

ROYAL PARK TENNIS CLUB

INFORMATION FOR PLAYERS JOINING JUNIOR TEAMS & THEIR PARENTS

Welcome.

The Royal Park Tennis Club is a community based facility that exists to provide a healthy environment for all to enjoy the recreational benefits of this popular game.

For our Juniors we offer three main opportunities to play tennis.

1. Social Play

Supervised social play is conducted between 4.30 and 6.00 each Wednesday afternoon and all are welcome.

2. Coaching

Coaching from two providers, Matt Gregory who operates from the Northern end and Dan Donnelly, who operates from the Southern end of our facilities.

3. Competition

Our third main opportunity for children to get involved in is competition and team tennis.

To gain the best benefit from playing competition and team tennis, everyone who becomes involved should gain an understanding of the systems and protocols that have been established to provide an orderly and fair environment for all.

The following information will hopefully give an insight into these systems and help new players and their families to familiarise themselves with this new world of competition tennis.

You do not need to commit to memory everything in this document before commencing competitive play, rather, it is designed as a resource to help you to participate and fit in as quickly as possible.

COMPETITION FORMAT

Saturday Mornings

Most matches are played on Saturday mornings in seasons commencing in February and July. The relevant grades and starting times are:

- A Reserve grades commence at 7.45 am
- B Grades generally commence at 7.45 am ##
- C Grades generally commence at 8.30 am ##
- D Grades generally commence at 9.30 am ##

All grades may find that some away matches start and finish at different times. There are occasions when it is necessary to request a different start time for some of our own teams. When this occurs, details will be advised to the teams involved and designated on the fixture.

Play normally concludes between 9.30 am and 11.30 am at Royal Park for home based matches.

Friday Nights

Matches on Friday nights are organised for the:

- A and A Reserve Boys and Mixed Grades commence at 7.00 pm.

All matches are played between teams selected to represent Royal Park and teams from other clubs.

To be eligible to play, a boy or girl needs to turn a minimum of *ten* years old in that season (exceptions can apply) and can turn *eighteen* years old in that season. Each season a nominal fee per player applies to cover the cost of registration and tennis balls (*also lights for Friday night teams*).

Players are graded into appropriate levels of ability and not specific age groups. Teams may be mixed with boys and girls, all boys, all girls, or unisex. Match formats usually consist of a total of nine sets, based on the following:

- *A Grades - each player plays one singles (8 games), tie-breaker at 7 all and one doubles (6 games) match, no tie-breaker*
- *B & C Grades - each player plays one singles (6 games) tie-breaker at 5 all and one doubles (6 games) match no tie-breaker*
- *D Grades - each player plays 3 doubles sets (6 games). no tie-breaker. Games shall be decided by sudden-death deuce.*

Matches are played on a home and away basis over fourteen rounds (there may be byes in some grades) and the highest qualified four teams play in a finals series at the conclusion of the home and away matches.

TEAM MANAGERS

Every team has a Team Manager. The Team Manager organizes a roster that shows who plays on what day and which parents are on supervising duty. You should call another team member's parent to organise a swap or substitute and then notify your Team Manger if you:

- Are unable to play on a rostered day or need to swap or substitute a roster day with somebody else.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

All players need an adult to be available to help on a rostered basis. This can be a little intimidating to Parents new to tennis, but there are many experienced adults around that will be happy to talk you through the little things that you need to know. Parent supervision includes:

- About three duties in a fourteen week season when your child is rostered in
- Driving team members (as required) to away matches and supervising the team at that venue
- Supervising the team at our home venue with getting matches organised and umpired, courts maintained in good order and the match result sheet accurately completed
- Umpiring - D Special and D Grade matches are to be umpired by parents/adults from each competing team on an alternative basis. Umpires are to use the supplied score sheets to record the scores.
- Encouraging your child to practice regularly and develop a team involvement mentality.

It is very important that Parents do not interfere with their child's match other than general assistance with the supervision. Parents or other team members are not allowed to offer advice to or coach a player/s during matches, but they are encouraged to acknowledge the good play of all participants in the match while not turning the contest into a 'football type' level of barracking.

Sports such as football are more aggressive in their vocal support and the crowd is further away from the action, whereas tennis is less combative and the supporters are a lot closer to the action. Players can easily be intimidated by an overbearing Parent or adult and this is unfair to the purpose of the contest and such behaviour is likely to breach the competition rules for which penalties apply, such as being asked to leave the venue.

TEAM ETIQUETTE

When you're playing in a team you need to respect the other people in that team. Some ways you can do this are by:

- Turning up for team practice
- Making yourself available to play on a non rostered day
- Turning up on time for matches. This is a very important issue.
- Trying not to pull out at the last minute. If you are unable to play, try to arrange a swap or substitute as soon as you are aware of an unavailability so that there is no last minute panic trying to find another player or alternatively the team having to forfeit the match.

HOSTING AT HOME

When you host other clubs at home you should always be friendly and welcoming. Some ways you can do this are as follows:

- Arrive at the Club before the starting time so that you can be there when the opponents arrive.
- Before you begin a match introduce yourself to your opponents and their Supervisor/Manager.
- When you host at home you will have to fill out a match sheet. Your Manager should get this for you and the *fully completed sheet must be left in the office for checking and emailing to the NSJTA Grade Secretary.*
- Balls supplied and used are to be returned to the Club at the end of the match.

ARRIVAL TIMES HOME MATCHES - CHECK FIXTURE FOR AWAY MATCH TIMES

All players should arrive at the match venue at least 15 minutes prior to start time.

- All warm ups need to be completed and the first point started at the scheduled time to reduce interference with the matches commencing at later times.

COURT ALLOCATIONS:

For every match – either at home or away – each team will be allocated courts to play on by the person in charge at the venue. You must not use another team's allocated court(s) unless you have been given permission to do so by the Venue Co-ordinator. This may happen for example when another match finishes early or in the event of wet weather.

HOSTING FINALS

Usually, semi-finals and finals matches are allocated to courts at participating Clubs and teams from those Clubs are responsible for hosting the matches. If your child's team is not participating in finals matches, it is expected that each child and parent will assist with the hosting activity. This involves umpiring, court preparation and canteen duties (parents). Thus, if your child has been a team member during the season, they should be available to support the Club in hosting; this is a vital part of team sport, and is seen as an integral part of player and parent commitment to junior competition at our Club.

TEAM RECORDS

The supervising parent needs to take a photo of the formal match sheet at the end of the match as back up if the original sheet goes missing or is not received by the Grade Secretary.

When completing the details on the match sheet, ensure that you include the full first and second name of each player and each emergency. If the details are not complete then the Club faces a fine from the NSJTA for each incorrect details.

Results are recorded on the NSJTA Website: ***nsjta.asn.au***

COURT ETIQUETTE

When you are playing on the court there are some basic rules you should follow. This is called 'court etiquette'. Here are some of those rules:

- Never throw your racquet
- Never swear on or off the court
- Do not yell loudly during a match as it will distract your opponents and maybe even your team mates
- If one of your balls is hit onto or behind another court nearby, you must wait until the point on that court is over before you retrieve it
- After each point on your court is played you should make sure that the server has both the balls before starting the next point.
- Always return the ball to your opponent by hitting it gently under the net
- You should try not to leave the court during a match unless it is urgent
- With home and away matches for A Grades, B Grades and C Grades, sets are self umpired by the players. They are only to be umpired by parents/adults if requested. This may be more the case in finals.

COURT MAINTENANCE

There is more to a tennis court than just playing on it. Courts have to be cared for in order to stay in good condition and to be safe by limiting players from slipping over. Some things you should do when you play tennis that will keep these courts in good order are:

- Before you start to play you should sweep the lines.
- Water each court **before** play commences, as required, especially when the court surface is dry and/or dusty. This usually happens in hot/windy weather.
- Bag and water from fence to fence **after each set** or every half an hour if not playing a match or in hot weather when the courts dry out quickly.
- When you water the courts, it is vital to hold the hose at an upward/elevated angle. That means, not holding the hose pointed directly onto the court as this will allow the water pressure to dig into the court and create holes in the playing surface which damages the court.

TENNIS ATTIRE

When it comes to what you should wear to tennis there are a few guidelines that you can follow:

- Try to wear the Club's top, otherwise a plain top without advertising
- You may wear track pants in the warm-up, but before your match commences you should remove them and compete in a skirt or shorts. Common sense is applied in very cold weather.
- The tennis shoes you wear should be appropriate for the type of courts. The porous surface at Royal Park requires flat-soled runners that do not chop up the top of the court. **Definitely no cross trainers.**

ROYAL PARK TENNIS CLUB TOPS

Club tops may be purchased from the Club for your child. They are available from the office at a cost of \$15 each.

QUERIES RELATING TO CONTROVERSY OF PLAY

If a contentious issue arises, you should first talk to your Team Manager and then if it is still not settled you should then call on the Venue Supervisor on match day or Junior Co-ordinator at other times.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

The Club complies with the Child Protection legislation and all parents are encouraged to access the Member Protection Policy on our website to familiarise themselves with our policy.

HAVE FUN

We want you and your child/children to enjoy the experience of tennis and have fun playing tennis.

If you have any feedback or general queries please contact Carole Houston our Club Manager, whose contact details are on the notice board at the Club, and who will be happy to assist in ensuring that we do our best to provide a safe, happy, fun and enjoyable tennis experience.

December 2019