

**RULES AND CONSTITUTION**

**OF THE**

**SATURDAY MORNING MENS  
LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED**



25 September 2024

## Saturday Morning Mens Lawn Tennis Association Incorporated

### RULES AND CONSTITUTION

#### General

1. The name of the incorporated Association shall be "Saturday Morning Mens Lawn Tennis Association Incorporated" (**SMMLTA** or **Association**).
2. The objectives of the Association shall be:
3. To provide a programme of tennis matches played according to these Rules and Constitution and the Rules of Play, for Teams possessing suitable lawn tennis courts. All Matches must be played on natural Lawn Tennis Courts.
4. The Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee which shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Recording Secretary, each of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and must be a member of an Associated Club. No more than two of these persons shall be from the one Associated Club.
5. A Club, as determined by the Executive Committee, will be recognised as an Associated Club upon acceptance by the Association, of a correctly nominated Team for the upcoming programme. The Club will remain an Associated Club until the next Annual General Meeting, or unless the club no longer has a Team participating in the current programme.
6. The Association Committee shall consist of the Executive Committee plus one Delegate proposed by each Associated Club. The minimum number of Association Committee members to form a quorum for a General Meeting shall be five. The President shall have both a deliberative and casting vote.
7. Should a casual vacancy occur on the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee may fill the position with a member of an Associated Club until the next Annual General Meeting.
8. The Executive Committee shall have all powers conferred by section 25 of the Act.
9. The Executive Committee shall appoint a public officer as required by the Act.
10. The role of the Executive Committee shall be:
  - a) Interpretation and enforcement of these Rules and Constitution;
  - b) The hearing and determination of disputes in the case of an appeal;
  - c) Arrange the gradings of Teams and have full control of such gradings;
  - d) Management of funds, property and general administration;
  - e) To create sub-committees to carry out one or more of the above functions provided that a Delegate from any Associated Club shall have recourse to the

Executive Committee if their Associated Club disagrees with the decision of any sub-committee, including the Disputes Committee. In that event the Delegate will notify the Secretary in writing within seven days and request that the matter be reviewed by the Executive Committee within fourteen days of receipt of the appeal; and

- f) Form a Disputes Committee:
  - i) By appointing a sub-committee of five persons, comprising the President or their delegate (as Chairman), the Recording Secretary and up to three of the Associated Club delegates, and known as the Disputes Committee at each Annual General Meeting;
  - ii) To co-opt any other Delegate to the Disputes Committee to replace a committee member if that member's Club is involved in the dispute;
  - iii) Granting authority to rule on any matter relating to eligibility of players or breaches of rules; and
  - iv) That will provide upon request from any Executive Committee member the adjudication of the Disputes Committee on any matter in which it is competent.

11. An auditor may be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
12. The Annual General Meeting will be held in September. The order of business shall include:
  - a) the confirmation of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and of any subsequent Special General Meeting
  - b) consideration of the accounts and reports of the Executive Committee
  - c) the election of the Executive Committee
  - d) the appointment of the Disputes Committee
  - e) the timetable for the upcoming Match programme
  - f) any other business.
13. Any two bona fide members of an Associated Club shall be eligible to vote on any matter at an Annual General Meeting. Voting by proxy is not permitted.
14. The President shall submit a report on the work and progress of the Association during the season at the Annual General Meeting.
15. The rules of this Association shall not be altered or repealed except at the Annual General Meeting, or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, both of which fourteen days' notice shall be given by the Secretary setting out the proposed amendments.

16. Any members of the Committee, comprising the Executive Committee and Delegates, shall be eligible to vote on any matter at the Special General Meeting.
17. The Secretary shall notify Associated Clubs in writing, and with 14 days' notice, of all general meetings. Notification shall include:
  - a) the time and place of the meeting;
  - b) the order of business;
  - c) and any special resolutions.
18. All matters arising at any meeting shall be decided by simple majority vote. The President shall have both a deliberative and casting vote.
19. The Secretary of the Association shall, upon requisition in writing by a member of the Executive Committee, convene a special meeting of the Executive Committee.
20. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys and hold same in trust. A financial statement shall be submitted when called upon by the Executive Committee. At the Annual General Meeting a duly audited statement of shall be produced.
21. The Auditor shall have access to the books and vouchers of the Treasurer at any time, and shall, before the Annual General Meeting, audit the books and vouchers, and report on same at such meeting.
22. Any losses of the Association shall be borne by the Associated Clubs. Each Club shall guarantee to give a sum proportional to their number of Teams, to make good any deficiency of the Association.
23. Any Team desirous of participating in the Association's programme of Matches must be approved of by the Executive Committee. Each Team admitted shall pay an annual subscription to be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Team and Player Nomination**

24. A Club Delegate can nominate a Team for the upcoming programme each year, in accordance with the Association rules and the nominating requirements, as advised by the Executive Committee or its representative from time to time.
25. The Team nomination must include all players expected to play in the Minor Round Matches and Finals. The Delegate is to provide a recommended division and playing format (ie singles or doubles only) suitable for the standard of the Players included in the nominated Team.
26. The minimum and maximum number of players nominate per Team for each format are:
  - a) Singles and Doubles format – minimum 5 players, maximum 8 players; or
  - b) Doubles Only 3-Player format – minimum 4 players, maximum 6 players; or

- c) Doubles Only 4-Player format – minimum 5 players, maximum 8 players.
27. The Association Committee will assess the Team nominations and allocate at its sole discretion the Team to any division. Should the Association Committee consider the Team inappropriate to allocate a division, the Association Committee may at its sole discretion, direct the relevant Club Delegate to amend the nominated Team or deny the nomination request.
28. A player becomes a Nominated Player, for the nominated Club:
- a) if the player has been accepted by the Association Committee prior to the commencement of the Minor Rounds; and
  - b) the player is fully and correctly registered in the Match Recording System for Team selection;
- unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee.
29. Delegates are to ensure all Nominated Players are financial members of the relevant Club, and provide evidence to the Executive Committee upon request. The Executive Committee will have the discretion to amend (remove/add), forfeit some or all of the Recording System ladder points attributed to the non-financial player.

### **Playing Conditions**

30. The first Minor Round Match for the season will be held on the last Saturday in October each year unless approved otherwise at the Annual General Meeting. All Matches, including Finals Matches, will be scheduled prior to Easter except when, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, there are insufficient Saturdays between the first round Saturday and Easter to complete all intended Matches.
31. A Playable Match is a Minor Round Match, which has not been cancelled or declared cancelled by the Executive Committee. Byes are not Playable Matches.
32. Players must be played in order of merit in all Teams at all times. The Disputes Committee has the right to disapprove the ranking of any Teams. For OBVIOUS breaches of this rule, the Disputes Committee will have the discretion to amend (remove/add) or forfeit some or all of the Recording System ladder points of one or both offending Teams.
33. Teams requiring a fill-in player (not a Nominated Player for that Team), should in the first instance, consider seconding an existing Nominated Player from the Club. For any fill-in player, prior to the Match day, the captain shall obtain agreement from the opposing captain to play the fill-in. If agreement is not reached, a request can be sought from the Disputes Committee. Any fill-in player is not to be of a higher standard than the player whose place is to be filled.
34. Teams may be promoted, relegated, or removed, prior to or during the programme, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
35. Matches are to start not later than 8:45 a.m. unless otherwise specifically stated on the programme or specifically varied by the Executive Committee. At 8.45am,

Teams must be able to commence play with:

- a) two doubles rubbers for the Doubles and Singles format; or
- b) two doubles rubbers for the 4-player Doubles Only format; or
- c) one doubles rubber for the 3-player Doubles Only format;

and continue each rubber no later than ten minutes after the conclusion of the previous rubber. If any Team is unable to commence a rubber within 10 minutes of these times that Team shall forfeit the rubber(s) unable to be commenced, unless agreed between the captains.

36. If Matches are not finished by 1.00 p.m. and no extra court time can be made available by the home Club, then the home Team must forfeit the uncompleted sets as the score stands at 1.00 p.m.
37. Each captain shall, if requested by the opposing captain, prior to the commencement of or during a Match, furnish the opposing captain promptly with a list of players in playing order. The playing order furnished is to be in accordance with the Rules and Constitution, and adopted for the Match, unless agreed by the captains.
38. If any Team finds it necessary to forfeit a rubber prior to the start of the rubber, the forfeit must commence with the last double and/or last single. All players listed below the forfeited rubber, in the Team playing order, are to move up the playing order.
39. The result of a Match shall be determined in favour of the Team winning the greater number of rubbers. If rubbers are equal the result shall be determined on sets. If rubbers and sets are equal the result shall be determined on games.
40. Unless the captains agree otherwise, rubbers will be played in the order of first and second double (and third if relevant), then, if applicable, first, second, third and fourth single.
41. Every Minor Round Match commenced must be played to a finish otherwise mutually agreed by the captains concerned.
42. If 50% or more of Minor Round Matches in a round reach a result, completed scores will stand. All Matches without a result will be cancelled unless the captains are able to agree on a resumption date/time prior to the next scheduled programme Match. The Recording System's Match Ratio (MR) will apply to the cancelled matches.
43. If less than 50% of Minor Round Matches reach a decision, the round will be cancelled.
44. Interrupted Matches shall be resumed at the score at which the game stood at the time of the postponement. Players and playing order in each Team must be the same as at the start of the Matches.

45. If an Associated Club finds it necessary to forfeit a Match, the Club Delegate must notify the opposing Club Delegate as the earliest possible time. Players from either Team may play in another Team on the day subject to these Rules and Constitution.
46. In the Minor Rounds, for Doubles & Singles Matches and 4-player Doubles Only Matches, the home Team shall provide four new balls. For 3-player Doubles Only Matches, the home Team shall provide 2 new balls.
47. In the finals, for Doubles & Singles Matches, both Teams shall provide four new balls. For Doubles Only Matches, both Teams shall provide 2 new balls.
48. All balls must be approved by Tennis Australia for grass court play.
49. Heat Policy. If the Australian Bureau of Meteorology weather forecast for Adelaide at 6:00pm on the day prior to the Match is:
  - a) 36°C or more, then all 3rd sets are first-to-10 point tie-break sets,
  - b) 40°C or more, then all Matches are automatically cancelled.
50. All players need to make their own decision to play and take adequate precautions in terms of hydration and sun protection, to ensure their own safety.
51. All Match players must be correctly listed in the Recording System and score cards by the home Team. Both captains are to verify the recorded results are a correct representation of the Match prior to submitted / signing.
52. A score card of Matches signed by both captains shall be retained by the winning captain.
53. Match and premiership results shall be kept on the Recording System showing the performances of the Teams in each division. Positions on the Recording System ladder will be determined by Match Ratio (ie Recording System ladder points Match average), then Matches won, then Matches drawn, then rubbers, then sets, then games. Byes are not Playable Matches.
54. The Team finishing top of the Recording System ladder in each division of the Minor Rounds shall be the minor premiers of that division.
55. The Executive Committee shall determine the venues of Finals Matches.
56. Doubles and Singles format Matches shall be played as follows:
  - a) In every Match not more than eight (8) players shall represent each Team in respective grades. No one eligible player shall compete in more than one singles and doubles rubber.
  - b) A Match will consist of two doubles rubbers and four singles rubbers.
  - c) All rubbers will be the best of three 6 game sets. At 5 games all a first-to-7 point tie-break game is to be played. If all on-court participating players agree,

the third set may be played as a first-to-10 point tie-break set, unless the Heat Policy applies.

- d) Teams shall be awarded two (2) premiership points for a win, or one premiership point for a draw, plus one premiership point for each rubber the Team won.

57. Doubles Only 3-player format Matches shall be played as follows:

- a) In every Match not more than five (5) players shall represent each Team in respective grades. No one eligible player shall compete in more than two doubles rubbers.
- b) A Match will consist of three doubles rubbers. Players to be ranked 1 (highest) to 5 (lowest) and rubbers played with players combinations, 1&2, 1&3, 2&3.
- c) All rubbers will be the best of three sets. The first two being 6 game sets with a first-to-7 point tie-break game played at 5 games all. The third set is to be played as a first-to-10 point tie-break set, unless all on-court players agree to play a six game set.
- d) The result of a Match shall be determined in favour of the Team winning the greater number of rubbers.
- e) Teams shall be awarded one (1) premiership point for a win, plus one premiership point for each rubber the Team won.

58. Doubles Only 4-player format Matches shall be played as follows:

- a) In every Match not more than eight (8) players shall represent each Team in respective grades. No one eligible player shall compete in more than two doubles rubbers.
- b) A Match will consist of four doubles rubbers. Players to be ranked 1 to 6 and rubbers played with players combinations 1&2, 3&4, 1&3, 2&4.
- c) For Division 1, the first two rubbers (combinations 1&2, 3&4) will be the best of three 6 game sets, unless the Heat Policy applies. At 5 games all a first-to-7 point tie-break game is to be played. If all on-court participating players agree, the third set may be played as a first-to-10 point tie-break set.
- d) For Division 2 and lower divisions, the first two rubbers (combinations 1&2, 3&4) will be the best of three 6 game sets. The first two sets being 6 game sets with a first-to-7 point tie-break game is to be played at 5 games all. The third set is to be played as a first-to-10 point tie-break set.
- e) The second two rubbers (combinations 1&3, 2&4) will be the best of three sets. The first two sets being 6 game sets with a first-to-7 point tie-break game is to be played at 5 games all. The third set is to be played as a first-to-10 point tie-break set, unless all on-court players agree to play a six game set, unless the Heat Policy applies.

- f) Teams shall be awarded two (2) premiership points for a win, and one premiership point for a draw, plus one premiership point for each rubber won.
59. The Teams that finish in the top four (4) positions on the Recording System ladder at the end of the Minor Round in each division shall play off in the Finals as follows:
- |                    |   |        |
|--------------------|---|--------|
| Semi Finals:       | Match One                               | 1 vs 2 |
|                    | Match Two                               | 3 vs 4 |
|                    |   |        |
| Preliminary Final: | Loser Match One vs Winner Match Two.    |        |
|                    |   |        |
| Grand Final:       | Winner Match One vs Winner Preliminary. |        |

### Minor Round Matches

60. No player shall play for two different Clubs in the Association in the same season without the prior approval of the Disputes Committee.
61. Where a Club has multiple Teams in the programme, a player may not change Teams after having played four or more Minor Round Matches for one of the Teams without the approval of the Disputes Committee.
62. Any player nominated for or playing in the Tennis South Australia State League competition or division 1 of the Metro League competition in the corresponding period or equivalent grade or standard, must play in the Association's Division 1 (one).
63. A player shall not be able to play in a division after having played four or more Matches that season in higher divisions, without the prior permission of the Disputes Committee.
64. A player can only play for one Team in any round (week) of Matches.

### Finals Matches

65. To be eligible to play in any Finals Match, a player must qualify by playing at least 33.3% of Playable Matches with their Team during the current season, and must be a Nominated Player. A player is ineligible to play Finals if they are not a Nominated Player, unless approved by the Disputes Committee prior to the last 3 Minor Round Matches.
66. In exceptional circumstances the Executive Committee may grant permission for a player, being a member of an Associated Club, to fill a vacancy for that Club in a Finals Match or one of the last 3 Minor Round Matches. The replacement player, as far as can be determined, is not of a higher standard than the player whose place is to be filled.
67. The players and the Team playing order for the first Finals Match must be communicated to the Recording Secretary prior to the third last Minor Round Match of the programme. If a playing order is not received, the order of the 4th last completed round may be assumed or as determined by the Disputes Committee.

68. Where a Team plays in more than one Finals Match and the composition of that Team remains the same as previously stated to the Recording Secretary, further notification is not required. However, if a Team change is made, the playing order must be re-submitted to the Disputes Committee via the Recording Secretary by 9.00pm the Tuesday preceding the Match for approval.
69. Where a Finals Match is drawn, a doubles first-to-10 point tie-break set will immediately be played to decide the Match result. Team Captains will select any 2 of their Match day players to play the deciding doubles first-to-10 point tie-break set.
70. Where a Final Match is cancelled by the Executive Committee prior to the commencement of play, the Team finishing higher at the end of the Minor Round Matches will be the winner.
71. Where a Final Match is interrupted due to adverse weather or some other event, relevant players must remain at the venue, until at least 1:00pm, for the purposes of continuing the match to a result, if conditions allow. If, after 1:00pm the captains agree that a result cannot be achieved on that day, the captains must immediately agree a date/time, at the same venue (unless agreed otherwise), to continue the Match within the next 5 days, to a result. If agreement on a date/time is not reached at that time, the Executive Committee will either set a date/time or determine the result.
72. Any unplayed or incomplete Finals Match sets and rubbers are not required to be played or completed once a result is achieved.

### **Disputes and Requests**

73. All disputes or requests submissions referred to the Association must be in writing or email and in the hands of the Secretary with 48 hours following the occurrence which caused the dispute. The Secretary shall have forwarded to the Delegate of the Club against which the complaint was made, a copy of the stated dispute at least three days before the meeting at which the complaint is to be considered.
74. All submissions shall include all necessary information to support adjudication. The Disputes Committee may request additional information, and time frames to provide. In the absence of accurate, or complete or timely information, the Disputes Committee will adjudicate solely on the information available at the time. Information provided post the adjudication, may or may not be considered by the Disputes Committee at their sole discretion.
75. If a player is not registered by the correct name against the rubber or an unspecified player in the online Recording System by 8.00pm Tuesday after the Match, the Disputes Committee will have the discretion to amend (remove/add) or forfeit some or all of the Recording System ladder points of one or both Teams.
76. If a Team plays a player who does not use his correct name or is not a member of the Club, or enters a player's name on the Recording System who is not actually playing the Match, then at any time during the season, the points accrued by the player shall be forfeited, and the Disputes Committee has the right to withdraw all the offending Team's points that have been accrued during the programme. The

Executive Committee of the Association reserves the right to ban the player or players involved in the deception from the Association.

## **Definitions**

**Associated Club** or **Club** means any natural lawn tennis club which has an approved, nominated and participating Team in the current season.

**General Meeting** means Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

**Match** means the scheduled game play in the programme between two Teams in accordance with these Rules and Constitution.

**Minor Round** means the programme of Matches prior to the Finals in accordance with these Rules and Constitution.

**Recording System** means the Match results and ladder recording system endorsed by the Executive Committee.

**Rules of Play** means the current International Tennis Federation (ITF) Rules of Tennis

**Team** means any team nominated by a club and accepted by the Association to participate in the current programme in accordance with these Rules and Constitution.

**The Act** means the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.