

BALLARAT & BUNINYONG LADIES MID-WEEK TENNIS

COMPETITION RULES

1. COMPETITION COMMITTEE (CC)

- a) The Competition Committee of the Ballarat & Buninyong Ladies Midweek Tennis shall consist of four players from Ballarat and four players from Buninyong. The eight-person committee must have a representative from each section.
- b) Any competition matter in dispute shall be decided by the Competition Committee in consultation with representatives of the disputing parties.

2. WEATHER

- a) In the event of a round of matches not being cancelled by the CC due to inclement weather, the decision of playing is left to the team captains. Points shall be awarded as follows: In the event of a match being entirely cancelled each team will receive half the number of points normally allotted to the match.
- b) In the event of the cancellation of a match that has commenced, points won up to the cancellation shall stand and the remainder of the points shall be halved.
- c) If a round of matches is cancelled by the CC, all matches will be cancelled for the entire day. In the event of wet weather a round of matches may be cancelled no earlier than 8.00 am by decision of the CC. It is the team captain's responsibility to ensure scorecards get completed for cancelled matches by/on the following Tuesday.
- d) No fees are applicable if the CC cancels all matches.
- e) If a Total Fire Ban is declared in our District, matches will be cancelled in all Sections for the day.
- f) If the temperature reaches 37 degrees Celsius, the match can be stopped at the discretion of both team captains. Points for incomplete/unplayed sets will be shared.

3. GRADING PLAYERS/TEAMS

- a) The CC will grade players and teams into the appropriate Sections according to the player's or team's ability.
- b) There will be one Premiership team per Section.
- c) In each Section, there will be a Most Consistent Player or Players, if two or more players have won an equal amount of sets for the Season.
- d) The cost of all trophies, awards and other outgoings shall be paid by the Club or Association running the Competition for that Season.

4. VENUES

- a) Matches to be played at venues and on courts as stated on the draw.

5. TEAMS

- a) Teams in the Ladies Mid-Week shall consist of a maximum of 6 regular players per team. All players must be named on team entry sheet at beginning of season and must be named in graded position.
- b) In Section 1 only, a player cannot play down from the graded position. If this occurs, the offending player shall forfeit all sets. If the team has exhausted all allowable player options, the CC can approve the use of a higher ranked player. This rule does not apply to Section 2 or 3.
- c) A player can play up from their graded position, without penalty i.e.; No.3 player can play as No. 2 player.
- d) Teams can play 5 players at any time during the home and away season. If playing 5 players, the No. 1 & No. 2 players, play 3 sets each and the No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5 players, play 2 sets each. Teams must nominate which option they will play prior to commencement of the match. These options will be printed on the back of the scorecard.

E.g.;	1&2	1&2	1&2
	3&4	3&5	4&5
	1&3	1&3	1&3
	2&5	2&4	2&5
	1&5	1&4	1&4
	2&4	2&5	2&3

- e) Two players, in the same team, can share the one position. E.g. one person plays 1 set and the other person plays 2 sets for the match.

6. MATCHES

- a) The CC will determine, prior to the start of the season, how many Sections will be played and the number of games to be played per set and per Section.

7. STARTING TIME

- a) Matches will commence at 9.30 am sharp. A team not having two pairs available to play at 9.45am must forfeit the set involving the absent player.
- b) Matches can be played at a different starting time, providing both participating teams, agree to do so.

8. BALLS

- a) Each home team will supply the new approved tennis balls each week. In semi-finals and finals both teams will supply one pair of new approved tennis balls for each match.

9. FEES

- a) All ball money is payable to the team's home Club or Association.

10. POINTS

- a) Premiership points will be allocated on sets. One point for each set won by either team, then 4 additional points for winning team. In the event of a draw, each team will receive 5 points.

- b) If a bye exists in a Section and there are an even amount of byes for each team, the bye team will receive 5 points.
- c) Where there is an uneven amount of byes in a Section, the bye points will be an average of points total divided by number of matches at the completion of each round of byes. E.g. 23 points accumulated after 4 rounds = 5.75 bye points.

11. PERMITS

- a) A player who has played more than six (6) matches in a Section during the season shall not be eligible to play in a lower section unless granted a permit by the CC. Penalty for playing ineligible player: Loss of that player's sets and games.

12. INABILITY TO FIELD A TEAM

- a) Any team giving a walkover must notify the CC and the opposing team captain as soon as possible before the set down time for playing a match. Both teams must submit a signed scorecard, complete with team members available to play on that day, at the earliest possible opportunity. Failure to do so could result in loss of points.
- b) One forfeit is allowed per team, per season. If a team forfeits on more than one occasion, the forfeiting team will pay the opposition's ball money for that round, if applicable. If the forfeiting team has a legitimate reason this will not apply. This will be determined by the CC Committee.

13. SCORE CARDS

- a) Score cards must be filled in by team captains prior to commencement of play. All alterations to be initialled by both team captains. Scorecard must be correctly and completely filled in, including first name and surname, sets and games won by each player. Failure to do so could result in loss of points for offending teams/team. The only time a card must not be signed is when one team intends to protest the match.

14. PROTESTS

- a) Protests must be lodged with the CC not later than 6pm on the Thursday following the match concerned. A copy of the protest shall be forwarded to the Team against which the protest is made, by the protesting team. The protest will then be ruled on by the CC. The CC's decision will be final.

15. FINALS

- a) All players, playing in the finals, must have played 4 home and away matches to be qualified for the finals.
- b) The scorecard must be completed in full prior to the match commencing.
- c) If the match is cancelled due to bad weather prior to commencement of play, the team in higher position on ladder wins.
- d) If the match is cancelled due to bad weather during play, the points are allocated as rule 2b. If this results in a draw then the team finishing higher on the ladder wins.

- e) Any team playing finals that cannot field a qualified team must advise the CC, as soon as possible, for a replacement player.
- f) Where there is a draw in the finals, the 1 & 2 and the 3 & 4 from each team shall play a 7-point Tiebreak (advantage by 2). If equal on win/loss and tie-break points, then 1 & 3 and 2 & 4 shall play a tiebreak, and so on until a result is determined.
- g) The Semi-Finals shall be played at BRTC Courts and the Grand Final shall alternate between Buninyong & BRTC Courts.

16. FILL IN PLAYERS

- a) A fill in player is a player not officially on the team entry form. A fill in player can play multiple matches with any team of the same section throughout the home/away season. A fill in player is eligible to play finals for a team providing they have played 4 qualifying matches.
- b) In any season, and in any grade where a bye exists, a player nominated on the official team entry is eligible to fill in with another team during the home and away portion of the season. In Section 1, this player must play in their nominated playing position as per their official team entry or higher. Refer to Rule 5b), if all available equivalent players have been exhausted.

17. TENNIS ATTIRE

- a) Tennis attire, as listed below, must be worn by all players. E.g. Dress, skirt or shorts, tennis top, socks, active wear and rubber soled shoes.

18. PLAYER ABSENT

- a) If a player is absent, the team shall forfeit the sets that that player was to play. If players from both teams are absent points shall not be awarded for sets not played.

19. INJURED PLAYERS

- a) If a player gets injured during a match and cannot continue, she must forfeit the set. A substitute player, from the same section may play any unstarted sets as long as the fill-in player does not strengthen the team i.e. if a number 2 player is injured only a number 2,3 or 4 player from that section would be eligible to play.
- b) In finals if playing 5 players the fifth player, if nominated on team entry, may be substituted into the injured players remaining sets.

20. COUNTRY WEEK

- a) Sections 1 and 2 will not play the week of Country Week tennis. All teams will have a bye and no points will be appointed for the round. Section 3 will play as per the draw.

21. MELBOURNE CUP DAY

- a) Section 1 will not play on Melbourne Cup Day. All teams will have a bye and no points will be awarded. Sections 2 and 3 will play as per the draw.