

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 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 the previous season, may automatically be graded up to a higher division in the next season. Teams coming last in a division may be relegated to a lower grade in the next season.

2. COURT ALLOCATIONS

Night fixture teams will use the court allocated to them. A share court will be provided between each pair of two teams. Team captains are responsible for co-ordinating the use of the shared court during play, and generally use of the shared court will alternate.

3. RESULT CARDS AND ORDER OF PLAY

Before the commencement of each match, the captain of Team A will list his/her players on the result card in the left-hand section, then hand the card to the captain of Team B to fill in the right-hand section. The card may be folded to conceal the order of play on Team A. 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 on time at **6.45pm**.
- b) A team failing to have a player (singles) or a pair (doubles) on the court by commencement time will forfeit the first set. If after 15 minutes from commencement time, a team still fails to have a player (singles) or pair (doubles) on the court to play, they will forfeit the match.
- c) All night fixture matches should be completed by 10pm and the lights will be turned off at 10pm. If matches are not finished by this time, points will be allocated as per rule 12.

d) The share court must be in use no later than 15mins after start time on the main court, unless special arrangements have been made between the captains.

5. WEATHER CONDITIONS AFFECTING COMMENCEMENT

- a) If rain has occurred before the commencement of play the co-ordinator decides whether players will turnout. If the weather is uncertain, team captains or individual players are to ring the Co-ordinator after 6pm in order to find out the decision; or check the Tennis Townsville Facebook and/or website for notification.
- 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.

6. COMMENCEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF EACH MATCH

- a) Players toss for serve at the start of **every** rubber.
- b) Players to change ends on every odd game of each set (1,3 & 5).
- c) No match in any night fixtures will be postponed except as previously sanctioned by the co-ordinator.

7. 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, with the exception of some ladies who wish to play, and as approved by the co-ordinator.
- d) In Mixed fixtures, a woman may play as a man. However, 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 number 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.

8. TEAM SIZES AND FILL-IN PLAYERS

- a) Team captains may use fill in players if nominated players are not available subject to the restriction of rule 8(b). If a team already has its capacity of players, a player must be removed from the team.

b) 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 coordinator for doing so. This will not however be allowed during any of the finals playoff matches.

9. RESULT CARDS

Captains to ensure all players' names are written on the result card, and fully completed result cards must be lodged by the winning team at the Tennis Townsville kiosk at the close of play, on the same night.

10. SET AND MATCH DECISIONS

a) A tie-breaker will apply to all night fixture sets at 5(five) games all, with the exception of Tuesday Night Men's Super League.

b) Monday Night Ladies will play short deuce. If the game gets to deuce, play to one advantage and back to deuce, followed by 'golden point', where the receiving team decides who will receive the 'golden point'.

c) Tuesday Night Super League format is one singles match, best of three tie break sets (tie break at six all)

d) Matches, with the exception of Tuesday Night Super League, will be decided on games. If games are even, then a count back on sets determines the match. If sets are equal, then the match is drawn.

e) If a match is terminated by rain, 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.

f) In finals playoff, the match will be decided on games, or if games are equal, on sets. If games and sets are equal in the final playoff, or for any other reason the match is drawn, the match will be decided upon using the end of season placing.

g) In the case of rain in the finals playoff, the match will be decided upon using the end of season placing.

11. 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 maximum points .

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.
- vi) 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.
- vii) 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 12 (d).

12. 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:

(i) negotiating with opposing captain to play a modified format with fewer players;
OR

(ii) 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 6pm on the day of the match. Failure to do so will mean a deduction of 6 points on second and subsequent offences.

d) In the event of a team forfeiting three matches, the team may be removed from the night fixture for the remainder of the season, deleting all points scored for or against it.

13. ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS AND PLAYERS FOR FINALS

a) In night competitions which contain split rounds and byes, where some teams receive more byes than others, 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.

b) All players must have played at least twice during the season for that team.

c) If a team cannot field a team to play in the finals playoff the captain must notify the co-ordinator ASAP.

d) In the event of any teams tying the order of preference will be decided by a count-back on (1) games difference; (2) games for; for all matches for the season.

i) For finals playoff, play will be 1v2, 3v4 and 5v6 etc. In the case of uneven number of teams the team with the lowest score will not play in the finals playoff.

14. 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.

15. BALLS

Tennis Townsville will provide two balls for every court in play for the evening.

16. 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.

17. RULES FOR NON-UMPIRED MATCHES

a) 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.

b) It is your obligation to call all balls on your side, to help your opponent to make calls when the opponent requests 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.

c) Any 'out', 'let', or 'fault' call must be made immediately (i.e., 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' may be called by any of the participating players.

- d) If a player incorrectly calls a ball 'out' and then realises that the ball was good, the point should be replayed. In a case of a point winning shot, a let should not be played.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) 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.
- h) The server should call the score before each first serve and must be loud enough for his/her opponent to hear.