

## NIGHT FIXTURES RULES

### Glossary of Terms

Co-ordinator may mean a sub-committee or a person nominated by Tennis Townsville to conduct the night fixtures.

### 1. GRADING AND TEAM COMPOSITION

- a) The night fixtures coordinator or sub-committee will determine the number of divisions for various night fixtures.
- b) The co-ordinator will decide on the number of teams and rounds to be played in each division and will grade teams accordingly.
- c) The co-ordinator will have the power to re-grade any player nominated for fixture play.
- d) The winners of a division, in previous season, may be automatically be graded up to higher division in next season. Teams coming last in a division may be relegated to a lower in next season.

### 2. COURT ALLOCATIONS

Night fixture teams will use the court allocated to them. The use of two courts for night fixture play is not permitted unless authorised by the Co-ordinator.

### 3. RESULT CARDS AND ORDER OF PLAY

Before the commencement of each match, the captain of team 1 will list his/her players on the result card in the left-hand section, then hand the card to the captain of team 2 to fill in the right-hand section. The card may be folded to conceal the order of play on team 1. Neither of the lists will be altered after the commencement of the match except by consent of the other captain.

### 4. COMMENCEMENT TIME

- a) All night fixtures will commence at 7:00pm sharp.
- b) A team failing to have a player (singles) or a pair on the court by commencement time will forfeit the first set. If after 15 minutes of commencement time a team still fails to have a player (singles) or pair on the court to play, they will forfeit the match.
- c) All night fixture matches should be completed by 10:30pm. If matches are not finished by this time, points will be allocated as per rule 13.

### 5. WEATHER CONDITIONS AFFECTING COMMENCEMENT

- a) If rain has occurred before the commencement of play the Co-ordinator will confer with the Caretaker at 6:10pm on the night of the match to decide whether players will turnout. If the weather is uncertain, team captains or individual players are to ring the Co-ordinator after 6:15pm in order to find out the decision.
- b) If a turnout is required and play is unable to commence on time due to rain, the match may be abandoned immediately if both captains agree. Otherwise, players will wait

until each pair of captains agrees to either commence play or to abandon the match. When play is abandoned, the home captain indicating a washout in order that points may be allocated must still submit a card.

## **6. COMMENCEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF EACH MATCH**

- a) Captains will toss for team 1 and choice of serve.
- b) In matches, the service will alternate throughout the match. Players will change ends on every odd game of each set.
- c) No match in any night fixtures will be postponed except as previously sanctioned by the Co-ordinator.

## **7. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

- a) All players must be members of Tennis Townsville. Players that have not paid full registration fees must pay at least one quarter of the total registration fee on each of the first four nights on which they play. Players must have paid all registration fees by no later than the conclusion of the fourth match in which they have participated.
- b) If a player fails to comply with Rule 7 (a), all points allocated to the team or teams that that player has played for without paying the required fee or fees may at the discretion of the Co-ordinator forfeited.

## **8. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE IN NIGHT FIXTURES**

- a) No player will compete in more than one night fixture match on any one night.
- b) For any night fixture, a person graded for a division can only fill in for the same division or higher.
- c) In ladies fixtures only ladies can compete. In mens only men can compete.
- d) In mixed fixtures a woman may play as a man and a man as a woman in their division if a team is short of either due to illness or some other legitimate inability to play. The man or woman can only play at their own level in a mixed night fixture. This rule is subject to both captains agreeing with the arrangement on the night. Teams in Mixed Night Fixtures are required to use their best endeavours, in the spirit of the competition as a mixed event, to include an equal numbers of both men and women in their teams.
- e) A player can fill in for more than one team during a night fixture season and as many times as required subject to 9(c)- this will free up and reduce the number of forfeits.

## **9. TEAM SIZES AND FILL-IN PLAYERS**

- a) Teams of three players on the night are limited to a maximum of five nominated players. Teams of four players on the night are limited to a maximum of six nominated players.
- b) Team captains can increase the size of their team up to the maximum specified in Rule 10(a), by nominating additional players with the Co-ordinator.
- c) Team captains may use fill in players if nominated players are not available subject to the restriction of rule 9(d). If a team already has its capacity of players, a player must be removed from the team.
- d) Captains may replace a nominated team player by another nominated player during a night fixture provided there is a bona-fide reason acceptable to the Co-ordinator for doing so.

## **10. RESULT CARDS**

Result cards fully completed with given name and surname must be placed by the winning team (in the event of a draw or a washout, by team (1), in the result-card box provided at the Tennis Townsville North Ward courts by 10:00am the following day of the match. Should a team forfeit, the team gaining the forfeit will be responsible for lodging the result card in order to receive points for the forfeit.

## 11. SET AND MATCH DECISIONS

- a) A tie-breaker will apply to all night fixture sets at 5(five) games all except for Tuesday night men's singles fixtures where the tie-breaker will apply at four games all in singles.
- b) Single sets played in night fixtures are best of eight games (ie) 8-0, 7-1, 6-2, 5-3, 4-4.
- c) Matches other than semi-finals and finals will be decided on games. If games are even, then a count back on sets determines the match. If sets are equal match is drawn.
- d) If a match is terminated by rain or failing light, the result will be determined on the sum of the games for completed sets together with any additional completed games. If neither team is so far ahead on games that it cannot be beaten, the match is drawn.
- e) In semi-finals and finals, the match will be decided on games, or if games are equal, on sets. If games and sets are equal in a semi-final or final, or for any other reason the match is drawn, the match will be decided upon using the end season placing.
- f) In the case of rain in a semi-final or final, the match will be decided upon using the end of season placing.

## 12. POINTS

- a) No points are awarded for a loss on forfeit.
- b) No points are awarded for a bye.
- c) A team which wins on a forfeit will receive eight points if a result card is lodged.
- d) When a match is played to a decision, points will be allocated as follows:
  - i) Three points for the team which wins most games.
  - ii) One point for the team which loses most games.
  - iii) Two points for each team when games are even or when the match is drawn.
  - iv) One point is allocated per set won by a team to a maximum of six.
  - v) Half a point is allocated per team for incomplete sets. If a match has commenced but is not completed and neither team is so far ahead on games that it cannot be beaten, each team will receive two points.
- e) Notwithstanding the provisions of these rules, if in the event of rain less than 2/3 of matches are decided and night fixtures are cancelled for the night: each team will receive half of the total points allocated for the match. If 2/3 or more of the matches are decided, with the balance undecided due to rain, points will be awarded as per rule 13 (d).

## 13...FORFEITS

- a) Teams do not have to forfeit the whole match if they are unable to field a full team. They still can compete in the match by only forfeiting the sets they cannot field the players required.
- b) If a team forfeits, and on account of rain or any other cause the night fixtures are cancelled for the night, the forfeit will be cancelled.

- c) A team unable to field a full team to play a match must inform the opposing captain and Co-ordinator by 6.00 pm on the day of the match. Failure to do will mean a deduction of 6 points on second and subsequent offences.
- d) In the event of a team forfeiting three matches, it may be removed from the night fixture for the remainder of the season, deleting all points scored for or against it.

#### **14...ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS AND PLAYERS FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS**

- a) In night fixtures comprising five or more teams at the start of the competition, the four teams gaining the highest number of points will play off for the finals.
- b) In night competitions which contain split rounds and byes, where some teams receive more byes than others, the four teams to play off for premiership honours, and their order, will be determined by dividing the total points gained by each team for all matches played (including washouts) by the number of matches played.
- c) All players must have played at least 3 times during the season for that team and be a registered member. If team have a good reason they may request a leave from this rule. However, the Co-ordinator and the opposing captain must be in agreeance to a replacement that has not played three matches.
- d) If a team that is eligible to play semi-finals cannot field a full team, then the next team down the ladder takes the ineligible team's place, thus filling all 4 places for semi-finals. (eg) 1. team 5 takes team 4's place, (eg) 2. team 3 takes team 2's place then team 4 moves to team 3's place and team 5 moves to team 4's place.
- e) If a finalist team is ineligible/or unable to play a final, the team that it defeated in the semi-final automatically becomes the finalist team.
- f) If a team cannot field a team relating to 14(c)(d)(e), the captain must notify the next team in line within 6 days of next fixture night. If the captain fails to do so, the fixture fee stands and the team will be made accountable for payment.
- g) In the event of any teams tying for any one of the first four positions, the order of preference will be decided by a count-back on games, and sets (if necessary), scored for and against in all matches between the teams involved.
- h) For semi-finals, the team in first position will play off with the team in fourth position and the team in second position will play off with the team in third position.
- i) For finals, the two semi-final winners will play off for premiership honours and the two losers will play off for minor placing.
- j) All nominated players must be registered for the team to be eligible for semi-finals and finals and must have paid the full registration fee.

#### **15. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS**

Where a dispute arises, either captain has the right to refuse to sign the fixture card and lodge an appeal within 48 hours with the Co-ordinator.

Upon receiving such an appeal, the Co-ordinator will, within 48 hours, convene a meeting of the sub-committee or Tennis Townsville Management Committee. The committee will allocate match points as it sees fit. Captains are to be notified within 24 hours of the decision. Captains of teams concerned may be required to attend and address the committee.

#### **16. BALLS**

Tennis Townsville will provide three balls for each match.

#### **17. RULES OF TENNIS AND DRESS**

The rules governing the game of tennis will be those approved by Tennis Australia. Correct tennis attire must be worn for all night fixtures.

## **18. INTERPRETATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF RULES**

The interpretation of the rules governing night fixtures will devolve upon the Co-ordinator.

The nomination of a player in a night competition team (as a member of a team or as a fill in) will be deemed to be an acceptance by that player of the rules governing night fixtures.

Appeals against the decision of the Co-ordinator can be made to the Management Committee of Tennis Townsville, whose decision will be final.

## **19. RULES FOR NON-UMPIRED MATCHES**

- ❑ Each player is responsible for all decisions in his/her half of the court. He/she should be completely honest on all 'calls' but, if in doubt, he/she should give his/her opponent the benefit of the doubt and play the ball as good. You should not play a let.
- ❑ It is your obligation to call all balls on your side, to help your opponent to make calls when the opponent request it, and call against yourself (with the exception of a first serve) any ball that you clearly see out on your opponent's side of the net.
- ❑ Any 'out', 'let', or 'fault' call must be made immediately (ie made before either an opponent has hit the return or the return has gone out of play); otherwise the ball continues in play. 'Calls' must be verbal and clearly audible to the opponent, followed by a signal if necessary. 'Lets' maybe called by any of the participating players.
- ❑ On all court surfaces except clay if a player incorrectly calls a ball 'out' and then realizes that the ball was good, the point should be replayed. In a case of a point winning shot, a let should not be played.
- ❑
- ❑ In doubles, when returning service, the partner of the receiver should generally call the service line for him/her. The receiver should generally call the centre and side service line.
- ❑ If players cannot agree on score, they should calmly discuss the points/games that are the areas of disagreement. If they cannot reach an agreement they should only replay the points/games in question.
- ❑ Where a ball interrupts play, either by rolling or bouncing onto the court, and or creating a visible interruption behind the court, a let should be played.

**Modified January 2008**