

NORTH-EASTERN NIGHT TENNIS GROUP

BYLAWS approved at 2023 AGM

GENERAL

1. These bylaws are subject to alteration at any General Meeting of Delegates. Any such alteration(s) shall not take effect in any current season and all Members shall be notified of any such alteration(s) before the commencement of the next season.

2. Any question arising as to the interpretation or meaning of these bylaws shall be decided by the Match Committee and any situation, circumstance or dispute requiring a ruling other than those provided for by the By-laws shall be considered at a special or other meeting of the Match Committee and any such ruling shall be given to the party or parties at the earliest opportunity.

COMPETITIONS

3. The following competitions shall be conducted by the NENTG providing sufficient entries are received to do so:

- Men's Doubles – Tuesday nights
- Veteran Mens Doubles (Age 40 years and over as at first day of the season) - Tuesday nights
- Women's Doubles - Wednesday nights and
- Mixed Doubles - Thursday nights

All competitions shall commence at 7 pm unless a different time is specified by the match committee. Each competition shall be played twice a year, the two periods to be known as the Autumn and Spring Seasons.

The Autumn season shall commence in the first week of February and the Spring season shall commence in the first week of August. If circumstances demand otherwise, these starting dates may be varied by the Match Committee.

ENTRIES

4. Teams shall be entered, online if available, if not, on the official entry forms. These will include a registration form, which shall contain details requested pertaining to member officials, as well as a proposed list of nominated players stating all their previous competition experience as required by the form. Entries shall be accompanied by the appropriate entry fee and shall be submitted with all required details by the prescribed date. Failure to do so will incur a penalty decided by the Match Committee. See Bylaw 35.

The number of players nominated in any team on the entry form should not be less than five and not more than eight.

Clubs which hire non-club courts to accommodate the number of teams entered must provide, with their entries, evidence of the stated agreement of those clubs/venues to hire their courts. All venues must be insured for public liability The Match Committee shall determine whether or not the application is accepted.

GRADING OF TEAMS

5. Teams will be graded according to the nominated list of regular players and the playing of emergencies shall be subject to bylaw 20.

Upon receipt of entries, the Match Committee shall grade teams into sections commensurate with their estimated standard. Once graded, clubs and private teams shall be notified as soon as possible of the sections into which their teams have been graded. Any disagreement with grading by a club or private team shall be decided by the Match Committee in its absolute discretion.

TIMES FOR MATCHES

6. The time of starting of all matches shall be 7.00 p.m. unless otherwise stated on the fixture.

7. The time of finishing of all matches shall not be later than 11.30 p.m. unless both captains agree to a later time.

8. (a) Play shall commence within five minutes of the starting time fixed by the Match Committee failing which the team in default shall forfeit to love the first set which was to be played.
(b) If a match is not commenced within twenty minutes of the starting time fixed by the Match Committee, the team in default shall forfeit to love the first and second sets which were to have been played and a match not commenced within thirty-five minutes of the starting time shall be forfeited by the team in default.
(c) A set not commenced within ten minutes of the completion of the previous set shall be forfeited to love by the team in default.
9. A team playing home at a Club with a curfew shall inform the captain of the opposing team of the time of the curfew and the match shall be decided on the games won prior to the curfew time. To win the match a team must lead by a margin the trailing team could not have matched had there been no curfew.

INTERRUPTED OR ABANDONED MATCHES

10. (a) If, for any reason, a match is interrupted and completion of the match is required by the Match Committee, play shall be resumed from the point score reached prior to cessation of play.
(b) In an interrupted final, a qualified player may take the place of any player unable to continue in the match.
(c) The Match Committee shall determine when the match will be continued. This may be varied with the mutual agreement of both teams to an earlier date, subject to the approval of the Match Committee.
11. (a) In the event of inclement weather a match may be entered online as a washout, without either team attending the scheduled venue, providing that
(i) the home team, or home club representative, inspects the home court not sooner than 1 hour before start time for the match, and that
(ii) the away team, by ringing the home team or home club representative, is informed that no playable court is available that night. If the away team fails to contact the home team, or home club representative, and fails to attend the scheduled venue, the away team shall forfeit the match.
(iii) If no call is received, the home team shall attend the venue and record all player's names on the scoresheet.
(b) In the event of light failure the match shall be abandoned.
(c) A match shall be abandoned no earlier than 7:05pm if the official Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) weather station at Viewbank reads as 35C or greater, unless both Captains agree to play. The temperature is to be ascertained by searching the BOM weather site specific for VIEWBANK, and by no other method using the URL located on the NENTG TROLS page.
(d) If an away team considers that the weather conditions (eg major flooding or severe storm etc) present a major hazard en route to the home club
(i) the away team may notify the home team, or a home club representative, not earlier than one hour before start time for the match that it does not intend to attend the venue, and shall also inform the match committee of their decision within the immediate 24 hours, providing detailed information about the hazard.
(ii) on receipt of such a message the home team, or a home club representative, shall inform the match committee of the time of the message within the immediate 24 hours and not enter any result for the match, and
(iii) if the away team fails to contact the home team, or home club representative, and fails to attend the scheduled venue, the away team shall forfeit the match.

RULES FOR PLAY

12. The rules of Tennis as adopted by Tennis Australia shall apply to all matches conducted by the North-Eastern Night Tennis Group.
13. Captains shall exchange lists of players and positions prior to the commencement of play using the current NENTG scoresheet. The Home Team is required to provide the NENTG match score sheet.

14. (a) Matches shall be played between teams of four players, together playing six sets of doubles in the following order: first and second players, third and fourth players, first and third players, second and fourth players, first and fourth players, second and third players. This order may be varied by mutual agreement between captains.

14 (b) In the Mixed competition male players are listed as players 1 and 2 and female players are listed as player 3 and 4.

14 (c) A team may play a match with only 3 players.

15. All sets shall be six games straight. Matches shall be won by the team winning the most games, but, if games be equal, the teams winning the greater number of sets shall win the match. If the match is not able to be completed, then one team may be awarded the win, provided that team is leading by a margin that the trailing team could not have matched.

TEAM POINTS

16. (a) Four points shall be scored by the winning team in each match, including matches won by default. Each team will also receive two points for each set won. Teams playing in a drawn match and teams playing an unfinished match (if neither team is in default) shall receive two points each, two points for each set won and one point for each unfinished set.

(b) Where two or more teams are equal on points their positions in the final four shall be decided by percentages. Such percentages shall be calculated from all games won and lost (including washouts) during the season except any games won by default.

ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

17. (a) In any one season, except with the prior permission of the Match Committee (or in the event of a transfer, see bylaw 17(b)) a person after having played three matches with a team shall not play with any other team in the same section, and, having played four matches in higher sections, shall not play in a lower section.

(b) Having played for one club (or private team) during a season, a player must apply in writing to the match committee for a transfer in order to play for another club (or private team) during the same season. In the event that an application for transfer by a player during a season be approved no further application for transfer by the same player will be approved for the remainder of that season.

(c) Any application received by the match committee for transfer of a player during a season shall be referred to the transferor club (or private team) before such transfer is considered for approval.

18. (a) In order to play in a preliminary final or final match with a team, a player must have played in at least four matches during the season with that team or any lower section team in the same competition (refer Bylaw 3). In sections with one bye, three matches played will qualify a player to play in finals and in sections with two byes three matches played will qualify.

(b) A player is deemed not to have played in a match, if the match is forfeited by that player's team or cancelled by mutual agreement prior to the commencement of the match.

19. A team shall forfeit to lose all sets in which it was represented by a player not eligible to play therein.

SUBSTITUTES AND EMERGENCIES

20. Where a person other than those nominated as regular players with original team entries is used as an emergency and is deemed by the Match Committee to strengthen the team such that if the player had been included in the original team entry, it would have resulted in the team being graded in a higher section, then such player shall be deemed ineligible and that team shall forfeit all sets in which it was represented by such emergency.

21. (a) Emergency players shall be indicated by the letter "E" beside their names on the scoresheet and the opposing team shall be informed accordingly prior to play until such time as that emergency player has played four matches with that team. Failure to do so will incur a penalty determined by the Match Committee. See Bylaw 35.

(b) The competition record of any emergency player shall be listed on the scoresheet and on TROLS for that player's first four matches for the season. Failure to do so will incur a penalty decided by the Match Committee. See Bylaw 35.

22. A substitute player may, if eligible (see bylaw 20), take the place of any player unable, because of illness or other emergency, to take part or continue any match. Should no substitute be ready to play when required, the games and sets not played shall be forfeited to love.

FINALS

23. All final matches are to be played at the home venue where the team being higher on the ladder is the home team.

24. (a) The order of play for preliminary finals matches for 8 team sections shall be: first team vs fourth team, second team v third team. The two winning teams shall contest the final match.

(b) For a 6 team draw, the first team and the second team shall contest the final match.

25. If, after completion of six sets in a preliminary final or final match, the games and sets won by each team be equal, then the match shall be decided by Nos. 2 and 3 players of one team playing Nos. 2 and 3 players of the opposing team in a 12-point Tie-break game. The team who wins seven points first with a margin of two or more points shall win the tie break. If the margin is less than two points play continues until a margin of two points is achieved.

BALLS

26. The home team shall provide at least four new balls of approved make per match, such balls to be of Tennis Australia approved make.

ALLOCATION OF COSTS IN FINALS

27. For all finals matches, the designated home team is to provide and pay for the cost of the lights and the away team is to provide and pay for four new balls of approved make.

PROTESTS

28. Protests must be lodged within 48 hours of the completion of the relevant match and the protesting captain shall sign the scoresheet endorsed "UNDER PROTEST" and shall inform the opposing captain of the reason for the protest.

RESULTS OF MATCHES

29. Results for all home and away matches, including washouts, shall be entered online and the corresponding scoresheets kept by both teams until the end of the season. Results entered online which do not include all details requested shall incur a fine(s) of an amount determined by the match committee. See Bylaw 35.

30. (a) Results shall be entered online by the winning team, or in the event of a draw, by the home team, either of which will incur a penalty of six points if the result is not entered by the prescribed time. The prescribed times are:

- Men's and Veteran's results: Thursday 6pm
- Women's results: Friday 6pm
- Mixed results: Saturday 6pm
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(b) In the event a match does not commence by mutual agreement, player names are not to be entered online. The reason for non-commencement should be recorded in the match comments.

(c) Any errors made in entering the results online will only be corrected when a duly signed scoresheet is submitted. This shall incur a fine(s) of an amount determined by the match committee. See Bylaw 35.

(d) Notification of error must be made via email to nentgchair@gmail.com with a copy of the duly signed score sheet within 14 days of the completion of the match or earlier if required by the match committee.

31. (a) The results of each last round home and away match and each preliminary final match shall be entered online by the winning team, or, in the event of a draw, by the home team, by the prescribed time. The prescribed times are

- Men's and Veterans' results: Thursday 6 pm
- Women's results: Friday 6 pm
- Mixed results: Saturday 6 pm

(b) Points for the winning team (or in the case of a draw, the home team) of any last round home and away match, the result of which is not entered online by the prescribed time, may not be awarded in deciding the final four on the ladder.

WALK-OVERS, WITHDRAWALS

32. (a) Where a team is withdrawn from the competition within 2 weeks of notification of grading the club, or private team, shall incur a fine determined by the match committee. See Bylaw 35.

(b) Where a team gives a walk-over, the opposing team shall be awarded the points for the match. The team in default shall not list any players for the forfeited match and will incur a fine determined by the match committee. See Bylaw 35.

33. Where a team is withdrawn from competition later than 2 weeks after notification of grading, the club, or private team, shall incur a fine determined by the match committee. See Bylaw 35.

DRESS

34. Proper tennis attire (tennis shirt, shorts or skirt and approved footwear) must be worn during play. Jeans and ripple soled footwear are not permitted.

NON-PAYMENT OF FINES

35. (a) Fines which may be levied by the Match Committee on behalf of the Association will be set at an AGM and must be paid within the prescribed time. Any member failing to pay a fine by the prescribed time shall be liable to a further fine or such other penalty as determined by the Match Committee. A list of all fines and a definition of the prescribed time will be made available to all members.

(b) The winning team shall be fined for all mistakes and omissions in the online entry unless it can be shown that the mistake or error was due to a mistake by the opposing team.

(c) Any dispute regarding a fine issued must be received within 21 days of the invoice date of the fine.

ASSOCIATION FEES

36. The team entry fee and annual affiliation fee will be determined at the AGM.

37. The Honorarium paid by the Association for the next 12 months shall be determined at the AGM.