

## COMPETITION MATCH RULES

### Court Etiquette

We want our players to enjoy the experience of playing tennis - and their opponents! It is important, and a requirement of playing at CLW, to adopt a series of behaviours that exhibit good sportsmanship.

These behaviours include:

- Enjoy your tennis - bad language, abuse of your racquet or other equipment (such as balls, nets, fencing, etc) is not acceptable.
- Don't argue or fight with your opponent - if you disagree with anything your opponent does, discuss it with them in a civil manner
- Don't interrupt other matches - if your ball goes onto another court, or you need to go across another court wait until the point is completed on that court
- Get both balls before you serve - you should have both balls (in your hand, pocket, ball clip) before you serve the first serve. Finding the second ball between serves is not appropriate
- Return the ball appropriately - if your opponent's first serve is clearly out let it go to the back of your side without hitting it back. When the point is finished roll the ball(s) back to the other side at a slow pace and accurately.
- Call out the scores - don't assume that you both agree with the score you believe is correct. Call it out and make sure you have agreement before you proceed.
- Don't get into arguments with spectators - with the exception of an umpire for your match, there is no-one else whose opinion is relevant for your match. Ignore them and their comments.
- Don't intentionally hit your opponent - whilst tennis is a sport where players will get hit by tennis balls from time to time, you should not intentionally aim your shots to injure your opponent.
- Don't serve until your opponent is ready - you shouldn't have to wait for ever, but wait until your opponent is ready before you serve (first or second serve)
- Warm ups don't last forever - warm-ups prior to each set should be limited to 1 minute.
- Give the benefit of the doubt - if you are uncertain about a line call on your side of the net, then it is tradition for you to give your opponent the benefit of the doubt and call their ball in. If you disagree with your opponent's call about any of your shots, a "are you sure?" is appropriate
- Call a let as required - if a ball or player from an adjoining court comes onto your court during a point and you are distracted, you are permitted to stop the point and ask for the point to be replayed. You cannot ask for a replay after you conclude the point.



- Don't over-celebrate - whilst you may want to pump yourself up during the match, going over the top with celebrations for your winners or your opponents errors is frowned upon
- Shake hands at the end - you will win matches and you will lose matches; but after every one of them you should shake the hand of your opponent and thank them for the match. Showing them respect is an important aspect of good sportsmanship.
- Help your partner with calls - when you are playing doubles, you can and should assist your partner with line calls. This is particularly useful for serves; but unless you are extremely sure of your call, you shouldn't call balls near the side line on the far side of the court - leave those for your partner.

## KEY MATCH RULES

There are numerous match rules - these are contained in the Booklet you will receive from the Association each year. We have, however, extracted several key rules and bylaws that we believe are important to know.

### **Match commencement and claiming a forfeit**

Senior Matches commence at 1pm sharp, therefore we ask our players to please arrive at the correct venue by no later than 12:50pm to ensure you are ready to play by 1pm. In some cases, extra courts may be available. Please also check information carefully each week to ensure you are going to the correct venue, as some clubs use multiple venues for home matches. If in doubt, contact our Club Captains.

Junior Matches commence at 8:30, and 10:45am. All junior players need to be at the clubrooms by 8.00 and 10.15am which gives them time to collect folders, be given any club news and to have time to travel to the away venue before matches. Also to be informed in case any last minute changes have occurred. Some clubs use multiple "home" venues, so please make sure you check with our Junior Managers before leaving the club to ensure you have the right venue details.

Refer to match programmes provided by SDTA for details regarding claiming a forfeit if the opposition has not arrived by the due time.

### **Forfeiting a set during a match**

If for some reason you find it necessary to forfeit a set (injury or illness), then you should notify the opposing team captain (organiser) as soon as practical after the need to forfeit has been identified. If you have forfeited a set then you should record the score as 0 (to you) and 6/9 games (depending on the format) to your opponent. Also write (F) next to the score so the recorders know it was a forfeit. A reason for forfeiting should also be written on the scoresheet. \*Please note that forfeiting because you had to leave early is not an acceptable reason.



## **Weather cancellations and abandonments**

Please refer to your SDTA programme for information about weather cancellations (before matches start) and abandonment of a match due to weather (after matches start). We encourage you to attempt to start or restart matches whenever possible. Just be sure to consider player safety.

## **Calling for an umpire**

In self-umpired matches, it is the responsibility of the players on the court to make line calls and keep score. You are responsible for making line calls at your end of the court and these calls should be accurate and fair. If you are in doubt over a line call, then you should give the benefit of the doubt to your opponent and award them the point. If you feel your opponent is having difficulty making line calls you should not dispute the line calls with the opponent, nor should you seek the opinion of any spectators – you should speak to your team captain/organiser and request for an umpire. Should an umpire be requested, the first set is to be umpired by the home team and subsequent sets to be umpired (if required) on an alternating basis (or as otherwise mutually agreed by both captains).