

INTERCLUB FORUM SUMMARY NOTES



Tennis Central Region Inc. (TCRI) Interclub Forum

Date and Time: Sunday 18th June at 4.30pm

Venue: Renouf Tennis Centre, Brooklyn Road, Brooklyn, Wellington

Present: Tim Shannahan, Flo Perret, Mark Parsonage, Mel Jansen (Tennis Central), Brian Francis (TCR Board), Jackie Clarke (Lower Hutt), Audrey Daly (Maungaraki), Andy Gillespie (Churton Park), Kathryn Hazlewood, Rob Bolton, Tim Lyons (Island Bay), Glenys Cathro, Bruce Cathro, Bronwyn Mechen, (Johnsonville Tennis Club), Samantha Whaanga, Craig MacLeod, Craig Brown, Chris Hall (Khandallah), Kath Jones, Steph Walker, Suzie Bogner, Chris Barnsley (Miramar), Barry Teale (Newlands-Paparangi), Graeme Jarvis, Ben Volz, Geoff Lewis, Nick White (Thorndon), Paula Ash (Vogelmorn), Mark Leggett, Ben Leggett (Wellington), Rochelle Ellison, Greg Ratcliffe, Vanessa Nahona (Ngatitooa), Lane Lawson, Donna Kieboom (Paraparaumu), Tracey Dyer, Julia Ham (Plimmerton), Julie Roberts (Tawa-Lyndhurst), Nina McGregor, Tania Martin-Phillips, Mareta Randall, Murray Randall, Jay Stairmand, Greg Moller (Titahi Bay), Steve Joss (Waikanae).

Meeting commenced 4.30pm

Introduction from Flo Perret, Tennis Central Events & Operations Manager. Explained background on why forum initiated.

Brian Francis thanked current committees for their work to the competitions.

Flo explained the purpose of the forum and the desired outcomes;

- Identifying issues and discussing them
- Having a feel for what everyone thought and see if alignment of rules is possible and needed
- Feedback received on rules will be a guide for TCR and committees to work on changes as required
- No final decisions on rules will be confirmed today
- Final proposed changes will be circulated to clubs for adoption by majority before being confirmed.
- Positive, constructive, open discussion

4.39pm Juniors

Flo reviewed current interclub numbers and the new grades that were offered.

Regional Elite was first offered in 2015 in order to retain the top young juniors into the Junior Competition:

Julie, Tawa-Lyndhurst – feedback some players not quite ready to transition to elite but gave them opportunity to play. Suggestion to lower the S Grade so more could play.

Craig Brown, Khandallah – how are we measuring whether the elite grade is successful? These players are usually playing in National events.

Janine Stairmand, Titahi Bay – hard for her girls club teams to play on Friday night and then on Saturday morning.

Flo suggested perhaps another timeslot could be found, maybe in clubs if there was availability.

Donna Kieboom, Paraparaumu Beach – didn't promote Friday Regional grade to teams as starts too early and conflicts with Saturday tennis.

Lane Lawson, Paraparaumu Beach – what is the perceived advantage to keep kids in juniors rather than going to seniors? Flo explained clubs should determine when their juniors transition to seniors.

Mark Parsonage (TCR) – had received positive feedback on Elite grade being played on a Friday night as does not interfere with other sports, however acknowledged that inconvenient for Kapi Mana teams.

Flo suggested to give a later start to the KM teams allowing travel.

Janine Stairmand – suggested grades not be gender based.

Fast 4 Tennis was offered last season in order to provide more competitive tennis to the keen juniors:

Barry Teale, Newlands-Paparangi - Loved the Fast4 had great feedback, kids loved it.

Andy Gillespie, Churton Park - suggested that regional elite grade players could also play Fast 4 Tennis. Flo advised that any players could currently already play.

Mixed Grade was offered 2 years ago but only one team ended up entering:

Lane Lawson, Paraparaumu – sees future for mixed gender, mixed age competitions

Flo mentioned that TNZ have introduced an “equivalent male Grading” S grade for females

Tracey, Plimmerton – interested in mixed, success for mixed at novice grade. Fell away when genders are split. Mixed in ages 8-10 would be of benefit. Flo advised that all current teams can already be mixed if clubs wanted.

Andy Gillespie – drop gender grades all together – mix gender teams for all grades

Kapi Mana Competition; Because of the low number of teams, grades are uneven in terms of team abilities and players age within the grades.

Combine with Wellington?

Graeme Jarvis, Thorndon – what was the reason to have Wellington junior Interclub on Sunday morning and Kapi Mana Junior Interclub on Saturday morning? Flo explained it was due to limited court availability and also due to Junior Regional and Wellington Girls Novice grades already playing on Saturday mornings.

Steph Walker, Miramar – recalled it had moved because of conflicts with other codes (cricket)

Steve Joss, Waikanae – travel is a barrier in combining Wellington/Kapi Mana

Greg Ratcliffe, Ngatitua – parents don't play Tecnifibre tennis because of clash with junior tennis.

Would like to see move to Sunday

Janine Stairmand, Titahi Bay- Parents take juniors to play Tecnifibre grade with them instead for convenience

Suzie Bognar, Miramar – parents will struggle with commute

Julie, Tawa-Lyndhurst– happy to offer Tawa-Lyndhurst courts as junior hub. Flo commented there wouldn't be enough courts.

Lane Lawson, Paraparaumu – ideally sounds good to mix but travel is a major problem

Reduce number of players in team?

Tracey, Plimmerton – would suit Plimmerton

Donna/Lane, Paraparaumu Beach – would not appeal, killing the “team” feel.

Combine teams using players from other clubs, some clubs already doing this

Having mixed teams and/or mixed grades only to have more grades and even them up ?

Having Mixed gender teams all the way? General feeling from room would be a good idea

Junior discussion ended. Some junior representatives left meeting.

5.18pm Seniors discussion commenced

Flo reviewed current interclub competition numbers and grades.

Notification of results:

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

PREMIER	TECNIFIBRE
<p>Premier 1 results to be entered on Configure Rankings by 10am on Sunday, other Premier grades by 5pm on Monday.</p> <p>Penalty: 1 point off the team failing to enter the results in on time.</p>	<p>Tecnifibre results to be entered within 48 hours following the scheduled date of the tie.</p> <p>Penalty: as per the rules, the committee has power to cancel points gained in a contest and to impose a \$40 fine. <i>In practice, the committee usually just emails a reminder to the team requesting for results to be entered.</i></p>

Needs Alignment?

Lots of discussion from room.

Chris Hall, Khandallah Is there a good reason to have different rules?_Committee need discretion in some cases

Geoff Lewis, Thorndon - sometimes we don't need strict rules for Tecnifibre

Steph Walker, Miramar – either way it needs to be clear

Suggestion: 1 warning then 1 point penalty after 48 hours – same rule for all.

Eligibility of Clubs/Players:

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

ELIGIBILITY OF CLUB AND PLAYERS

PREMIER	TECNIFIBRE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new player can be added on the list no later than 24 hours before a contest as long as he's a club member.• Players cannot play in a lower grade once they have played 3 times in a grade in each Pre and Post Xmas draws.• Final tie of a draw: All players must have played in at least 2 previous ties for the same club in the same draw.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new player must have been a club member for at least 7 days to be eligible to play a contest.• Players cannot play in lower grade once they have played 3 times in a draw, and 4 times in the whole season (Pre and Post Xmas combined)• Final tie of a draw: Top 2 players must have played at least one previous tie for the same team or club (lower team)

Needs Alignment?

Added to the list – no later than 24 hours before a contest. Agreed should align

Craig MacLeod, Khandallah, mentioned that players should be able to play up but not down. Tecnifibre competition needs protection from teams stacking with Premier players.

Greg Ratcliffe, Ngatitua – would need to establish Tecnifibre lists first. Premier rule is better.

Steph Walker, Miramar – dispensations when defaults are involved need careful consideration

Penalty for ineligible Players

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

PENALTY FOR INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

PREMIER	TECNIFIBRE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Matches involving ineligible players and all matches played below are deemed to be defaults	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Default of the match/es involving the ineligible player <u>only</u>.

Needs Alignment ?

Chris Hall, Khandallah – Premier rule is logical.

Greg Ratcliff, Ngatitooa- agreed

Agreed should align.

Dispensation for National/International Events

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

DISPENSATION RULE FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS (IF A TEAM HAS 2 OR MORE PLAYERS INVOLVED IN THESE EVENTS)

PREMIER	TECNIFIBRE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Request to grant dispensation for these players must be made in writing to the committee <u>10</u> days before the scheduled date of the tie. Other matches must be played on the scheduled date. <p>The 2 players granted dispensation must be the ones who play in rescheduled matches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Request to grant dispensation for these players must be made in writing to the committee <u>14</u> days before the scheduled date of the tie. Other matches must be played on the scheduled date.

Needs Alignment ?

Craig MacLeod, Khandallah – no requests received at all to Committee from Tecnifibre grades!

Greg Ratcliffe, Ngatitooa – suggestion to align

Needs discussion on ITF players (Flo)

Players ranking order in a contest

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

PLAYERS RANKING ORDER IN A CONTEST.

PREMIER	TECNIFIBRE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Players must play in listed order (Configure Rankings grade order). Top singles ranked player must play in top double pairing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Mens and Womens 1st grade</u>: Players must play in listed order (Configure Rankings grade order). Top Doubles ranked player must play in top double pairing.• <u>Mens and Womens 2nd grade and below</u>: No rules for player position in neither Singles & Doubles other than order of merit.

Needs Alignment?

Steph Walker, Miramar – suggested at least should be same no matter what grade

Flo (TCR) suggested that Configure Ranking should always be used for order

Julie, Tawa-Lyndhurst – would have impact on high ranked doubles players.

Brian Francis, TCR Board – doubles order in Premier 1 grade difficult

Lane Lawson, Paraparaumu – current rule for Doubles order works well in Premier 1

Craig MacLeod, Khandallah – saying merit order without clarifying is no good. Would be interested to try to align and see how it goes

Greg Ratcliffe, Ngatitooa – when team plays out of order they are disrespecting the opposition

Match scoring format

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

MATCH SCORING FORMAT

PREMIER	TECNIFIBRE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doubles: Deciding point (sudden-death) on the first deuce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doubles: Deciding point (sudden-death) on the second deuce.• Grade A-B Men's grades (Monday night) have a different singles format with a Super tiebreak being played in the 3rd set if 1 set all and decided Deuce on second Deuce.• Mixed Doubles format (Sat Afternoon) is first to 9 games.

Needs Alignment?

Greg Ratcliffe, Ngatitooa – good argument both ways. Third set super tiebreak shortens game, not second deuce

Tim Lyons, Island Bay – Should align to ITF rules, (sudden death on first deuce)

Craig MacLeod, Khandallah – Believes sudden death on first deuce does shorten the game

Brian Francis, TCR Board – lots of opinions on this – perhaps save for the survey

Ben Volz, Thoron – believes Tecnifibre players would prefer second deuce

Steph Walker, Miramar – need to consider how much time you would save. Could be losing the uniqueness of tennis.

Points Won and Competition Winners

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

POINTS WON AND COMPETITION WINNERS

PREMIER

- Any team defaulting is deducted 1 point from its overall team points.
- When a club has 2 teams in the same grade and if one defaults to another, the winning team gets the full amount of points (8), and the defaulting team is penalised by 1 point.

TECNIFIBRE

- No deduction of points for a team defaulting.
- When a club has 2 teams in the same grade and if one defaults to another, none of the teams are awarded points.

Needs Alignment?

Defaults: agreed, should align on 1 point deduction and 2 teams from same club don't get any points at all when one of them default.

Postponement of contests (weather)

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

POSTPONEMENT OF CONTESTS (WEATHER).

PREMIER

- Team managers can't postpone until 2 hours after scheduled start time.
- Postponed matches to be played within 2 weeks following the scheduled date. If teams can't find a suitable time, the committee will schedule for them.

TECNIFIBRE

- If bad weather, strong recommendation that teams do not make decision to postpone until they reach the venue.
- Other reasons for postponement allowed to the discretion of the Interclub committee.
- Postponed matches to be completed by a week after the last scheduled round of the competition.

Needs Alignment?

Chris Hall, Khandallah, extremely hard to get all 4 players together to catch-up within 15 days.
Lane Lawson, Paraparaumu - difficult to get the right way but rule needs tightening up.
Barry Teale, Newlands-Paparangi - Good reason for different rules

Unfinished Contests

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

UNFINISHED CONTESTS

PREMIER

- All points played stand, even if none of the matches have been completed.

TECNIFIBRE

- A tie must be replayed if no match is completed.
- If one match has been completed, points played in any other matches stand.

Needs Alignment?

Agreed, should align to premier rule

Disputes/appeals/protests

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

DISPUTES/APPEALS/PROTESTS

PREMIER	TECNIFIBRE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protest must be submitted to the committee within 24h of results being entered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protest must be submitted to the committee within 3 days of contest being played.

Needs Alignment?

Discussion on different rules. Agreed, should align to premier rule however Jackie Clarke, Lower Hutt - mentioned rules should read "within 24 hours after the deadline" as we don't know when results are entered.

Promotion/Relegation

RULE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PREMIER AND TECNIFIBRE.

PROMOTION/RELEGATION

PREMIER	TECNIFIBRE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre Xmas: at the conclusion of the competition, 2 teams from Prem 1, 2 and 3 are relegated. Top 3 men teams of HVT and Tecnifibre promoted into Prem 4 for Post Xmas.• Post Xmas: at the conclusion of the competition, top 2 teams for Prem 2, 3 and 4 promoted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre Xmas: at the conclusion of the competition, one or 2 teams promoted/relegated from grade to grade in Men's comp. 2 or more teams from Men grade 1 promoted to Prem 4. For Women, only promotion/relegation between grades 1&2.• Post Xmas: Promotion/relegation dictated by relegation from Prem 4 in Men's comp. For women's, one team promoted from Grade 1 to Prem 3 for next season.

Needs Alignment?

Lots of discussion from room.

Donna Kieboom, Paraparaumu - need incentive for teams to be promoted

Flo presented 4 options;

1/ Back to Premier 4 Post Xmas for Women (maybe Premier 4 women made of 4 or 6 teams only?)

2/ Due to small number of teams in Women, maybe have only 2 grades in Premier Pre Xmas and adding a Premier 3 grade Post Xmas ensuring a flow of Prom/relegation between Premier and Tecnifibre/HV at the conclusion of Pre Xmas comp ?

3/ At the conclusion of Pre Xmas, 3 Premier 3 women teams are relegated to Tecnifibre/Hutt Valley, and the top grade 1 team from H.V and Wellington do a playoff to get a spot in Premier 3 Post Xmas?

4/ Keep 8 teams in Premier 1 Post Xmas so there is a nice flow of promo/relegation on a 2 up 2 down basis.

Jackie Clarke, Lower Hutt- highlighted that only one team per club is allowed in Premier 1 so difficult to bring teams up to Premier 1

Greg Ratcliffe, Ngatitua - proposed to keep 8 teams in Premier 1 post-Christmas (two up/two down) and demote the two lowest Hutt Valley teams out of Premier and Hutt Valley to replace them with top two HV teams from HV competition.

Structure of Senior Interclub

Greg Ratcliffe, Ngatitua - Suggested that Feed in for HV teams with Tecnifibre at certain level (to be determined), combining would work. Another huge advantage is having one committee across all grades, consistency and all going in same direction.

Craig MacLeod; provided you can be promoted or relegated then no reason to merge

Chris Hall – one competition would require one set of rules so would need to align everything

Geoff Lewis - would like to hear from committees regarding whether they would be happy with one merged competition/committee

Lane Lawson –works well now provided that promotion relegation is sorted. Why fix something that is not broken!

More discussion required.

Other business

Lane Lawson, Paraparaumu - Premier 1 women's competition does not have strength to field 8 teams

Lane Lawson, Paraparaumu - Premier 1 grade requires a match official on a Saturday.

Chris Barnsley, Miramar – Limiting out of town number of players in Premier 1 teams

Steph Walker, Miramar – One weekend off from Interclub where clubs can run their club champs / champion of champions held after

Meeting closed with pizza at 6.45pm