# Night Tennis Competition Rules

# Men’s and Mixed Grade Matches

**1 Match Rules**

All matches will be played according to the rules of tennis together with any guidelines applicable to procedures, etiquette etc, as endorsed by Tennis NSW (TNSW). Interpretation of the above is vested in TNSW and the Bowral Night Competition Administrators (The Administrators).   
In the event any player or team is in breach of these Rules and Conditions, the breach may be drawn to the attention of the offending player/team immediately the breach is detected and acted on forthwith. If a breach related to play is only detected sometime after the breach occurs, the match shall stand up to the time of detection.

The Competition Administrators may subsequently adjudicate accordingly.

The Night competitions are doubles only events.

**2. Club Memberships:**

All players must be financial members of Bowral Tennis Club to be eligible to play. Any teams that have unfinancial members at the conclusion of the final round of the competition will incur a penalty deduction of 5 points per unfinancial player prior to semi- final eligibility being decided.

**3. Team Entry Conditions - 4 player events:**

1. Registered teams MUST consist of at least 4 (four). **The first 4 members listed on the team entry** will be used to grade the team into the appropriate Grade in the case where large entry numbers require multiple grades to be constructed.
2. Entries must be received by the stipulated closing date on the website [www.bowraltennis.com.au](http://www.bowraltennis.com.au)
3. Entries for individuals and full teams should be made via the website

**4. Finals Series Player eligibility and Reserves:**

1. To be eligible for the finals series a player must have participated in a minimum of 30% of played rounds over the course of the preliminary rounds competition. The **Xpoint software** will be used to provide this report to the Competition Administrators.
2. There is no maximum number of players that can be entered into a team however Rule 2ii needs to be met by players so large team entries should be carefully managed to ensure finals series compliance.
3. In the **normal playing of Round** matches reserves can be obtained from other teams in the same grade if required.
4. **In finals series,** if a reserve is required, the reserve must have competed in a minimum of 30% of the total rounds played and cannot have an iPR higher than that of the player being replaced.

**5. Finals Series special conditions:**

1. In the case of Semi-finals, Finals and Grand Finals, if the sets and games are equal, the team that qualified with the highest points will be declared the winner

**6. Team Gradings**

1. The Administrators shall decide in which Grade any team shall compete.
2. Where multiple grades are required in a competition team gradings will be initially decided by tallying the iPR’s of all players in a team and then dividing by the number of players to obtain a ‘team average iPR’. Teams will then be allocated to grades from the highest to the lowest. (Note: iPR information provided in Point 10 of this document)
3. The Administrators may at their discretion refuse the nomination of any players or team without an obligation to give a reason. At any stage of the competition the Grade Committee may require any player to be regarded, where in its opinion, the player was significantly under- graded due to erroneous or omitted data accompanying that player's nomination. In the case of players who become subject to this rule, the Administrators have the right to forfeit any sets won by the player where such action is deemed to be appropriate.
4. A player once classified shall not play in a lower Grade.
5. The Administrator may at any time suspend a player from participation in Grade Matches for unsatisfactory conduct considered by it to warrant such suspension. Any charge against a player must be made in writing and forwarded to the Administrator within seven days of the match being played. The reported player shall be notified in writing of such charge within seven days of the receipt of the charge by the Administrator. The player will have the right to appear before the Administrator Committee to answer any charges and the person or a representative of a Team making the charge shall also be in attendance.

**7. Entries/Fees**

i. Entries can be made online at [www.bowraltennis.com.au](http://www.bowraltennis.com.au)

ii. There is no cost at time of online entry.

* 1. Weekly Match fees are payable upon arrival at the venue in the Pro Shop.
  2. Match fees shall be determined by the Administrators and revised annually.

**8. Weather**

1. **Normal Rounds**: In the case of wet weather the Administrators will make a decision as soon as practically possible and notify team Captains by SMS.
2. **Wet weather matches** up to a maximum of 3 per competition shall be rescheduled to the end of scheduled draw rounds on the Xpoint system if sufficient spare weeks are available at the end of the competition. This is at the discretion of the Administrators and shall be established and teams notified at the commencement of each new competition.
3. **Semi-Finals Series/Finals/Grand Finals:**
   1. in the event of a total washout the higher placed team shall progress through
   2. in the event that hard courts are washed out but synthetic grass courts are playable the semi-final will proceed on the synthetic grass courts. This may occur before or during the match. This decision will be made by the Administrators.
      1. **Facilities/Playing Attire**
4. Balls & scoresheets are provided and can be collected from the Pro Shop when paying match fees.

Playing Attire

1. All players must wear correct tennis footwear and suitable tennis clothing.

**10. Court format/ Start Time / Late arrival**

1. Every attempt will be made to provide 2 courts per match. If this is not possible then any spare courts must be shared equally across all matches being played
2. Teams should have a pair ready to play and on the court by 7.30pm. At 7.40pm a team can claim a first set forfeit, at 7.55 a second set forfeit and at 8.15pm a full match forfeit. Times will be determined by the Administrator timepiece.

**11. Forfeits**

1. Full match forfeits will incur a 5 point deduction from a team’s total pointscore
2. Matches cannot be forfeited prior to the time at which the courts are declared playable or unplayable for the day
3. In the event of a team being able to field only one pair, that pair must play their sets and forfeit the remainder.

**12. Injury**

* + 1. In the event of any player becoming incapacitated through injury or illness during the progress of the match, all remaining sets must be forfeited.
       1. **Match scoring**

1. The normal tennis scoring system applies to all matches
2. When a set reaches five (5) games all*,* the 12 point Tie Break system shall apply.
3. Teams will receive 1 point for each set won and 2 bonus points for an overall win on games.
4. Teams will receive ½ a point for all unfinished sets.
5. Washout points will be shared equally
6. The Xpoint competition software shall be used and points are automatically allocated when results are entered into the system
   * 1. **iPR rating system**

The Xpoint system uses the iPR (International Player Rating) system. The data collected is fed into the Tennis Australia data base and your rating can be used across the country when playing competitions to assess your standard for grading purposes. In simple terms the system works as follows:

* The iPR’s of you and your partner are compared to that of your opponents.
* The system then predicts a result (you can go to your comp draw screen, hover over an upcoming match and the predicted set results will appear)
* If you perform better than the prediction your rating will rise (note: thus you can lose a match and still get a rating increase if you performed better than the prediction. Conversely you can get a rating decrease if you win by less than the prediction)
* Ratings movements are weighted so that movements are small – this allows for unusual results in the case where you may be ill or just had a really bad day. It usually takes about 20 set results for most players to find their level.
* It makes no difference whether you are playing against a very strong player or a very weak player to your chances of a rating improvement. The system predicts a result that needs to be attained to hold your rating.

The iPR system has been in place for about 6 years and has around 50,000 players and growing fast in Australia. It is becoming the key grading tool in many Sydney competitions as there is no subjectiveness in the rating process; just results based data to perform the calculations much like in golf.

**RULE: Foot-faults**

It is desirable that players should pay special attention to the observance of the ITF Foot-fault rules, which read as follows:   
  
Immediately before commencing to serve the Server shall stand with both feet at rest behind the baseline and within the imaginary continuation of the centre mark and side-line, Therefore, until the service has been delivered he shall:

* 1. Not change his position by walking or running.
  2. Not contact the baseline or the court inside the baseline before the ball is struck.

**A player cannot be foot-faulted by an opponent. A player may request the court Administrator to watch a player perceived to be foot-faulting. The administrator will explain the rule to the player in question and proceed to watch the player serving for 1 game duration during which the Administrator may call foot-fault(s) on the player. Every effort should be made to avoid foot-faults.**