

All Thursday Metro Masters Representatives

From: David Burn

Date: 23rd July 2022

With the Omicron variants again spreading throughout Australia we have offered suggested Health Protocols for the benefit of players and their clubs. These guidelines will appear on the Home Page of the TROLS website like last season. If you have multiple players missing due to **Covid it is important to read the section covering the matches that may be affected.**

Our competition has received 32 team entries for the coming Spring, 2022 season which is 1 team up from the Autumn, 2022 season, and 1 team down from the Spring, 2021 season where only 1 match was played. It is hoped that this is an encouraging sign for the future, and with the demographics of our players generally becoming older it is in the interests of all teams and clubs to promote the benefits of playing in the Metro Masters competition particularly when playing in other competitions e.g., Eastern Region, NENTG etc. If this can occur, we can envisage returning to over 40 teams in a unique competition for players over 50 years old.

Both Norris Bank and Koonung Park entered new teams whilst the Fitzroy Section 2 team although they were Runners-Up did not enter.

The Grading Panel agreed that we should have 2 Sections of 7 teams, and 3 Sections of 6 teams to accommodate most club's wishes and to place the 7 team sections in the most appropriate place. With UTR figures (doubles) available for most players this process will eventually enhance the selection of teams into appropriate grades.

Downsides at the moment include incorrect spelling of Christian Names and Surnames, and players playing in other competitions not having the same UTR due in part for playing for other clubs. The UTR's cover up to 30 matches or a year which ever occurs first on a rolling twelve-month basis, and the more matches players play the more reliable these figures become – all players have separate singles and doubles UTR's if they play both formats. Once players have played more than 4 matches and play consistently well and are in a well performed team usually their UTR is higher and can even be higher than players who play in a higher section.

Teams promoted this season mainly due to high number of points and a higher percentage are as follows:-

North Balwyn from Section 2 (3rd) to Section 1 due to nominating a strong number 1 player who played 4 matches as an emergency in Autumn.

Legend Park from Section 3 (Premiers) to Section 2

Koonung Park Noir from Section 3 (Runners-Up) to Section 2

St.Johns from Section 4 (Premiers) to Section 2 who have included a strong number 1 player who plays in Vets 2 NENTG and Singles/Doubles 1 Eastern Region.

Eltham Black from Section 4 (Runners-Up) to Section 3

North Balwyn from Section 5 (Premiers) to Section 4

Donvale Dabblers from Section 5 (Runners-Up) to Section 4

Winners of Section 2 Donvale Purple were not promoted due to changes of the team personnel significantly – with less changes they would have been promoted.

Teams demoted this season due to low number of points and poor percentages are as follows:-

East Croydon has dropped from Section 1 to Section 2.

East Croydon has dropped from Section 2 to Section 3.

St.Johns has dropped from Section 2 to Section 3 (note that the Section 4 team has been promoted above them).

Fitzroy Gorillas has dropped from Section 3 to Section 4.
Koonung Park has dropped from Section 4 to Section 5.

The new teams from Norris Bank were placed in Section 3 whilst the split team from Koonung Park was placed in Section 5 with the demoted team.

Promotion to a higher section usually only occurs when teams accumulate a high number of points and %, and generally are premiers or runners-up with the reverse applying to teams demoted. Changes to teams that include adding players who considerably improve overall team performance is taken on board particularly if their UTR is known.

With 6 and 8 team section draws (with a bye) we will avoid most of the usual draw problems as most clubs have preferred requests which we try to accommodate.

Whilst it is acknowledged that some of the lower ranked players will struggle in the higher sections it is important to remember that grading is carried out in good faith, and that in the worst-case scenario it will be only for one season.

With players likely to risk overseas trips, injuries and covid situations will occur, and it would be appreciated if opposing teams can assist teams struggling to field teams by offering players if they are available and not required. This is particularly important in the case of the Koonung Park teams in Section 5 who had too many players for one team, and generously made the offer so that most of their players will now have regular tennis.

One the team players become available in Club Zone could you please check in the player summary of Club Zone to confirm that all the players are entered in their respective teams – the odd player may be missing if they were entered by another club or team. Any players not entered using the On-line team entry will be treated as emergencies. Could clubs also check the On-line information concerning their club contacts, convenors etc. as a lot of this information will have changed and requires updating – if you require ids and password to complete these changes please advise.

Matches will be played as normal i.e. first to 8 games with a 7 point tie-breaker at 7 games all. If players struggle physically, they can be substituted at the end of their second set with an appropriate substitute, and the Match Comments shown accordingly so their UTR is not affected.

Attachments for the fixtures and revised scorecards will be included in the email.

Any decision regarding the location of the Grand Finals will be made at the appropriate time as we need to remain flexible in the current environment although it is likely to be played at North Ringwood as per the Autumn, 2022 season just concluded.

Attached to this email please find:-

- 1. A copy of draws for each section – please produce sufficient copies for the players in your team and/or your club or check on the trols website under the tab fixtures.**
- 2. A copy of new Spring, 2022 (in Word Format) Result Sheets – PLEASE DESTROY PREVIOUS RESULT SHEETS AS THIS LATEST VERSION GIVES DETAILS REQUIRED FOR ALL EMERGENCIES**

Results and ladders will be updated on our Trols website address as follows:-

<http://www.trols.org.au/metro> suggest you place in your Favourites.

To maintain regular ladders please enter results into Trols in a timely and legible manner.

Enjoy your tennis.

Regards

David Burn

RECORD SECRETARY – METRO MASTERS