

GWTC MENS & WOMENS SINGLES MATCH RULES 2023/24

1. Schedule of Matches

- 1.1 16 home and away rounds will be played.
- 1.2 First round commences 14 October 2023
- 1.3 Last round before Christmas will be 16 December 2023
- 1.4 Resumes on 27 January 2024
- 1.5 Last round to be played on 2 March 2024: no match on 9 March 2024
- 1.6 Finals to be played over 2 weekends commencing 16 March with Grand Final on 23 March 2024.
- 1.7 Minor round matches shall be played on Saturdays as programmed at 12:30pm or 3:30pm. Major round matches shall be played at 1pm. A minimum of 2 courts per match are required for all matches.
- 1.8 Teams can apply to the Match Committee in writing, to hold matches at different times. These requests must be sent to the respective Association Secretary prior to the commencement of the season.

2. Matches/Players

- 2.1 Players must be ready to play at the stipulated match time.
- 2.2 Each match will comprise 4 singles matches and 2 doubles matches.
- 2.3 A team may use up to 6 players in each match. No player may play in more than one single and one double.
- 2.4 A team must play its singles and doubles matches in order of merit. No player may move more than one ranking position within the squad for that team, up or down, in consecutive matches after four programmed matches. A losing player or doubles pair may not be promoted over a winning player or pair in the next match in which they both participate except with the approval of a Match Committee nominee. The offending player's sets shall be deemed forfeited. A fill-in/part-time player may move more than one ranking position with the approval of a Match Committee nominee.
- 2.5 Team nominations, including squads, are to be made in League Manager. *Players must be registered members of their club (through TA database) and have activated their own Competitive Player Profile. New players must register and activate their own Competitive Player Profile in full on League Manager by 7pm on the Tuesday following the match. Penalty: loss of two (2) Premiership points for the team. Team changes, other than by order of merit, which would have affected the original grading, can only be made with the approval of the Match Committee. Team squads are to be maintained in order of merit throughout the season.*
- 2.6 Any team playing a player listed on Tennis SA's list of ineligible players shall be penalised by losing any points the ineligible player has accrued and forfeit all sets played by that person.
- 2.7 If a club has more than one team in a division, a player may play four matches in one team before being bound to that team.
- 2.8 On any given week, any player listed in the top four in order of merit on a State League and Metro League list is not eligible to play in the GWTC. This includes byes.
- 2.9 Once a player has played half of the programmed matches in a competition, including State League and Metro League, no transfer between competitions shall be allowed. This applies to competitions conducted at similar times e.g. Saturday pm.
- 2.10 Each team must have a Captain or Team Manager (where appropriate) appointed for each match.
- 2.11 Prior to the start of each match, each team is to print their own score sheet for the match via League Manager or Match Centre. The opposing captains shall exchange a list of players on the prescribed form, showing both doubles and singles and play the team in that order without alteration. Singles only players must be available when required to play. If a team has more than 4 players and a player is injured, or becomes ill, in the doubles, he or she can be replaced in the singles by a player who was not originally listed in singles. Order of merit must be followed.

2.12 No player can play in 2 different matches in the same afternoon, except that a player may play at 12:30pm and then at 3:30pm in a higher division as a late emergency player with prior approval of the Match Committee nominees.

2.13 In exceptional circumstances, a player may be granted approval to play in a higher division out of their position in the order of merit with prior approval of a Match Committee nominee. The player shall return to their normal position in the order of merit. Approval may be given to a player using this rule no more than 4 times.

2.14 In exceptional circumstances, a player who has played less than 3 matches for a club outside the GWTC may be granted, by a Match Committee nominee, a one-time permit to fill-in for a GWTC team. A permit must be sought every time of such occurrence. The player must be the same or lower standard as the players in the team.

2.15 Where courts are available beyond the scheduled completion of a match (3:30pm/6:30pm), matches in progress are to be completed. Where courts are not available, matches in progress are to cease at the completion of the game, or tie-break, being played.

2.16 No player may play for more than one club in a competition, nor in another association in a competition conducted at a similar time except for 2.14 and 2.17.

2.17 Players may "fill-in" for another club for up to four matches in Metro or State League provided that club does not have a team in that League.

2.18 A team with all players under the age of eighteen (18) is required to have an adult supervisor for each match.

2.19 Clubs with teams competing in the Division 1 Women's singles and Division 1 Men's singles competitions are to enter votes on the Parsons Medals App by 7pm on Tuesday following the match.

3. Balls and ball allocation

All balls must be of a type approved by Tennis Australia. The home team shall provide a minimum of 6 new balls for the match except div 1 which is 8. Finals: each team to provide 4 new balls.

4. Order of Play

Doubles matches shall be played first. After commencement, play is to be continuous. The order of play may be amended by prior agreement between the captains.

5. Scoring

5.1 Matches shall be decided by sets and where sets are even, by games. If sets and games are even in a completed match then the match is a draw.

5.2 *In Men's Division 1*, singles and doubles shall be 9 game sets with a 7-point tie-break at eight games all. For all other divisions, doubles shall be the best of three sets, the first two being six game tie-break sets with a 7-point tie-break at six games all, the third set being a match tie-break (first to 10 points with a 2-point margin or a 2-point margin after 9 points all). The match tie-break score is to be recorded in League Manager/Match Centre; counts as 1 set and 1 game. Singles shall be a six-game tie-break set with a 7-point tie-break at six games all.

6. Forfeits

6.1 Except in the case of injury or sickness during the match, forfeits of doubles and/or singles must be from the bottom double and/or single up. Failure by a team to forfeit in the correct order will result in a loss of two (2) Premiership points.

6.2 If any team cannot commence both doubles rubbers (unless by prior mutual agreement) within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time, that team shall forfeit any double that cannot be commenced. Any team not able to commence two matches within half an hour of the scheduled starting time, shall be liable to forfeit the entire match. This is a competition requirement, not at the discretion of team captains.

6.3 A team proposing to forfeit a match, or a set, shall notify the opposing team as soon as possible.

6.4 A team forfeiting 3 or more matches may be withdrawn from the competition.

6.5 If a team is removed from the competition or if a club withdraws a team from the competition, their matches and previous results will be replaced with a bye and the ladder will be calculated by match ratio.

7. Weather implications

7.1 In the event of extreme weather (including but not limited to rain or excessive heat) any match cancellations will be posted on GDTA and WDTA Association websites. Do not call the Tennis SA Weather phone number as this does not cover these competitions.

7.2 Matches will be cancelled when the forecast maximum temperature on match day, as issued by the Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au at 6am on the morning of matches, is 37^o Celsius or more.

7.3 In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather the following will occur:

a. On the day set down for such, players must remain at the courts for at least one hour before making any decision to abandon the match. The match status will be decided by the Match Committee.

b. *If neither team is in an unbeatable position, sets played will count and the match will be considered "incomplete"; one point will be awarded for each set won, the unplayed or unfinished sets will be deemed split between each team, and both teams will receive 2 premiership points.*

c. *If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and given 4 premiership points, plus one point for each set won, and the unplayed or unfinished sets will be deemed split between each team. For at least a draw, the premiership points will be split 3 and 1.*

7.4 In major round matches players must remain at the courts for at least two hours before making any decision to abandon the match. If no result is achieved the higher placed team will be considered the winner.

8. Results

GWTC will be using the Tennis Australia approved competition software, League Manager. Captains will be required to enter and confirm or dispute the results of their match on League Manager/ Match Centre by 7pm on Tuesday following the match. Finals by 9am Sunday. Penalty: a loss of two points to teams not entering/confirming results by 7pm on Tuesday following the match will apply.

9. Match Disputes

All match disputes must be made by the team captain or Manager by email to the respective Association Secretary by 7:00pm on Tuesday following the match.

10. Premiership table

10.1 Four premiership points will be awarded for a winning match and two points for a draw plus one premiership point for each winning set.

10.2 If a match is unable to be completed due to insufficient time, *then 7.3b and 7.3c will apply.*

10.3 Premiership tables are to be decided by points and should points be equal at the end of the minor round, then by percentage for and against of wins, then sets, then games. In divisions with a bye, or "unplayed" matches, the premiership table will be decided by match ratio. (Match ratio is the premiership points divided by the number of matches played). If equal on match ratio, then by ratio percentage for and against (wins, then sets, then games).

11. Finals

11.1 The top four teams in the premiership table at the end of the minor round shall play off in the major round. In the semi-finals, the 1st and 2nd placed teams will each have the option of hosting a home final on courts of a standard approved by the Match Committee. If the team declines, the decision as to where the match is to be played shall be made by the Match Committee.

11.2 (A) The team finishing 1st plays the team finishing 4th.

11.3 (B) The team finishing 2nd plays the team finishing 3rd.

11.4 (C) The winner of (A) plays the winner of (B) in a Grand Final.

11.5 In finals matches, doubles precede singles. The order of play of the singles is 4, 3, 2, 1. Where more than 2 courts are available for singles they may be used, by mutual agreement.

11.6 In the event of a drawn match in Finals, the winner shall be the team that finished higher in the premiership table at the conclusion of the minor rounds.

11.7 Undecided finals matches, not affected by weather, are to be completed on the following Sunday at mutually agreed times, and if no agreement, at times specified by the Match Committee. No team changes are permitted.

12. Finals Qualification

12.1 a. Nominations of teams including singles order and doubles pairings for the final rounds must be in accordance with any determination made by the Match Committee.

12.1 b. All clubs shall update their playing lists for all teams in League Manager to reflect the correct order of merit for all qualified players not later than Tuesday following the second last minor round match of the season. All players not qualified for finals should be changed to Reserve Players. The squads will then be locked and reviewed by the Match Recorder. Any changes required are to be communicated no later than the Friday following the last minor round match. Teams must then play in the approved singles order of merit and shall not be altered for the Finals Series. Penalty: the offending player's set shall be deemed forfeit.

12.2 Players in the major rounds are to remain in the same order of their position of merit throughout the finals series (singles and doubles) - unless injury or similar requires any replacement players.

12.3 No player may play in finals matches in a division unless that player is a registered member of Tennis SA and has played in no less than five (5) minor round matches in that division or in a lower division of that competition. In the event of 12 or less matches being played during the season, players will be required to play in no less four (4) minor round matches to qualify for finals. There are no grounds for appeal for players who have played less than the required number of matches to qualify for finals except that where a club has insufficient players qualified, under Rule 12.3, to fill its lowest Division team in major round matches, applications, stating a case, may be submitted to the Match Committee for approval to play a player. Approval may only be given to registered players of that club of appropriate standard being lower ranked than all players in the team. A player who has qualified to play finals in a competition conducted at a similar time would not be considered for approval.

12.4 A player who has played in a major round match of one division/ team /competition (Saturday pm) is not permitted to play another major round match in a lower division/team/competition unless approved by the Match Committee. Penalty: the offending player's sets shall be deemed forfeit.

12.5 A player having played a total of six matches in any higher division (including State League and Metro League) shall not be permitted to play in a major round match of a lower division unless approved by the Match Committee. Approval will be considered where the player has played the qualifying number of matches in the lower division, and the higher team is filled by genuine order of merit players qualified for finals. Penalty: the offending player's sets shall be deemed forfeit.

13. Code of Behaviour issues

13.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour for Tournaments and Competitions. The Code of Behaviour can be found at <https://www.tennis.com.au/sa/competitions/policies>

13.2 All reports of Code of Behaviour breaches shall be sent by email to the respective Association Secretary by midnight Monday following the match in which the incident took place.

13.3 Team Captains and Team Managers are responsible for exercising control over their own players in relation to all aspects of match play, discipline, and sportsmanship, etc.

14. Penalties

The Match Committee may apply penalties for any breaches of the Competition Rules. The Match Committee may determine a dispute in any way it sees fit and impose a penalty, including but not limited to the forfeit of matches or sets, and the loss of premiership points, on any club or player involved in such a dispute.

MIXED DOUBLES COMPETITION ("8 person")

The rules of competition for the GWTC men's and women's singles shall apply, with the term "Match Committee" being replaced by "Executive", "GWTC" with "GDTA", except for the following: -

1. Schedule of Matches

1.7 All matches shall be played on Saturdays as programmed at 1pm. A minimum of 2 courts per match required for all matches.

2. Matches/Players

2.2 All matches consist of two men's doubles, 2 women's doubles and four mixed doubles.

2.3 Teams shall consist of up to six (6) men players and up to six (6) women players. No player may play more than one double and one mixed double.

2.4 Doubles and mixed doubles matches are to be played in Order of Merit. Interpretation: -

"Players from the first men's and women's doubles are to play in the first or second mixed doubles. A fifth player playing mixed only, plays the mixed as per established order of merit. An order of merit must be established. Doubles are to be played in order of merit".

2.11 Replace "singles" with "mixed doubles".

2.12 No player can play in 2 different matches in any competition that same afternoon.

2.15 Not relevant

2.19 Not relevant

3. Balls and ball allocation

All balls must be of a type approved by Tennis Australia. The home team shall provide at least 12 new balls for the match. Finals: each team to provide at least 6 new balls.

4. Order of Play

Doubles matches shall be played first. After commencement, play is to be continuous. The order of play may be amended by prior agreement between the captains.

5. Scoring

5.2 Men's and women's doubles are to be the best of three sets, the first two being tie-break sets (with a 7-point tie-break at 6 games all) and the third set being a match tie-break (10-point tie break). The match tie-break score is to be recorded in League Manager/Match Centre; counts as 1 set and 1 game. Mixed doubles sets are to be 9 game sets (with a 7-point tie-break at 8 games all).

6. Forfeits

6.1 Replace "single" with "mixed double".

11. Finals

11.5 In Finals matches, doubles precede mixed doubles, and the order of play is 2, 1. The order of play of the mixed doubles is 4, 3, 2, 1. Where more than 2 courts are available, they may be used by mutual agreement.

12. Finals Qualification

12.1 Replace "singles" with "mixed doubles".

MENS DOUBLES COMPETITIONS

The rules of competition for the GWTC men's and women's singles shall apply, with the term "Match Committee" being replaced by "Executive", "GWTC" with "GDTA", except for the following: -

2. Matches/Players

2.2 Each match will comprise 4 doubles rubbers consisting of

Round 1: 1st double and 2nd double; Round 2: 3rd double and 4th double.

The highest-ranking player playing in the 1st round must play in the 1st double, and the highest-ranking player playing in the 2nd round must play in the 3rd double. No two players may play together in more than one double.

2.3 A team may use up to 6 players in each match.

2.11 "both doubles and singles" to be replaced by "all doubles", "Singles only players" by "Round 2 players only". If a team has more than 4 players and a player is injured, or becomes ill, in Round 1, that player can be replaced in Round 2 by a player who was not originally listed in round 2 subject to 2.2.

2.12 No player can play in 2 different matches in any competition that same afternoon.

2.19 Not relevant.

5. Scoring

5.2 Each double shall be the best of three sets, the first two being six game tie-break sets with a 7-point tie-break at six games all, the third set being a match tie-break (first to 10 points with a 2-point margin or a 2-point margin after 9 points all). The match tie-break score is to be recorded in League Manager/Match Centre; counts as 1 set and 1 game.

2M, 2W MIXED DOUBLES COMPETITIONS

Please refer to the rules for GDTA Mens and Womens Doubles Competitions with the exception of the following: -

2.2 Each match will comprise 6 sets in 3 rotations. The rotations are:

Rotation 1 – M1&M2 v M1&M2 W1&W2 v W1&W2

Rotation 2 – M1&W1 v M1&W1 M2&W2 v M2&W2

Rotation 3 – M1&W2 v M1&W2 M2&W1 v M2&W1

No two players may play together in more than one double.

2.3 Teams may use up to 3 male and 3 female players per match.

5. Scoring

Each double in the first rotation shall be a 9-game set with a 7-point tie break to be played at 8 all. The mixed doubles in rotations 2 & 3 shall be 6-game sets with a 7-point tie break to be played at 6 all.

GDTA JUNIOR COMPETITION RULES 2023/2024

The rules of competition for the GWTC men's and women's singles shall apply, with the term "Match Committee" being replaced by "Executive", "GWTC" with "GDTA", and except for the following, and note that 2.2.-2.4 in *italics* applies to the **Girls only divisions**: -

1. Schedule of Matches

1.1 14 home and away rounds will be played.

1.2 First round commences 21st October 2023.

1.3 Last round before Christmas will be 16 December 2023

1.4 Resumes on 3 February 2024

1.5 Last round to be played on 2 March 2024: no match on 9 March 2024

1.6 Finals to be played over 2 weekends commencing 16 March with Grand Final on 23 March, 2024
1.7 Minor round matches and semi-finals shall be played on Saturdays as programmed at 8:30am or 10:30am. Grand final matches shall be played at 9am. A minimum of 2 courts per match required for all matches.

2. Matches/Players

2.0 Players are to be 17 years or under at the commencement of the season.

2.4 The player listed highest in the Order of Merit, who is playing doubles, is to play in the number 1 doubles.

Girls Only Divisions

2.2 Each match will comprise 3 singles and 3 doubles.

2.3 There will be 3 rotations using 2 courts: -

Rotation 1: Singles 3v3 Doubles 1&2 v 1&2

Rotation 2: Singles 2v2 Doubles 1&3 v 1&3

Rotation 3: Singles 1v1 Doubles 2&3 v 2&3

2.4 A team may use up to 4 players in each match. No player may play in more than one single and players may not play with the same doubles partner more than once. If a player sits out in singles or doubles, the next ranked player moves up or down so the order of merit is maintained. Only singles order of merit determines team playing order.

2.8 Junior and Senior State League, and Metro League players are ineligible unless with the approval of the Executive or nominee.

2.10 Teams are to have an adult Team Supervisor present during the entire match. Each venue is to have a designated Venue Supervisor.

2.12 No player can play in 2 different matches in the same morning.

2.15 Where courts are available beyond the scheduled completion of a match (10:30am/12:30pm), matches in progress are to be completed. Where courts are not available, matches in progress are to cease at the completion of the game, or tie-break, being played.

2.17 Not relevant

2.19 Not relevant

2.20 No person is permitted within the confines of the court (including back and side stops) other than players on court and, if requested by players, the umpire as agreed between Team Supervisors.

2.21 A parent may not umpire any set in which their child participates.

2.22 Teams may contain up to two/one players of the opposite gender provided they compete in the lowest division of the boys/girls divisions.

2.23 Prior approval is required to play a player who is aged 13 years or over in Green ball competitions.

3. Balls and ball allocation

All balls must be of a type approved by Tennis Australia. The Home team is to supply at least four balls as determined by the Council of Management. Saturday Competitions Divisions 1 – 3 and Friday Competitions are to supply new balls. All other divisions are to supply good quality used balls. In finals each team is to supply at least two new balls *except Mixed and Greenball divs –teams to provide 2 good quality balls.*

4. Order of Play

Doubles matches shall be played first except Girls only divisions shall be played as per rotations. After commencement, play is to be continuous. The order of play may be amended by prior agreement between the team supervisors.

5. Scoring

5.1 Matches shall be decided by sets and where sets are even, by games. If sets and games are even in a completed match, then the match is a draw.

5.2 In Saturday Competition starting at 8:30am, all sets are tie-break sets (with a 7-point tie-break at 6 games all; **5 games all for the Girls only divisions**). In matches commencing at 10:30am, all sets are to be 6 game sets (with the winner being the first player to reach 6 games). In Green ball competitions a "sudden death" point will be played at deuce. Orange ball sets will be first to 4 games with no advantage scoring ie sudden death at deuce. Friday Competitions, doubles and singles are 6 game sets (7-point tie-break at 6 games all).

7. Weather implications

7.3 In the event of any match being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather the following will occur:

a. On the day set down for such, players must remain at the courts for at least one hour before making any decision to abandon the match. The match status will be decided by the Match Committee.

b. and both teams will receive **1** premiership point.

c. *If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and given **2** premiership points, plus one point for each set won, and the unplayed or unfinished sets will be deemed split between each team. For at least a draw, the premiership points will be split **1.5 and 0.5**.*

10. Premiership table

10.1 Two premiership points will be awarded for a winning match and one point for a draw plus one premiership point for each winning set.

10.2 If a match is unable to be completed due to insufficient time the *then 7.3b and 7.3c will apply*.

13. Code of Behaviour issues

13.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code Behaviour for Tournaments and Competitions. The Code of Behaviour can be found [here](https://www.tennis.com.au/sa/competitions/policies) ie at <https://www.tennis.com.au/sa/competitions/policies>.