take effect until the following season (unless necessary to correct a significant error).

1.3 Terms and definitions

1.3.1 **must, shall, should, may**

in these rules, 'must' and 'shall' are used to mean 'it is mandatory'; 'should' is used to mean 'it is recommended'; and 'may' is used to mean 'it is discretionary'

1.3.2 **TCR**

Tennis Central Region Incorporated

1.3.3 **club**

a tennis club that is affiliated to TCR, or to any association affiliated to TCR (e.g., Hutt Valley Tennis Association), including clubs that are members of Tennis New Zealand Seniors Incorporated

1.3.4 **affiliated player**

a member of a club for whose type of membership an affiliation fee is payable by the club to TCR or to an association affiliated to TCR (noting that an affiliated player need only pay the affiliation fee component of their club membership fee through just one club if they belong to more than one club where an affiliation fee is payable for their type of membership)

1.3.5 **Midweek Executive (the Executive)**

the committee of delegates that controls TCR's midweek interclub competitions

1.3.6 **Midweek Match Committee (the Match Committee)**

a sub-committee of the Executive appointed by it to perform the role set out in these rules

1.3.7 **delegate**

a club member appointed by their club to represent it on the Executive

1.3.8 **Match Hub**

Match Hub is Tennis NZ's online competition management and player grading system. For further information, go to <https://tennis.kiwi/compete/match-hub/>.

1.3.9 **season**

a period from September to April, inclusive, during which the midweek interclub competitions are played

1.3.10 **related competitions**

competitions that correspond to and succeed a previous competition, either during a season or from one season to the next, and that share in common the outcomes of the rules for promotion and relegation between grades

1.3.11 **draw**

the published schedule of all grades, rounds, and ties for a competition

1.3.12 **grade**

one or more levels or tiers of proficiency within a competition

1.3.13 **round**

the ties scheduled to be played on a specified day at specified venues as part of a draw

1.3.14 **tie**

the matches between two teams in any given round of a draw

1.3.15 **match**

a singles, doubles, or mixed doubles match that is part of a tie

1.3.16 **suspended tie**

a tie that was commenced but not completed on the scheduled day

1.3.17 **postponed tie**

a tie that was not commenced on the scheduled day

2 The competitions

2.1 Timing of competitions

The present annual midweek interclub competitions covered by these rules consist of Pre-Christmas competitions and Post-Christmas competitions. Competitions generally begin in October and end during April following (depending on the timing of Easter). Competition play is adjourned during January. Midweek competitions are played on weekdays during the day starting in the mornings no earlier than 9.30.

2.2 Structure and formats

The structure and formats for each competition covered by these rules is set out in Table 1 below.

The table includes any variations of player eligibility that apply to specific competitions. Such variations must be within the overarching eligibility requirements specified in the body of these rules.

During a season, before the post-Christmas competitions commence, the Match Committee may, in response to changing circumstances, and in consultation with TCR, make timely adjustments within the existing structure and format of particular competitions. In making adjustments, the Match Committee shall seek to ensure they are not only fair for all teams in the competition but will also help maximise the opportunities for participation and enjoyment by players. The scope of the Match Committee's role in making such adjustments is expanded upon in section [4.8 Adjustments to competitions](#).

Before a new season commences, the Executive may, in consultation with TCR, approve changes to the existing structure and format of competitions by making changes to existing competitions; by discontinuing existing competitions; and by adding new competitions.

Note that technical changes to some parts of these rules could in future be required in light of any changes in future seasons to the present structure and format of competitions.²

Table 1: Midweek interclub competitions

Structure & format	Related competitions	Related competitions
Competitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Women's Pre-Christmas Midweek ❖ Women's Post-Christmas Midweek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mixed Pre-Christmas Midweek ❖ Mixed Post-Christmas Midweek
Gender	Women	Mixed
Regular playing days	Mondays	Fridays
Start times (matches commence)	9.30 AM	9.30 AM
Regular venues	Clubs and Renouf Tennis Centre (outdoors)	Renouf Tennis Centre (outdoors)
Number of courts required for a tie	2	2
Team composition	Four players, all women, ranked 1, 2, 3, 4.	Four players, comprising at least one man and at least one woman, ranked 1, 2, 3, 4.
Matches in a tie	Six doubles matches, with two matches on court at a time. Each member of a team plays with each of the other members.	Six doubles matches, with two matches on court at a time. Each member of a team plays with each of the other members.
Order of play	<p>Doubles pairs by ranking order:</p> <p>First two matches: 1 & 4 play each other / 2 & 3 play each other</p> <p>Next two matches: 1 & 3 / 2 & 4</p> <p>Final two matches: 1 & 2 / 3 & 4</p>	<p>Pairings are by ranking order.</p> <p>First two matches: 1 & 4 play each other / 2 & 3 play each other</p> <p>Next two matches: 1 & 3 / 2 & 4</p> <p>Final two matches: 1 & 2 / 3 & 4</p>
Match formats	First to win 7 games, with an ordinary tiebreaker at 6 games all (first to win 7 points but must win by 2). Conventional deuces (no sudden death).	First to win 7 games, with an ordinary tiebreaker at 6 games all (first to win 7 points but must win by 2). Conventional deuces (no sudden death).
Balls	For each tie, each team must provide a new pair of Tecnifibre X-ONE balls.	For each tie, each team must provide a new pair of Tecnifibre X-ONE balls.
Variations of player eligibility	One or more grades within the competitions may be established by the Match Committee that provide for inclusion of men in teams	Men and women playing TCR Premier 1 during the current season are ineligible; likewise men playing Premier 2.

3 Playing in the competitions

3.1 Rules of tennis and code of conduct

All ties and matches in the competitions shall be played in accordance with the [Rules of Tennis](#) issued by the International Tennis Federation, and with the Tennis New Zealand [Code of Behaviour \(2023\)](#), to the extent it is applicable.

3.2 Entries

3.2.1 Entering teams

Clubs must use TCR's online entry process to enter teams in the midweek competitions. Entries must be completed by the published due date. The Match Committee may at its sole discretion accept entries after the due date. Entry fees for each competition will be determined by TCR. Clubs must pay their entry fees promptly.

In entering teams, clubs may express a preference for the grade or grades they would like their teams to be placed in. If the Match Committee is satisfied with the reasons given, it will endeavour to satisfy the preferences expressed. Satisfaction of preferences is however not guaranteed.

3.2.2 Availability of club courts

For competitions involving ties played at club courts, clubs that enter teams must make at least two courts available unless dispensation is granted by the Match Committee prior to the draws being made.

3.2.3 Club representation in teams

A team may comprise:

- (a) players who are members of the club that enters the team but with no players who are not members of that club; OR
- (b) players who are members of the club that enters the team combined with players who are members of one other club but with no players from any other club (referred to in these rules as a '**joint team**').

A team entered by a club in a competition may be either of these types of team. If a club is entering more than one team in the same competition, it may enter both types of team (for example, a joint team as well as an ordinary club team).

For the avoidance of doubt, it is a club's responsibility to decide whether or not to include players from other clubs in its teams in accordance with its own policies for team selection.

3.2.4 Naming conventions

The name of a team must begin with the name of the club that entered it. For a **joint team**, its name must include the name of the other club by using the format 'Club A / Club B'. For any team, additional nomenclature may be added (for example, something to distinguish one team from another team from the same club playing in the same competition).

3.2.5 Team lists

There is no restriction on the number of players that may be listed as members of a team. Reserves should be included along with regular players.

In any one competition, a player may be listed as a member of more than one team entered by the same club, either in the same grade or in different grades. But a player must not be listed by more than one club.

Players may play for different clubs in different competitions.

3.2.6 Player ranking order within a team

In entering a team, a club must list the players in ranked order beginning with the top player. In so doing, clubs and team captains are relied upon to act in good faith in assessing and ranking players in genuine order of ability.

Note that Match Hub player grades are not used to determine ranking order in the midweek competitions. For the avoidance of doubt, it is up to a club to decide for itself if and how it will use Match Hub grades to assist it and its captains to determine ranking order.³

3.2.7 Withdrawals

A club that decides to withdraw a team from a competition must notify TCR by email of its decision as soon as possible. If a withdrawal is notified after the draw has been completed but before competition commences, the club may request TCR by email to consider its case for receiving a refund of the entry fee. Withdrawal of a team after a competition has commenced will not entitle the club to any refund of the entry fee.

3.3 Eligibility of players

3.3.1 Club responsibility

A club is responsible for ensuring that the players listed in each team it enters are eligible to play in the competitions. This responsibility extends to any players from other clubs included in the teams entered by it.

3.3.2 Affiliated players

A player is eligible to play in the competitions if and only if they are an affiliated player at the time of playing.

3.3.3 Junior players

A player who turns 18 before a particular competition begins is eligible to play in that competition. Players who are under 18 years of age at the start of a particular competition are ineligible to play in that competition.

3.3.4 Variations of player eligibility for particular competitions

The structure and formats for each competition covered by these rules may include variations of player eligibility that are specific to a particular competition. Any such variations shall have the same standing as the general rules applying to all competitions and any breaches of them are subject to the same penalties.

3.4 Venues

For ties played at clubs, clubs are asked to ensure their facilities are made available to visiting teams on arrival and in time for a 15-minute warm-up before scheduled start times. Visiting players are expected to observe local club requirements including allocation of courts. For ties played at the Renouf Tennis Centre, teams shall use only the courts allocated to them in the draw.

3.5 When competitions are underway

Team captains are relied upon to take due care in understanding and correctly applying the requirements for player eligibility and ranking order as a competition progresses.

3.5.1 Playing in different grades

In any one competition, a player becomes ineligible to play in a lower grade after they have played **twice** in any higher grade. For example, if the competition comprises three grades A, B, and C, then a player:

- (a) must not play in C after they have played once in B plus once in A, or twice in B, or twice in A; and
- (b) must not play in either B or C after they have played twice in A.

3.5.2 Playing for different teams in the same round or grade

A player is ineligible to play for more than one team in the same round of a particular competition.

If a club has two or more teams in the same grade of a competition, a player may play for any of those teams except that, after they have played **twice** for a particular team, they become ineligible to play for any other team in that grade in that competition.

For the avoidance of doubt, the number of times a player has played for a particular team does not carry over from a Pre-Christmas competition to a Post-Christmas competition.

3.5.3 Playing in the final rounds

The top two players in a team playing its last scheduled tie in a draw must have played in at least one previous tie in the same competition either for that team or for another team entered by the same club in the same competition, provided this was not in a higher grade. Where this requirement is not met, then:

- (a) If only one player meets this requirement, then the top ranked player who does not meet the requirement shall be deemed to be an ineligible player for that tie.
- (b) If no player meets this requirement, then the top two ranked players who do not meet the requirement shall both be deemed to be ineligible players for that tie.
- (c) If, due to postponement or cancellation, an earlier scheduled tie in the draw is completed later than the last scheduled tie, then both teams are expected to observe – on the day or days of completion – the underlying principle of the above rule, which is to limit the use of ring-ins to boost a team's prospects of winning a grade. This additional provision is in

accordance with the spirit of fair competition and with the principle of good faith, both of which are embedded in these rules.

3.5.4 Ranking order

In any tie, players must play in their teams in the listed ranking order as determined by the latest team list that has been notified to TCR and that applies when the tie begins. The deadlines for notification to TCR are detailed immediately below under sections 3.5.6 and 3.5.7.

Immediately before play in a tie commences, the team captains are expected to inform each other of the ranking order of their respective teams (e.g., by exchanging written team lists, by displaying their team list on a device, or in conversation).

Any captain of any team in a particular competition may protest to the Match Committee if they believe there has been a clear and obvious departure from the principle of genuine order of ability in any particular tie. A captain submitting such a protest is expected to provide sufficient evidence of the alleged departure.

3.5.5 Changes in ranking order

In accordance with the principles of good faith and genuine order of ability, a team captain may – before the last three rounds of a competition – change the ranking order of their team at any time by notifying TCR by email of the change in order.

Notifications to TCR by email no later than 9.30 AM of the day of a round shall apply from that round on.

Late notifications will not be applied until the next round after the date of notification (provided this is before the last three rounds of a competition). Retrospective notifications will not be accepted.

3.5.6 Additions to team lists

A club may add additional players to a team throughout a competition by notifying TCR by email of their names together with their ranking order in the team (except that a player who was listed for one club cannot subsequently be listed by another club in the same competition). A club may:

- (a) if a joint team, subsequently add players from either of the two joint clubs (but not from any other club); OR
- (b) if not a joint team, subsequently add players either from its own club or from just one other club and, if it chooses this latter option, the team becomes a joint team from that point on.

Notifications to TCR by email no later than 9.30 AM of the day of a round shall apply from that round on.

Late notifications will not be applied until the next round after the date of notification. Retrospective notifications will not be accepted.

3.5.7 Monitoring player eligibility

Match Hub provides open viewing of up-to-date midweek interclub team ranking lists and of player participation in the competitions. Team captains and their players should check

Match Hub if they have any concerns about player eligibility. A captain should then raise a protest with the Match Committee by emailing TCR if they continue to have concerns after checking. See section [3.10 Disputes, protests, complaints, and appeals](#).

The Match Committee does not routinely scrutinize the results entered into Match Hub to ensure player eligibility. Neither is Match Hub itself capable of doing so. Instead, a high-trust model operates wherein the integrity of our competitions depends upon due diligence by captains acting in good faith in fielding their teams and in monitoring results. The integrity of our competitions is also influenced by peer pressure among players.

3.5.8 Penalties

In any tie, any player who fails to meet the requirements for eligibility to play in that tie, or who plays out of ranking order, is deemed to be an ineligible player for that tie. Penalties shall be imposed on any team that plays an ineligible player.

If the Match Committee upholds a protest claiming a departure from the principle of genuine order of ability, penalties shall be similarly imposed.

The penalties are detailed under section [4.5 Penalties](#).

3.6 Team captains

3.6.1 Captains

Each team shall be under the control of a team captain (captain). The meaning of 'captain' in these rules includes any person deputising for the regular captain. A captain's responsibilities under these rules are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Role of captains

Before a tie	During a tie	On completion of a tie
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be familiar with these rules, and with how to access and use Match Hub ▪ Check the eligibility and availability of the players in their team together with the latest listed ranking order ▪ Supply balls as required by these rules ▪ If there is any doubt as to the ability to start at the scheduled time, or to play on the scheduled date, contact the opposition captain, and be available for contact by them ▪ Cooperate with the opposition captain in accordance with these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperate with opposition captains to ensure the tie runs on time and otherwise in accordance with these rules including if the tie needs to be suspended ▪ Together with opposing captains, endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any contentious matters arising during the tie before referring such matters to the Match Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use Match Hub to record the result of the tie ▪ Use Match Hub to update progress if the tie is suspended or postponed ▪ Together with the opposition captain, endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any contentious matters arising subsequent to the tie before referring such matters to the Match Committee ▪ Raise any protest or complaint in accordance with the provisions for doing so set out in these rules

rules if the tie needs to be postponed

3.6.2 Contact details

The captain's mobile phone number shall be included in the draw. If a captain's contact details change from that shown in the draw, or if a new captain is appointed, it is their club's responsibility to ensure that timely notification of the change is emailed to TCR. TCR will send an updated captains contact list to all captains in the same competition.

If, for a particular tie, a deputy will be standing in as captain, the regular captain must text the opposition captain with the deputy's name and mobile phone number.

3.6.3 Result sheets

A TCR midweek interclub result sheet should be used to record the results of each match of a tie. When the tie is completed, the result sheet must be signed both team captains.

Both captains should retain a record of the result sheet in case of any dispute arising over the accuracy of the results subsequently entered in Match Hub. The original sheet, a duplicate sheet, a photo, or a photocopy are examples of a suitable form of record. Captains should retain their records for the duration of the competition.

3.6.4 Recording results and updating progress in Match Hub

The winning team's captain is responsible for entering the full results of a tie into Match Hub within 48 hours following its completion.

Note that Match Hub does not allow for the results of completed matches in suspended ties to be entered by captains progressively over time. Match results must be entered by captains all at once after a tie has been completed.⁴

If a tie is suspended or postponed, one of the captains – by agreement with the other captain – must, within 48 hours following the scheduled date of the tie, update Match Hub with the date, time, and venue for completing the tie, as agreed between the captains. If further suspension or postponement occurs, then Match Hub must be updated with the newly agreed rescheduling arrangements within 48 hours following the previously rescheduled date.

The captains involved should attempt to promptly resolve directly between them any dispute over the accuracy of the results of a tie entered in Match Hub. If such a dispute is referred to the Match Committee, the committee shall resolve it by relying solely on a result sheet, or record of it, which has been signed by both captains. If none is available, then the result as entered shall stand.

3.6.5 Penalties for late entry of results

A penalty may be imposed on a winning team whose results are entered after the deadline. Penalties are detailed under section [4.5 Penalties](#).

3.7 Suspended and postponed ties

3.7.1 Decisions to suspend or postpone ties

Captains may, due to inclement weather or bad light, mutually agree to suspend play during a tie, or to postpone a tie before play commences. Players must not be expected to play in wet conditions if they do not wish to do so. Captains must not suspend play or postpone ties for any other reason, except as provided for under the rules for defaults. In any case, it is strongly recommended that ties not be postponed before the scheduled starting time.

3.7.2 Suspended ties

The remainder of a tie that was commenced but not completed on the scheduled day must be rescheduled for completion by agreement between the captains as to date, starting time, and venue. All completed matches stand. When a match in progress is suspended, all sets, games and points completed stand. Captains shall ensure a record is kept of progress scores. Players in suspended matches cannot be replaced. Otherwise, when completing suspended ties, teams may replace a player named in their original team only if the replacement player was ranked below the original player when the tie commenced and plays in the listed ranking order that was current at that time. One or more players may be replaced.

3.7.3 Postponed ties

A tie that was not commenced on the scheduled day must be rescheduled by agreement between the captains as to date, starting time, and venue. When playing postponed ties, teams may change any of the players named in their original team.

3.7.4 Rescheduling

A rescheduled tie shall be further rescheduled if it is unable to be played or completed due to inclement weather or bad light. The rules for subsequent rescheduling are the same as those set out above for initial rescheduling. For the avoidance of doubt, the rules regarding defaults apply equally to rescheduled ties.

3.7.5 Deadlines

The deadline for completion of all rescheduled ties shall be determined by the Match Committee and shall be a single date for all pre-Christmas competitions and another date for all post-Christmas competitions. The dates shall provide reasonable opportunity for rescheduling on the same day of the week as the day of usual play for each competition (e.g., Mondays or Fridays, as the case may be). In setting these dates, the Match Committee shall recognise that many players have regular commitments on other days of the week, and it shall also consider the potential impact of public holidays and school holidays on player availability. Team captains shall be informed of the dates before the respective competitions commence.

Ties not completed by the applicable deadline shall be declared null and void and no points shall be awarded to either team irrespective of the outcome of any match that was commenced.

3.8 Defaults

3.8.1 Defaults due to retirement

If, due to injury or any other reason, a player retires from a match that has already started, then the match is awarded to the opposing team. That player cannot be replaced in any other match remaining in the tie unless the tie is suspended in which case the rules for replacement under suspended ties apply.

3.8.2 Defaults due to lateness or non-arrival

A player who arrives later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time shall be defaulted from their opening match. If they do not arrive in time to start their following match, they shall be defaulted from that match also. If they do not arrive in time to start their final match, they shall again be defaulted. The order of play remains as if the late arrival was present at the start and throughout.

If a team does not have at least 3 players ready to play 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, then all matches are deemed to be defaulted and the tie is awarded to the opposing team, irrespective of the outcome of any match that was commenced.

3.8.3 Enforcing defaults

A captain may choose not to enforce defaults due to lateness or non-arrival by an opposing team if an explanation acceptable to them is provided, in which case it may be agreed between the captains that, depending on the circumstances: the start of some matches will be delayed; or the tie will start at a later time; or the tie will be rescheduled for another day in accordance with the rules for rescheduling a postponed tie.

A captain may protest to the Match Committee for review of an opposing captain's decision not to agree to their request for a default not to be enforced, or for a tie to be rescheduled rather than defaulted. In considering such a protest, the Match Committee shall consider whether the request was made in good faith and whether the grounds for it were such that a reasonable and fair-minded person would generally be expected to have accepted the request.

3.8.4 Defaults due to inability to field a full team

If a team is unable to field a full team because it is short of just 1 player, then the tie shall proceed with the players in the team that is short filling the top 3 positions in ranked order. All matches involving the number 4 position are defaulted. If a team is unable to field a full team because it is short of 2 or more players, then all matches are deemed to be defaulted and the tie is awarded to the opposing team. Once a default is notified to and accepted by the opposing captain, the default will stand irrespective of the weather conditions on the scheduled day of the tie. Prior notifications of defaults should be confirmed by text between captains to avoid misunderstanding.

3.8.5 Agreement to reschedule

The captain of a team that is unable to field a full team on the scheduled date of a tie may request the opposing captain to allow the tie to be rescheduled rather than defaulted. If the opposing captain agrees to such a request, the tie shall be rescheduled in accordance with the rules for rescheduling a postponed tie.

3.8.6 Successive defaults

Any team defaulting two successive ties in a competition shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition unless the Match Committee decides otherwise on receipt of a prompt written explanation acceptable to it.

3.8.7 Penalties for defaults

Penalties shall be imposed on any team that defaults a tie. The penalties are detailed under section [4.5 Penalties](#).

3.9 Dress and behaviour

3.9.1 Acceptable dress

Players shall dress and present themselves for play in an appropriate manner for competition tennis. Clean and customarily acceptable tennis clothing shall be worn. Players are required to wear tennis shoes generally accepted as proper tennis attire. This excludes plastic or rubber hard-soled, ripple-soled, or rigid-soled shoes, or any other shoes that could mark or otherwise damage the court surface.

3.9.2 Acceptable behaviour

Players are expected at all times to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and respectful manner, to abide by the rules of tennis, and to give due regard to the rights of their opponents and to the interests of other players and spectators at the same venue. Players are expected to avoid any behaviour that distracts or inconveniences their opponents or other players.

Abusive behaviour including offensive or insulting behaviour is unacceptable.

The Match Committee shall consider and act upon any complaint of misconduct or unacceptable behaviour by a player including complaints that the player's team failed to appropriately address alleged unacceptable behaviour at the time. Penalties may be imposed in proven cases. The penalties are detailed under section [4.5 Penalties](#).

3.10 Disputes, protests, complaints, and appeals

3.10.1 Resolution by mutual agreement

Opposing captains shall, in good faith, disclose any matters material to the conduct of a tie, and endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any contentious matters that may arise during a tie or immediately subsequent to it (including matters concerning the timely entry of results into Match Hub).

3.10.2 Protests and complaints

The captain of a team wishing to protest against its opponent in relation to a particular tie must do so by email to TCR no later than 3 days after the tie was completed (unless entry of the full results into Match Hub ran over the deadline, in which case the time allowed to lodge a protest shall be extended by the amount of the overrun rounded up to whole days). The captain of a team wishing to protest in relation to any other tie or team in the same competition must do so in a timely manner by email to TCR. Any captain or other player, or a

club, may, by email to TCR, make a complaint in relation to the conduct of players or teams during the competitions.

3.10.3 Appeals

Any club wishing to object to a decision of the Match Committee or Executive in response to any protest or complaint notified to TCR as above may appeal for reconsideration by email to TCR within 7 days of the date when the person who raised the matter was advised of the decision. An appeal must state the reasons for the club's objection. It must be made by the club's midweek delegate, or by another club official.

4 Running the competitions

The Executive, the Match Committee, and TCR are collectively responsible for running the midweek interclub competitions. Their respective roles are set out below.

4.1 Role of the Executive

The Executive has overall responsibility for ensuring that the competitions are organised and delivered each season, and that they provide a competitive and enjoyable experience for players at all levels.

The Executive shall, in conjunction with TCR, promote and control the midweek interclub competitions as outlined in Table 3 below, and shall have full power to do so. The Executive shall determine its own way of working. It may seek advice and other assistance from TCR as it sees fit. The Chief Executive Officer of TCR, or their delegate, is an ex officio member of the Executive. The Executive shall:

- (a) Elect its chairperson (the Chair)
- (b) Appoint, from among the delegates, a Match Committee comprising a minimum of three persons, and a maximum of five.

Before a new season commences, the Executive may, in consultation with TCR, approve changes to the existing structure and format of competitions by making changes to existing competitions; by discontinuing existing competitions; and by adding new competitions.

Table 3: Role of the Executive

Initiating the competitions	Supervising the competitions	Concluding the competitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider any submissions or proposals received in relation to the competitions or rules Annually, agree on any proposed changes to the rules for submission to TCR for approval⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and respond to all matters referred to it by the Match Committee (including regular reports on the committee's activities) Impose penalties as provided for by these rules Determine all matters not specifically provided for by the rules that may come to its attention (including matters referred to it by the Match Committee) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange an end-of-season prize-giving function for midweek players and winning teams Review the outcomes of each season's competitions against the aims of these rules and consider the need for any changes to the rules or the competitions

4.2 Role of the Match Committee

The Match Committee shall appoint its Convener, and shall work in conjunction with TCR to initiate, supervise, and conclude the annual midweek interclub competitions as outlined in Table 4 below and in accordance with these rules.

The committee shall maintain a log of all protests, complaints, appeals, and suggestions, together with its response to them. The Convener shall ensure the Executive is kept informed of the committee's activities, and that any matters the committee believes require the Executive's attention or decision are referred to it. The committee may make recommendations to the Executive. The committee shall otherwise determine its own way of working.

Table 4: Role of the Match Committee

Initiating the competitions	Supervising the competitions	Concluding the competitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review the entries for each competition ▪ Determine the number of grades for each competition ▪ Place in grades the entered teams in accordance with the rules for promotion and relegation between grades ▪ Confirm the draws for each competition ▪ Administer the competition for the Barbara Hogan Trophy⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, change the start time or venue of specific ties, or reschedule or cancel specific ties or specific rounds of a competition ▪ Monitor progress towards the completion of suspended and postponed ties, and act as necessary to achieve finality ▪ Address matters concerning the interpretation or adequacy of these rules ▪ Respond to protests, complaints, appeals, and suggestions (including complaints of misconduct or unacceptable behaviour) ▪ Impose penalties as provided for by these rules ▪ Refer matters to the Executive as provided for by these rules or otherwise as the committee sees fit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine how to conclude any unfinished ties ▪ Conclude a competition prematurely if necessary due to unforeseen circumstances ▪ Determine the competition winners and advise all captains of the competition results by email

4.3 Role of TCR

TCR maintains the midweek section of its website and app, administers the shared midweek mailbox, and provides other administrative services to support the competitions as outlined in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Role of TCR

Initiating the competitions	Supervising the competitions	Concluding the competitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Call for and receive entries for the competitions (including collection of entry fees) ▪ In conjunction with the Match Committee, set up each competition in Match Hub (including the team lists, number of grades, composition of teams within grades, and draws) ▪ Publish online the rules, the draws, and the lists of captains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publish online updated lists of captains when necessary, and notify captains of updates ▪ Notify captains of any changes to start times or venues, and of any rescheduling or cancellation of ties or rounds ▪ Update team listings in Match Hub as necessary ▪ Administering decisions of the Match Committee, including the imposition of penalties 	

4.4 Exceptional situations

If a tie is not completed for any reason including (without limitation): failure by captains to agree on the arrangements for completing the tie; agreement by captains that the tie is unable to be completed; or disruption of a competition; then the Match Committee shall determine the matter by deciding upon one of the following options:

- (a) Setting a date, time, and venue for completion.
- (b) Awarding competition points on the basis of matches completed, if any, but without awarding bonus points.
- (c) Declaring the tie to be null and void, in which case no points shall be awarded to either team irrespective of the outcome of any match that was completed.
- (d) Treating the tie as a draw by awarding each team an equal number of competition points for matches won but without awarding either games or bonus points.
- (e) Declaring that one team has defaulted and awarding the tie to the other team in accordance with the rules for defaults (in which case the penalties for defaults shall be applied to the team that is declared to have defaulted).
- (f) Declaring that both teams have defaulted, in which case the penalties for defaults shall be applied to both teams.

In deciding upon the fairest option, the Match Committee shall consider:

- (a) Any request made by either captain or jointly by both captains.
- (b) Any exceptional circumstances that prevented completion.

- (c) The effect or likely effect on which team wins the corresponding grade.

4.5 Penalties

4.5.1 Penalties for late entry of results or updates into Match Hub

A penalty shall be imposed on the winning team if the results of the tie they won are entered after the deadline unless the winning team's captain, of their own initiative, provides by email to TCR an explanation acceptable to the Match Committee. The email must be sent within 7 days of the tie's completion. If there is not an acceptable explanation, the team shall have 1 competition point deducted from their overall team total.

4.5.2 Penalties for ineligible players

Any breach of the rules regarding player eligibility for a particular tie shall result in imposition of the following penalties:

- (a) Forfeiture by the offending team of all matches that an ineligible player played in.
- (b) For each forfeited match, the maximum score shall be awarded to the opposing team and the minimum score to the offending team (e.g., if the match format is first to win 7 games, then the result for each forfeited match shall be recorded as a 7 - 0 win to the opposing team).

4.5.3 Penalties for defaults

Any team defaulting a tie shall have 1 competition point deducted from their overall team total.

For the avoidance of doubt, competition points shall be deducted in all cases even if this results in a minus total.

4.5.4 Penalties for misconduct or unacceptable behaviour

A player found by the Match Committee to have engaged in unacceptable behaviour under the Code Violation provisions set out in the Tennis New Zealand Player Code of Conduct may be given a written warning or, in cases of repeat offences or gross violation, may be penalized by suspension or removal from the midweek competition or competitions they are playing in.

A team found by the Match Committee to have failed to appropriately address their team member's gross violation at the time may be penalized by forfeiture of one or more matches that player took part in on the day.

In any severe case, the Match Committee shall ask the Executive to request TCR to consider taking additional disciplinary action. The Executive may censure or disqualify any team or player.

4.5.5 Persistent breaches of rules

The Executive may, on the recommendation of the Match Committee, censure or disqualify any team for persistent failure to comply with these rules (whether or not the same rules or different rules).

4.6 Points won and competition winners

4.6.1 Points awarded

Each match in a tie is worth 1 competition point for the team that wins it. In addition, 2 bonus competition points shall be awarded to the team that wins a tie (irrespective of any defaulted matches).

If a tie is drawn, both teams shall be awarded 1 bonus point each.

4.6.2 Tie winners

The winner of a tie shall be decided as follows, in order of progression: (1) the winner is the team that won the most matches; (2) if matches are equal, the winner is the team that won the most games (a tiebreaker counts as a game); (3) if games are equal, the tie is drawn.

4.6.3 Grade winners

A winning team shall be declared for each grade within a competition. The winner shall be decided as follows, in order of progression:

- (1) The winner of a grade is the team that won the most competition points
- (2) If two or more teams have equal points, the ranking between them shall be determined by the best wins differential (e.g., 3 wins, 2 losses and a draw would rank higher than 3 wins and 3 losses)
- (3) If a clear winner has still not emerged, the results of the head-to-head ties between the teams that remain equal shall determine the ranking (e.g., across 3 teams, 1 win and 1 draw would rank higher than 1 win and 1 loss which, in turn, would rank higher than 1 draw and 1 loss)
- (4) If, still, a clear winner remains undecided, the rankings between the teams that remain equal shall be determined by the best games differential across all rounds of the competition (e.g., 230 games won and 85 lost would rank higher than 250 won and 115 lost)
- (5) If the remaining teams remain inseparable, they shall each be declared joint winners.

4.7 Promotion and relegation

4.7.1 Continuity across seasons

These rules for promotion and relegation between grades apply to related competitions including competitions that correspond to and succeed a previous competition from one season to the next.

4.7.2 Promotion

Each grade winner shall be promoted to the next higher grade in the succeeding competition (if there is more than one grade). In the event of there being joint grade winners, both teams shall be promoted.

4.7.3 Relegation

The Match Committee may decide to relegate – to the next lower grade in the succeeding competition – the team with the least competition points in a grade. In the event of two or

more teams having equal lowest points, the method of determining the team to be relegated shall be the same as that used to determine the grade winners (i.e., in progression, best wins differential, then head-to-heat ties etc.). If, at the conclusion, two or more teams still cannot be separated, none shall be relegated.

4.7.4 Defaults affecting promotion or relegation

Where a default occurs, the result of which affects the promotion or relegation of other teams in the same grade, the Match Committee may, notwithstanding any other provision in these rules, require the tie to be played, or it may regrade the defaulting team.

4.8 Adjustments to competitions

During a season, before the post-Christmas competitions commence, the Match Committee may, in response to changing circumstances, and in consultation with TCR, make timely adjustments within the existing structure and format of particular competitions. In making adjustments, the Match Committee shall seek to ensure they are not only fair for all teams in the competition but will also help maximise the opportunities for participation and enjoyment by players. Especially, adjustments must not compromise the outcomes of promotion for grade winners in the preceding competition.

Adjustments may be made to the nature and number of grades, and to the number and mix of teams within grades. If adjusting the nature of a grade, or if adding a grade, any allowable variations of player eligibility that apply to specific competitions shall be considered.

Examples of changing circumstances that may lead to adjustments include (without limitation):

- (a) The effect on a grade of joint winners being promoted, or of no teams being relegated from it
- (b) The effect on a competition of additional entries, or withdrawal of teams
- (c) A request from a club that one of its teams be regraded.

4.8.1 Disruption of a competition

If due to unforeseen circumstances all rounds of a competition cannot be completed, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) If all rounds except one have been played, a winning team shall be declared for each grade within the competition based on the rounds that were completed. The winner shall be decided by the same method set out above for full completion. Promotion and relegation will then still occur as set out above.
- (b) If two or more rounds were unable to be completed, none of the teams shall be declared grade winners and neither promotion nor relegation will occur.

Endnotes

¹ Midweek mailbox

A single email address is provided for clubs and players as the point of contact with the Executive, the Match Committee, and TCR on all matters concerning the midweek competitions. TCR's role in administering the shared mailbox includes redistributing inwards mail to the appropriate person or persons for action.

² Future technical changes

Future technical changes to some parts of these rules could in future be required in light of any changes in future seasons to the present structure and format of competitions. For example, the rule parts dealing with recording results, ranking order, defaults, points won, and competition winners would need to be reviewed if different scoring or match formats were introduced either by way of changes to the present competitions, or by adding new competitions.

³ Match Hub player grades

As a matter of present TCR policy, the midweek interclub competitions provided for by these rules are not established within Match Hub in a way that enables match results to effect player points and grades.

⁴ Entering into Match Hub the results of suspended ties

Match Hub does not allow for the results of completed matches in suspended ties to be entered by captains progressively over time. Match results must be entered by captains all at once after a tie has been completed. This is a limitation on captains only. Club 'Administrators' and TCR 'Administrators' who are recognised in Match Hub can update results progressively as a delayed tie proceeds.

⁵ Approval of changes to these rules

TCR's key responsibilities include approving all new rules proposed by interclub committees before release – see [*Terms of Reference for Senior Interclub Committees \(Premier and Tecnifibre\)*](#).

⁶ The Barbara Hogan Trophy

The end-of-season prize-giving function includes presenting the Barbara Hogan Trophy to the winning club. The Match Committee administers the competition for the Barbara Hogan Trophy.

Barbara was a long-time tennis player and loyal and contributing member of the Miramar Tennis Club. In 1984 she was tragically killed in a car accident on the Desert Road together with her teenage son and a friend of his. Barbara's husband, Ray, donated this trophy to Wellington's midweek tennis section in memory of her.