

NORTH SUBURBAN JUNIOR TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC.

Reg No. A0058168N

MINUTES OF DELEGATES MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2022

34 of 47 Clubs present

Meeting opened: 8:05 pm

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Morton

APOLOGIES: Rose Micallef (Ascot Vale), Paul Adams (Deer Park), Jacqui Theuma (Keilor East), Michael Sexton (St Monica's), Michelle Coffey (St Monica's), Tannith Galliot (St. Vincent's), Tamsin Rhodes (West Brunswick)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Circulated and taken as read.

MOVED: Glenn Ferris (Oak Park)

SECONDED: Mark Kennedy (Avondale Heights)

CORRESPONDENCE: As tabled by Robert McDonald

IN

1. Sydenham TC — Details of club representatives approved to sign transfers
2. Gladstone Park TC — Notification of clubhouse works
3. Hume TCC — Letter regarding poaching of players
4. Tennis Victoria — Affiliation renewal 2022-23
5. Consumer Affairs Victoria — Annual statement receipt
6. Tennis Victoria — Management Liability Insurance Declaration
7. Tennis Victoria — Call for 2022 Director nominations
8. OLN TC — Email regarding future of club in 2023

OUT

1. All Clubs - Courts needed for Associations Junior League teams
2. All Clubs - Season 2 2022 Fixture to review
3. All Clubs - Season 2 2022 arrangements
4. Hume TCC - Response to letter about poaching
5. Tennis Victoria - Affiliation renewal form
6. Moomba Park - Junior competition
7. All Clubs - NSJTA Update
8. All Clubs — Agenda and attachments for Delegates meeting on 1 August 2022

CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

2022/06	Out	Letters to Avondale Heights TC and Delahey TC advising outcome of complaint
2022/07	In	Letters to Essendon TC and Hume TCC advising outcome of complaint
2022/08	In	Code of Conduct complaint from Keilor TC regarding D Special 1 Unisex Grand Final on 18 June 2022
	Out	Copy of the Code of Conduct complaint to Essendon TC

In	Response from Essendon TC
Out	Letters to Keilor TC and Essendon TC advising outcome of complaint

MOVED: Robert McDonald (Secretary)

SECONDED: Ray Reymers (Coburg)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance in transaction account as at 23 May 2022	\$1,870.73
Payments received since 23 May 2022	\$8,735.00
Transfer from investment account	\$8,000.00
Payments out since 23 May 2022	-\$16,709.74
Balance in transaction account as at 1 August 2022	\$1,895.99
Balance in investment account as at 1 August 2022	\$12,345.76

MOVED: Colin Thompson (Treasurer)

SECONDED: Larry Pelly (Bulla Village)

Invoices have been sent to clubs by email. About half of the clubs have paid so far. Reminders were handed out at the meeting.

TENNIS EVENTS REPORT:

1. Frank Sedgman Cup

The NSJTA finished fifth in this event. Unfortunately, the team was in the same group as Waverley, who ultimately won the event.

2. Pat Pearce Cup

This event will take place in September. Nomination information will be placed on the NSJTA website soon.

3. Associations Junior League (AJL)

- 85 players have signed up to represent the NSJTA in AJL this season, which means we have been able to enter 15 teams
- Grading is taking place this week and the draw should be released soon
- The season starts on Sunday 14 August 2022
- Thanks to the clubs that have provided courts for AJL teams: Coburg, Strathmore, Hume, Taylors Lakes, Essendon, Tullamarine, Airport West and Sydenham

TENNIS VICTORIA REPORT:

1. Associations Forum

- Ray Reymers attended the Associations forum at Royal South Yarra TC on 16 June 2022
- There was a discussion about the Universal Tennis Ranking (UTR). Tennis Australia are encouraging all players to sign up for a tennis account, and are hoping to make it a requirement.
- Child Safety and inclusion were also a focus. The NSJTA already has a number of good initiatives in this space.

2. Ray will contact Tennis Victoria/Australia to see if someone can provide a presentation to Delegates and/or players about the UTR to answer any questions and correct any misinformation.

MATCH SECRETARY REPORT:

1. Welcome back everyone.
2. I would like to thank everyone for the minimal amount of fixture requests. You have no idea how much this helps to put the fixture together. We did not have to make any awkward decisions this season of which request is more important than another.

There have been some withdrawals of players and teams this season (Non Covid related) Some player withdrawals cannot be helped, but when you have to pull out a whole team, because someone said they didn't want to play anymore or hadn't been asked and it was assumed they would play, you are left with where to move the other players to without impacting the other teams' members too much. Then there is a Bye introduced into the grade, and in two cases previously we were left with six teams in the grade and the Match Committee had to organise a six team draw which is not an easy feat as it needs to work around other venues and their court availability etc (thank you Robert).

It is vitally important that the NSJTA has your correct email address. We always send a draft fixture out for the Delegates to check before we finalise it.

On the 22nd June the following was sent out to Delegates:

Please check the fixture and notify the Association of any changes needed by THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2022.

and

As grading has been completed it is now too late to make changes to teams for next season, except for moving players to HIGHER grades or moving players between teams that have been graded in the same grade.

Unfortunately, there have been some requests that we have been asked and we have had to said "No" to because they are outside of the set dates and grading has been completed.

Requests for late transfers have been out in force this season too. We have transfer dates, that are listed in our reports, the fixture and on the website for people to read. These dates are the same for everyone. We also suggest in the lead up to transfers that Delegates should let children know of the cut off dates. As a Delegate I often knew that I wasn't going to have the correct grade for a child, then I would talk to the family. In most situations I was able to form a combined team with another club. However, our A+ teams are submitted one week earlier so that if a Club misses out on A Special, their players can talk to another club with an A+ team or make a combined team. These late transfers are generally approved by the Match Committee.

This season I have had quite a number of transfer requests that were way outside the cut off dates. It's not easy saying "No" but that's why we have By-laws to follow.

All Club Delegates should communicate with their juniors and parents.

I do not appreciate teenage children ringing me and asking me for transfers.

3. **Understanding the Fixture**

Please use the following example as a guide

All A and B grade teams on a Saturday morning have an automatic 7.45am start unless there are fixture changes as in the below example.

B reserve 2

1. Buckley Park (Red) #
2. Buckley Park (Black) #
3. St Therese's @ ESS
4. Maribyrnong Park
5. Oak Park

6. Delahey/Deer Park *

7. Green Gully

8. Keilor

Team 1 is an 8.30 start when at Buckley Park

Team 2 is an 8.30 start when at Buckley Park

Team 3 is played @ ESS with a 7.45 start

Teams 4, 5, 7 and 8 are 7.45 starts for all Home games

Team 6 is a 9.30 game (Home games only) This is a combined team and played at first mentioned team Delahey.

Please note the difference between Team 3 and Team 6 designation of venue to play at.

Please note teams that are fixtured with changes from the very beginning of the season and are printed on the fixture can have sets forfeited for being late. If you go to the wrong venue, expect to forfeit sets.

Sometimes a club has to make some temporary changes to the fixture due to repairs to courts etc, In these instances the Delegates contact each other directly. So if a new location has been organised and if a team is running late sets cannot be forfeited for being late. All court relocation changes must have had prior approval from the Match Secretary

Printable fixtures can be found on the website under Documents. www.nsjta.org.au

4. **Grade Secretaries** — I want to say a huge thank you to all our Grade Secretaries. Without their time we would be lost. On saying that there are many instances where sheets are being sent to the Grade Secretary late. If the result is missing the away team can also send it in to the Grade Secretary. It shouldn't always be up to the Grade Secretary to chase the missing results. As a Delegate you should be keeping an eye out weekly to see if anything is missing. I am asking all Delegates to chat to your Team Managers and ask them to please send the results in ASAP. We cannot print out an accurate emergency player report without the results being entered which may impact on when an emergency is registered.
5. **Substitute players, emergency players and players playing between two teams** — There are many different By-laws for these situations, and we ask that you all make yourself familiar with them. Mistakes are easily made and can cost you a match or a finals berth. If you have sought permission from the Match Committee it is important that their name is written on the sheet (eg: Permission granted by Brendon Noonan).

By-Law 34c

If a club has two or more teams in one grade, no registered player is permitted to change from one team to the other without prior approval of the Match Committee. (eg A player in the Black team cannot play in the Red team)

By-Law 34f

For seeded grades a club may apply for permission from the Match Committee for a player from one team to fill in for another team at the same level (A Reserve 2 Boys and A Reserve 2 Mixed). Permission must be sort in advance and will only be granted if in the opinion of the Match Committee the replacement player will not strengthen the team. In such cases the Match Committee will determine the seedings to be used. This rule does not apply in finals.

6. **Additional registrations** — New emergencies must play 3 matches (not including washouts) before being considered for additional registration, and that in these 3 matches the emergency details must be clearly stated on the match sheet. Most additional registrations will be granted unless the child's results indicate that he/she appears to be a significantly better player than two other team members. I send a text to the Delegate letting you know if your player is fine to continue playing. Sometimes a fourth game may need to be played but under NO circumstances should a child play a fifth game without

confirmation from the Match Secretary. If a registration is rejected a child may play as an emergency for a higher team.

7. **Registering players without previous match experience** — Please make sure that paperwork is emailed to Kym (matchsecretary@nsjta.org.au) This can be used for the first seven rounds. If, in the opinion of the Match Committee, the player is considered too strong, you will be called to discuss alternative options

When using an emergency player please make sure you supply their full date of birth on the score sheet. Please write clearly.

8. **Important notes**

- All A+ requests and questions should be directed to Brendon Noonan Phone 0400 112 595
- All Friday night score sheets must be emailed to results@nsjta.org.au. **Please put the grade in the subject line of the email.**
- All score sheets must be completed in full. There will be fines for not completing the team sheet.
- Notify myself with any Covid outbreaks at your club (Juniors).
- All photos of score sheets need to be clear not blurred. As a grade secretary myself I have sent requests to some team managers to resend their results.
- Craigieburn Delegate (until further notice) is Ming Duong 0413 387 133

9. **Important dates**

- **Aug 29** — Second Delegates Meeting of the season - starts 8PM at Buckley Park TC
- **Sep 02/03**— A Grade teams may now change their seedings for the second half of the season. Please send a copy of seedings to results@nsjta.org.au
- **Oct 14/15**— Last opportunity for additional registrations - emergencies wanting registration must have played their third match by these dates.
- **Oct 15** — Transfers for next season close - transfer forms and \$20 clearance fee must be lodged with the Match Secretary by 6PM.
- **Nov 05** — All A grade team entries for next season (Friday and Saturday) must be entered in League Manager on or before this date.
- **Nov 07** —Third and final Delegates Meeting — starts 8PM at Buckley Park TC
- **Nov 12** —All other Saturday team entries for next season must be entered in League Manager on or before this date.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **League Manager Update** — Brendon provided an update on League Manager:

- Clubs reported some incorrect start times for matches in League Manager when the fixture was published. Unfortunately, we cannot update the start time for matches with different start times until the fixture is published. Next season we will email clubs once all start times have been loaded so clubs know the fixture is final.
- Emergency players should be listed as 'Reserve' players, not 'Fill In' players.
- There is a temporary issue where some team managers cannot enter or confirm results. This is a known issue with Tennis Australia and we will update clubs once it is resolved.
- Club Delegates can add parents as team managers through League Manger so they have access to enter and confirm results. The parent must first have a tennis account. Brendon will prepare some instructions about how to do this, which we will email out to clubs.

- Please ensure forfeited sets are correctly entered as forfeits and not 6-0 or 8-0 sets.
 - League Manager results are uploaded to the UTR system each Tuesday. If results are not entered by Tuesday, they will get uploaded to the UTR system the following week. Once a result has been uploaded, it cannot be changed. So if a result is correct in League Manager, it will not automatically be corrected in the UTR system. Players need to contact UTR directly for assistance.
 - If players don't have all their results in their UTR profile, they may have a duplicate profile. There are instructions on how to merge profiles on the UTR website.
2. **Child Safety Update** — Please remember that all children (under 18 years) must have an adult with them at all times. Parents/guardians should not drop a child off and assume another parent will supervise them. They must discuss supervision arrangements with the other parents and can only leave if another parent/guardian agrees to supervise their child. There are fines in the By-laws for children left unattended at courts.
3. **Transfers and poaching rules reminder** — Clubs were reminded of the transfer and poaching rules under the NSJTA By-laws.
- As mentioned in the Match Secretary report, there has been a high number of requests for late transfers this season. Late transfers should be club-initiated and are only available when a club cannot provide an appropriate team for a player. Clubs should be realistic about the grades they can provide and have a discussion with players and their parents about grading expectations.
 - Players who wish to transfer voluntarily must meet the transfer deadlines in the By-laws. Club should inform all their players of these deadlines.
 - Poaching is not permitted under By-law 9j):
Any club or representative of a club approaching a player registered to another club and intimating, suggesting or advising the player to change clubs without that player already having a clearance from that player's current club may be fined the fine specified in the Fines Schedule at the discretion of the Committee.
 - Representatives of clubs include club coaches, committee members and team managers. The By-law covers any time an approach occurs, including text messages, phone calls, conversations at tournaments or at coaching lessons.
4. **Proposal to amend the By-laws — match starting times** — The following proposal to change starting times for matches was discussed:
- Replace By-laws 25, 28 and 38(b) with the following:**
- 25) The starting time for matches is:
- a) A Grade Friday night grades — 7.00 p.m.
 - b) A Grade Saturday grades — 8.00 a.m.
 - c) B Grade Saturday grades — 8.00 a.m. (or 9.00 a.m. if specified on the fixture)
 - d) C Grade Saturday grades — 9.00 a.m. (or 8.00 a.m. or 10.00 a.m. if specified on the fixture).
A club will only be granted a 8.00 am start for a C level team if it can satisfy the Match Committee that it is genuinely needed on court capacity grounds.
 - e) D Grade Saturday grades — 10.00 a.m. (or 9.00 a.m. if specified on the fixture)
- 28) a) For Friday evening matches, the finishing time shall be 10.30 p.m. No play is permitted after this time, and sets still in progress shall be recorded as incomplete.
- b) For Saturday matches, the finishing time shall be 12.30 p.m. and no new sets may be started

after this time. A set which is already in progress may continue at this time as long as both Team Managers agree to do so, and the set must then be completed so long as courts are available.

- 38) b) The Match Secretary will make a decision whether or not to abandon all matches by:
- 6.00 p.m. for Friday night matches
 - 7.15 a.m. for Saturday morning matches commencing at 8.00 a.m.
 - 8.15 a.m. for Saturday morning matches commencing at 9.00 a.m.
 - 9.15 a.m. for Saturday morning matches commencing at 10.00 a.m.

After discussion, it was agreed to defer the proposal to the next meeting to allow clubs more time to consult with their teams and committees.

5. **Proposal to amend the By-laws — team entries** — The following proposal to amend the By-laws to require clubs to obtain a written commitment from players before including them in a team entry was proposed and debated:

Replace By-law 4 with the following to take effect immediately:

- 4) a) The Match Committee will advise clubs of the process for entering teams and the closing date/s for team entries at least four weeks prior to the closing date/s.
- b) Clubs must enter their teams by the closing date/s. Clubs should obtain a written commitment from all players that they intend to play NSJTA competition at their club before the players are included in a team entry.
- c) Clubs must give correct information which is required in reference to any team or teams, and player or players, and match or matches, either in course of play or after the match has been completed. The Match Committee may impose any penalty it thinks fit for non-compliance.
- d) Should information be incomplete, incorrect or inaccurate so as to mislead the Match Committee in the grading of the team, or the acceptance of the entry, the team member/s concerned will forfeit games played and won during the time the information remains uncorrected and the player/s and/or team may be disqualified from further play. The fine specified in the Fines Schedule may also be imposed at the discretion of the Committee.
- e) Combined teams may be entered but can only contain players from two clubs and must have at least one player from each of the clubs. Where clubs enter combined teams, the team entry must specify which club each team member belongs to.

MOVED: Robert McDonald (Airport West)

SECONDED: Aaron Sharpe (Doutta Galla)

Carried unanimously.

6. **Saturday competition formats discussion** — The feedback from clubs through the Saturday competition formats survey was mixed. We have therefore decided to hold an optional Zoom meeting to discuss potential solutions to some of the current challenges raised by clubs, including:

- Uneven grading of Saturday mixed teams due to the low number of teams
- Retention of female players
- The highest Unisex grade is C Special 1, which can hold some players back if clubs don't have enough girls to form mixed teams

If possible, we hope to identify the best alternative to our current competition formats, for clubs to then consider and vote on at the Delegates meeting on 29 August.

MEETING CLOSED: 9.30 PM

NEXT MEETING: BUCKLEY PARK TENNIS CLUB ON MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2022 at 8.00 PM