

SENIOR Interclub Rules

2024/2025



Glossary

Interpretations in these rules:

- ★ **Match** means one individual singles doubles or mixed doubles.
- ★ **Contest** means the total of all matches between one team and another team, a round.
- ★ **Competition** means the total of all contests (rounds).
- ★ **Interclub Sub-committee** means those persons appointed by TWBOP Committee.
- ★ **TWBOP** stands for Tennis Western Bay of Plenty Incorporated.

Interclub Sub-Committee

The Interclub Sub-Committee is appointed by the TWBOP Committee to make quick decisions on Interclub matters. The Interclub Sub-Committee have the power to rule on any dispute or disagreement and have the power to rule on anything not contained in these rules.

Competition & PlayOffs

- ★ The competition is played on a round robin basis, followed by semi-finals and finals, this is dependent on the amount of teams entered and the amount of rounds allocated in a season.
- ★ Men's, women's, and mixed teams.
- ★ There must be a minimum of four (4) teams in each division and a maximum of eight (8) teams.
- ★ At the semi-finals stage, first and fourth placed teams' playoff and second and third placed teams' playoff (highest placed team to choose venue). Winners of semi-finals to play finals and losers from semi-finals to play off for third and fourth.
- ★ If there is insufficient time for semi-finals and finals the competition winner is the team with the highest number of points at completion of the round robin.
- ★ If a competition has a finals/playoff at the end of the season, teams can make the decision to have it on ie a Saturday afternoon (for greater atmosphere), at one venue, but all teams must be able to field their same Friday night teams.
- ★ If a round robin competition of less than 8 teams ends in playoffs the top 4 will be required to play, however positions 5, 6 or 7 playoffs are not a mandatory requirement.

Team List and Player Eligibility

- ★ Clubs need to submit their teams/players via Tennis NZ **Match Hub** by the **fixed closing date**. Affiliated club name must be shown.
- ★ Late entries will not be accepted.
- ★ Club captains, and senior convenors oversee Interclub team submissions, team submission by individual club members directly to the Tennis Western BOP manager will not be accepted.
- ★ All queries or changes to a club's interclub teams before the start date of the interclub season, need to be addressed to the Tennis Western BOP manager via club captains or senior convenors.
- ★ Teams' players must be listed in strict order of merit as per singles or doubles Match Hub player ranking. Flexibility will be given to players within the same S or D band; however order must be retained throughout the competition.
- ★ Women playing in the Singles Doubles competition can be graded two S-bands lower as men playing in the same division, ie woman S5 graded #2 in team and S7 graded man can be #1.
- ★ There is a limit of 14 players listed in teams (Match Hub lines) and note the eligibility to play in the

finals. Players from outside TWBOP/ BOP may compete in the interclub competition but must be a member of a TWBOP/BOP club and be affiliated to TNZ.

- ✦ Teams must play in the nominated playing order for the duration of the competition. All team lists will be published on Match Hub under the *Interclub*>>*Points/Draw* section ([InterclubCompetitionsList \(tennis.org.nz\)](https://www.tennis.org.nz/interclub-competitions-list)).
- ✦ New players can join a team and existing players can be withdrawn from a team at any time in the competition by requesting a team change via email (manager@tenniswesternbop.co.nz) to the Manager of Tennis Western BOP (within 24 hours before the next match date).
- ✦ Match Hub player ranking must be used by clubs to rank both their singles and doubles players. Challenges to the playing order or Match Hub ranking must be lodged with the TWBOP manager via email (manager@tenniswesternbop.co.nz) before the competition starts.
- ✦ Clubs may submit combined teams if they have insufficient players to field a team.
- ✦ If there are 6 teams or less, players must play in a minimum of one round robin and for draws with more than 6 teams, players must play a minimum of two round robin contests to be eligible to play in the semi-finals & final.

Format

Division Grade Singles/Doubles: Teams of 2 players. Maximum of 3 players can play on the day. Each contest consists of 1 doubles match, followed by 2 singles matches, or vice versa. Captains/managers to decide whether to play doubles or singles first before contest starts.

Division Grade Men's and Women's Doubles: Teams of 4 men or 4 women, maximum of 4 men or 4 women can play on the night. Each contest to consist of 4 doubles. Number #1 stays in top pairing. Swap partner for second match.

Division Grade Mixed Doubles: Teams of 2 men and 2 women. Maximum of 2 men and 2 women can play on the day. Each contest consists of 1 women's doubles match, 1 men's doubles match followed by 2 mixed double matches. Winter Mixed Doubles interclub will not be scheduled on same date as a TMWBOP tournament or rep fixture.

Playing Format All Grades: All matches are to be best of two tie-break sets (7-point tiebreak, winning by 2), with a super tiebreak (10 points, winning by 2) in lieu of a third set; normal deuce scoring (in other words **not** sudden death), if weather permits. If weather does not permit, play two short sets (7-point tiebreak at 4/4), normal deuce scoring, super tiebreak (10 points, winning by 2) in lieu of a third set.

Balls

All divisions:

- ✦ Each team is to provide 1 can of Tecnifibre X.
- ✦ Men may want extra balls if you play doubles matches first and you want new balls for singles matches.

Tennis Attire

- ✦ It is encouraged for clubs to provide uniforms for their players, especially the top club teams.
- ✦ Correct tennis attire and shoes, as described in the New Zealand tennis rules, shall be worn.

Code of Behaviour & Tennis Etiquette

- ✦ Tennis etiquette encompasses not only your behaviour but how you treat the venue you play at, equipment you play with, your behaviour in terms of the court next to you – please adhere to the basics:
 - ➔ Keep your court **tidy and safe** – remove balls on court, ie between two serves; no clothing or bags too close that will disrupt play.

- **Don't try to win the warm-up**; both parties need to get ready for the game.
 - Server to call **score** loud enough for all to hear, before a point.
 - Be **mindful** and **respectful** of your opponent(s), be respectful of the players playing on the adjacent court(s).
 - If you have to **cross other courts** to get to your court, do so at the **back** at the **end of a point**.
 - If your **ball goes onto the adjacent court**, wait until they have finished their point before you ask for the ball, or get the ball; this includes when the adjacent server is about to serve a second serve, the point is not over yet; don't pick the ball up behind the player, you are distracting their opposition.
 - **Return ball(s)** to server in a proper manner, straight to person, at a slow speed.
 - **Don't play serves that are out**. If your opponent hits an obviously out serve, don't hit it back. Hit it into the net or let it roll into the fence behind you. Practicing your return makes your opponent wait to hit their second serve and may require them to clear the ball you have hit back from the court.
 - The **prime objective** in **making calls** is to be **accurate**; if you did not see the ball, or you and your partner disagree, then the ball is in. No point should be replayed because a player is unsure whether the ball was in or out.
- ★ Players to adhere to the [TNZ Code of Behaviour](#).

Date, Time and Venue

- ★ All matches will be scheduled **home and away** where possible. The team with the highest score has the first option re venue when there is a playoff. If the entire division prefers to play at one venue this can be arranged via the Tennis WBOP manager (email manager@tenniswesternbop.co.nz), taking into account there are the required number of courts at the venue of choice.
- ★ Date, time and venue as per **scheduled/published interclub draw on Tennis NZ Match Hub**.
- ★ Contests involving teams that must **travel some distance**, may by mutual agreement of both Captains/Managers arrange a **later start time**.
- ★ **Friday night interclub commences** weekly at **6pm** for all divisions. This means you go on the court at 6pm to start warming up with the opposition or your own team. Teams cannot request for warm-up courts before 5:45pm. Most junior social nights at clubs finish around 5:30pm, and coaches need to pack equipment away. Please be courteous and respectful of the club's rules/coaches/juniors you are playing at.
- ★ If any person arrives **15 minutes** after a court is available for play a match default can be claimed.
- ★ If both teams captains/managers agree to play on another day, they can. The 'home' team to ensure courts are booked if playing on another day; if teams cannot come to an agreement, round to be played on the scheduled Friday, time/venue.
- ★ If there is **more than one court surface** at the venue the 'home' team will decide which court surface the match is to be played on.

Rained Off and Rain Interrupted Fixtures

- ★ Contests may only be postponed due to inclement weather by mutual agreement of both managers. Teams should always turn up and play as many matches as possible as weather conditions in the Bay can change very quickly. This particularly applies to artificial grass surfaces.
- ★ Unfinished or postponed matches/contests should be re-scheduled prior to the next scheduled contest or can be played on the rain off day allocated. If rain affects semi-finals, contests must be completed within 6 days. Finals date will not be changed. If finals (or last round if no playoffs) are affected by weather, then contests must be completed within 14 days.
- ★ There will be one rain off day allocated at the end of the comp but before playoffs (or last round if no playoffs).
- ★ Team Captains to reach mutual agreement on when contests are to be re-scheduled.
- ★ If teams cannot agree on a date to play the rescheduled matches/contest, then TWBOP will set the date (teams will be allowed to only one suggested date each).

- ★ Teams that do not play prior to playoffs will have no points awarded – TWOP will assist clubs to find courts if requested but the rescheduling of the contest is the sole responsibility of team captains. NO points will be awarded for the un-played matches. Bonus points will not be allocated for partially completed matches.
- ★ Partly completed matches will be resumed at the score standing at the time of postponement and team members must remain unchanged; please do not record half-played matches on Match Hub, this can lead to not being able to go back and make changes if Tennis NZ do a ranking update in the meantime; only record results on MatchHub once all matches are completed for that contest/round.
- ★ New rule due to weather issues - if round is not completed within two weeks after the scheduled date; managers of teams to notify Tennis WBOP manager, and it will be seen as a draw (splitting bonus points), and Tennis WBOP manager will record it as such. Rule remains not to record half-played matches.

Results Recording

- ★ Results sheets with players listed in order are to be completed and exchanged by Team Captains before any matches commence.
- ★ Results sheets to be completed by the winner of the contest and results to be entered by the winner on Match Hub ([GradingList \(tennis.org.nz\)](http://GradingList(tennis.org.nz))), instructions on how to enter results are stipulated on the Result Sheet.
- ★ Losing team manager to take a phone/photo copy of the result sheet, and double check that results were done correctly by the winning team before the next contest (please do not send the image to the Tennis Western BOP manager – if results are not entered correctly or entered at all, please text winning team manager to complete. Otherwise if any disputes please contact Tennis Western BOP manager to resolve.
- ★ New rule to deal with slackness of entering results - if the opposition has not loaded the results by the next round, the 'loosing' team manager is to send Tennis WBOP an email to notify/warn of the issue, cc the 'winning' team's manager in. Tennis WBOP manager will notify the club secretary and senior convenor/club captain. If the results are not in by the second week after the match, it will be seen as a draw (splitting bonus points), and Tennis WBOP manager will record it as such.
- ★ If both team managers have no access to printing result sheets and have no result sheets on the day/night the winning team manager can send losing team manager a record of scores via text and losing team manager to confirm accuracy via text.
- ★ Points: See points explained below, under *Points*.

Contest Defaults

- ★ Teams of 4 players which do not have sufficient players (Minimum 2 players) 30 minutes after the start time will be liable to a default.
- ★ Doubles divisions do not have the default option of turning up with 2 players, all players must turn up when playing only 2 matches.
- ★ Notice that a team is unable to field a full team should be given to the opposition team's manager/captain at least 24 hours prior to contest.
- ★ If a team default a contest (round) more than once, a standard default fee of \$50 will be invoiced to the club Secretary/Administrator of the defaulting team, at the end of the competition. The club has 48 hours to appeal this action through the Interclub Sub-committee. Their decision is final.
- ★ If a team defaults 3 times during the competition, their points will be withdrawn from the competition immediately.
- ★ Teams that win a contest by default will receive points for that contest equal to the average of the points they have accumulated in the other contests they played over the season. These points will be awarded upon completion of their final match of the round prior to semis and finals or the final match of the competition where no semis or finals are played.
- ★ If a club withdraw a team from a competition due to unforeseen circumstances, after interclub starts, that team will not be allowed to join the interclub competition again for that season. This decision lies

with the club/committee, club to inform the Manager of TWBOP of their decision to withdraw. The club will have to pay the standard default fee of \$50. All contests/rounds for that team will be recorded on Match Hub as 'default'.

Points

Points will be awarded as follows, on the day of the contest:

- ★ 1 point for every match won.
- ★ 2 bonus points for an overall contest win.
- ★ If matches are even there will be a countback on sets won to determine a winner.
- ★ If sets are even there will be a countback on games to determine a winner.
- ★ 1 bonus point to each team for a draw, if matches, sets and games are even.

NOTE: A third set super tie-break is counted as a set when a set countback is required. If sets are even and a count back of games is required, then the super tie-break is counted as a game. Therefore, the super tie-break could potentially have two values.

Countback to decide Semi-finalists, Finalists, Competition Winner

Where a countback is required to decide semi-finalists, finalists or the competition winner as **teams are tied on points**, the following will determine the order:

1. The most number of points won by a team in all contests against the other team.
2. The most number of matches won by a team in all contests in the entire season.
3. The most number of sets won by a team in matches in the entire season.
4. The most number of games won by a team in matches in the entire season.

The first criteria will be used to break the tie. If teams are still even, the progress to the next criteria.

NOTE: A third set super tie-break is counted as a set when a set countback is required. If sets are even and a count back of games is required, then the super tie-break is counted as a game. Therefore, the super tie-break could potentially have two values.

Disputes, Umpiring and Rulings

- ★ Players shall umpire their own matches unless an umpire is requested by one of the players.
- ★ Any interclub disputes to be emailed to the Tennis Western BOP manager: manager@tenniswesternbop.co.nz

Interclub Process

1. Tennis WBOP Manager publishes Interclub entry and closing dates on the [TWBOP calendar](#) and website ([Senior Interclub page](#)).
2. Clubs ensure all members participating in interclub have Match Hub player codes.
3. Clubs submit teams via Tennis NZ Match Hub by the closing date (late entries not accepted).
4. Clubs that have players interested in playing interclub but do not have enough players to form a team should submit players names to TWBOP manager to be added to a 'Floaters Players Pool'.
5. Senior Interclub Seeding Meeting (post-closing date) - TWBOP Manager club captains / senior convenors meet, to decide how many teams, how many divisions, for all to achieve a great result.
6. Any concerns re over entry, lack of entries, uneven contests to be discussed (if needed) by interclub committee.
7. The TWBOP manager will do his or her best to ensure that contests reach the minimum 4 team requirement by using players from the player pool where needed. The TWBOP Manager may also contact players outside the player pool, but those players must be a member of a TWBOP/BOP club. Clubs to be cc'd into communications.