

NORTH SUBURBAN JUNIOR TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC.

Reg No. A0058168N

MINUTES OF DELEGATES MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2020

36 of 44 Clubs present

Meeting opened: 8:05 pm

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Morton

APOLOGIES: Michelle Coffey (St Monica's), Justin Fisher (Hillside)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Circulated and taken as read.

MOVED: Alicia Dachs (St Thereses)

SECONDED: Margot Knight (Keilor)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE: As tabled by Robert McDonald

IN

1. Green Gully TC — Grand Final court allocation query
2. Tennis Victoria — Reminder about Metropolitan Associations Forum on 12 December 2019
3. Hume TCC — Email thanking Match Committee for the opportunity to host grand finals
4. East Coburg TC — Email seeking further information about Match Committee's decision not to grant approval for courts at Coburg High School to be used in the NSJTA competition
5. Tennis Victoria — Board announcement
6. Tennis Victoria — Metro Associations Forum Diversity and Inclusion update
7. Tennis Victoria — Community Officiating Program

OUT

1. East Coburg TC — Email notifying Committee had decided not to grant approval for courts at Coburg High School to be used in the NSJTA competition
2. Green Gully TC — Response to Grand Final court allocation query
3. East Coburg TC — Further information about Match Committee's decision not to grant approval for courts at Coburg High School to be used in the NSJTA competition
4. All Clubs — Dousta Galla TC bushfire fundraiser
5. All Clubs — Community Officiating Program information from Tennis Victoria
6. All Clubs — Agenda for 17 February 2020 Delegates Meeting together with minutes of Delegates Meeting held on 11 November 2019, three proposed amendments to the By-laws (heatout update, finals eligibility and limiting number of teams from one club in one grade) and Saturday mixed grades discussion paper

CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

2019/06	In	Code of Conduct complaint from Maribyrnong Park TC regarding A Reserve 4 Mixed match on 15 November 2019
	Out	Copy of the Code of Conduct complaint to Green Gully TC
	In	Response from Green Gully TC
2019/07	In	Code of Conduct complaint from Green Gully TC regarding A Reserve 4 Mixed match on 15 November 2019
	Out	Copy of the Code of Conduct complaint to Maribyrnong Park TC
	In	Response from Maribyrnong Park TC
	Out	Letters to Maribyrnong Park TC and Green Gully TC advising outcome of complaints 2019/06 and 2019/07

MOVED: Robert McDonald (Secretary)

SECONDED: Ray Reymers (Coburg)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance in transaction account as at 11 November 2019	\$870.15
Payments received since 11 November 2019	\$3,650.00
Transfer from investment account	\$9,000.00
Payments out since 11 November 2019	-\$8,354.78
Balance in transaction account as at 17 February 2020	\$5,165.37
Balance in investment account as at 17 February 2020	\$12,926.73

MOVED: Colin Thompson (Treasurer)

SECONDED: Marg Mugavin (Tullamarine)

Invoices for fees for Season 1 2020 have been sent to all clubs. The following clubs are yet to pay and asked to remind their Club Treasurers: Corpus Christi, Craigieburn, Deer Park, Fawkner, Glencairn, Hadfield, Hume, Keilor East, Keilor Park, Merlynston, North Park, Oak Park, OLN, St Thereses and Tullamarine.

TENNIS EVENTS REPORT:

1. Daphne Fancutt Shield

The Daphne Fancutt Shield was held in January. The NSJTA finished second, losing to Waverley in the final. Congratulations go to the team on a great effort!

2. Pat Cash Cup

The Pat Cash Cup will be held in Yarrowonga this weekend. Unfortunately, the NSJTA will not be able to field a team due to other commitments of players and clashes with tournaments and school sports.

3. Wayne Arthurs Cup

The Wayne Arthurs Cup will be held at Kooyong in April. The team comprises 2 boys and 2 girls in the 10 & Under age group. Nomination will be put on the website shortly.

4. Pat Pearce Shield

The Associations have agreed to reschedule the Pat Pearce Shield from Easter to October. Waverley will host the event this year.

TENNIS VICTORIA REPORT:

1. Several north suburban clubs are hosting Open Court Sessions which are being promoted heavily by Tennis Victoria.

MATCH SECRETARY REPORT:

1. Welcome to all our new Players, our new Parents, our new Delegates and even a new Grade Secretary.
2. The Committee has been very busy during the break between seasons. We have a possible amendment re Finals eligibility, a Heat-out Update, an Air Quality Policy, a possible By-law update in regards to how many teams can be entered in one grade from one club and a discussion paper on Saturday Mixed Grades.
3. Unfortunately, there have also been a large number of team withdrawals this season.

There are now Byes in:

- Ascot Vale — A Grade 1 Mixed (Fri)
- Ascot Vale — C Reserve 2 Unisex
- North Park — C Reserve 4 Unisex
- Fawkner — D Special 1 Unisex
- Royal Park — D Special 4 Unisex
- Keilor/Keilor Park — D Grade 2 Unisex
- Oak Park — D Grade 3 Unisex

We have had an additional team entered

- Ascot Vale — A Grade 2 Boys (Fri) has replaced the Bye.

4. There are 323 teams for Season 1 2020. Three less teams than last season.
5. Thank you for the minimal amount of fixture requests when putting in your club teams. This allows us to complete the fixture in a timely manner and to allocate requests much easier. Unfortunately, if there are too many requests some clubs could miss out on team requests. When making the fixture I do not want to have to decide which request is more important than the other.
6. There is a printable fixture on the NSJTA site www.nsjta.asn.au. It is in the Documents section.
7. There have already been some team members going to the wrong venues. It can cause a few hiccups for new Team Managers. Could Delegates please check that all team rosters are correct. Please use the following example:

Clubs with / or @

- Cob/OLN — This game is played at Coburg as it is a combined team playing at the first listed club
- Cob @ OLN — This game is played @ OLN. Please check OLN address on online fixture or printable fixture to get the address of the OLN courts.

Here are some fixture examples for B Reserve 2 Mixed Saturday Morning.

(Normally Saturday morning A and B grade matches automatically start at 7.45am.)

1. Buckley Park (Red) #
2. Buckley Park (Black) #
3. St Therese's @ ESS
4. Maribyrnong Park
5. Oak Park
6. Delahey
7. Green Gully
8. Keilor/Tullamarine

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 (Essendon) with a 7.45 start

Teams 4, 5, 6, 7 are 7.45 starts

Team 8 is 7.45 start and this combined team is played at Keilor (the first named club)

Any teams with a * are a 9.30am start

Any teams with ^^ are a 7.45 start and must be approved by the Match Secretary if they are C Grade teams.

8. Grading — The Committee is putting out a questionnaire in the hope that a solution can be worked upon to increase Saturday Mixed Team entries. Please take this survey to you Club Committees and discuss.
9. Substitute players, emergency players and players playing between two teams — There are 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 Kym Baker or Brendon Noonan, or Julie Thompson and what the permission was). This is important as Grade Secretaries need this information to list results correctly.

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 without approval)

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.

10. **Additional registrations** — 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. Delegates must keep an eye on the site to see if their player has been approved. 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.
11. **Registering players without previous match experience By-law 6B** — Please make sure that paperwork is emailed to Kym (kymjlbaker@gmail.com) asap. If the player has played previously By-law 6B cannot apply and they must go through the normal emergency process. The correct form is found at www.nsjta.asn.au under Documents.
12. **Grade Secretaries** — Without our wonderful Grade Secretaries, life would be a lot harder. Grade Secretaries try to put the scores up as soon as they can. Sometimes they can be late. It might be for more than one reason. But please encourage your team managers to NOT send through some not so nice complaints about lateness of the results being put up. Some people work, go interstate, are on a holiday or have a family commitment etc. The Grade Secretaries will put up their results as soon as possible. I myself had a request to put up the scores asap after being sent the scores 3 times in a five-hour period.

On Saying that I would like to thank the club team managers who are sending through the night/days team score results straight after the game. This allows the grade secretaries to put them up as soon as the Grade Secretary is free. Our Grade Secretaries are volunteers and do an amazing job.

Please do not liquid paper out mistakes. It is acceptable to put line through the error. Get both team managers to initial the changes.

13. **Washouts** — Unfortunately there have already been some games washed out in round 1 and 3. We remind grade secretaries that if the match commenced, the game score at the point the match was washed out should be entered into the system, and remaining sets marked incomplete. The washout button is only used for matches that did not commence due to wet weather.
14. **Parents** — Please encourage parents to communicate with you, the Club Delegate. Quite often we receive feedback messages from parents, and we direct them back to their delegate. Please put your own club contact details on the walls at your club. This is especially useful for D Grade parents
15. **Seedings** — All A level teams must play singles in seeded order. Please ensure team managers and parents understand what this means, as several teams have previously forfeited sets due to players playing out of order.
16. **Late player rules** — Clubs are reminded that the new late player rules are in effect, which means players will forfeit sets if they are more than 15 minutes late and courts are available. Please read the following:

By-law 26

- a) Play must commence on all available courts no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.
- b) If any players are missing at the start of play, sets must be played out of order if necessary to allow play to start and be continuous.
- c) If sets cannot commence 15 minutes after the scheduled start time due to players being late or unwilling to commence play, the team not at fault may claim up to two sets (the next two sets as listed on the match result sheet), provided that courts are available and those sets would be able to start immediately if the players were present and willing to commence play.
- d) The team not at fault may claim up to a further two sets (the next two sets as listed on the match result sheet) every 15 minutes, provided that courts are available and those sets would be able to start immediately if the players were present and willing to commence play.

Example: A club has sufficient courts available to enable all singles to commence for a Friday night match. A player not present at 7.16 pm will forfeit his or her singles set as he/she was not present at 7.16 pm. If he/she is still not present at 7.31 pm the doubles set can only be claimed if all the other players in that set have finished their singles, and the set would be able to start immediately if he/she were present. This example is specific to Friday night matches but the same logic applies for all Saturday morning matches.

- e) If, after arrival, any player when called upon to play does not do so, then the player shall forfeit that set.
17. **Sportsmanship** — One of the things that is raising its ugly head more often is swearing and clear racquet abuse, throwing of the racquet in anger. Again, on the weekend, I had two phone calls re the constant use of the “f” word. Please go to the court supervisor and have a chat to them. It needs to be dealt with by the child’s own team manager on the day.

Please note By-law 23 clearly states “All players must abide by the NSJTA Code of Conduct”. Please take the time to read this document which can be found under the documents section of the website. Some clubs display this document on their notice board. Please read the two following points relevant to my point above:

3. **Audible obscenity** — Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the precincts of the competition venue. For the purposes of this rule audible obscenity is defined as the use of words

commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the court officials or spectators.

7. Abuse of racquets or equipment — A player shall not violently or with anger, hit, kick or throw a racquet or other equipment, or in any way unreasonably interfere with any court fixtures and equipment. For the purposes of this rule abuse of racquets or equipment is defined as intentionally and violently throwing, destroying or damaging racquets or equipment or intentionally and violently hitting the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixture during or after a match out of anger or frustration.

18. Important Dates

- Mar 23 — Second Delegates Meeting of the season - starts 8PM at B.P.T.C.
- Mar 27/28 — A Grade teams may now change their seedings for the second half of the season. Please take a photo and email with the match result sheet.
- May 08/09 — Last opportunity for additional registrations - emergencies wanting registration must have played their third match by these dates.
- May 08/09 — Transfers for next season close - transfer forms and \$20 clearance fee must be lodged with the Match Secretary by 6PM..
- May 23 — All A grade team entries for next season (Friday and Saturday) must be placed on the web-site on or before this date.
- May 25 — Third and final Delegates Meeting – starts 8PM at B.P.T.C.
- May 30 — All other Saturday team entries for next season must be placed on the website on or before this date

19. **Season 2 2019 Grand Finals** — Colin congratulated Sunbury and Hume for hosting multiple grand finals last season. Both Friday night and Saturday night grand finals were impacted by wet weather, but the clubs did a great job of drying courts to enable the matches to be played. Holding several grand finals at the one venue created a great atmosphere. Thanks also go to the other clubs that hosted semi and grand finals.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1 Child Safety Update — Clubs are reminded of the responsibilities in the Safeguarding Children Guidelines when talking to junior players:

5.2 Positive guidance

We require all Personnel to use strategies that are fair, respectful and appropriate to the developmental stage of the children involved. The child needs to be provided with clear directions and given an opportunity to redirect their misbehaviour in a positive manner.

Under no circumstances are Personnel to take disciplinary action involving physical punishment or any form of treatment that could reasonably be considered degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating.

5.5 Use of language and tone of voice

The language and tone of voice you use in the presence of children should:

- (a) Provide clear direction, boost their confidence, encourage or affirm them; and
- (b) Not be harmful to them.

Avoid language that is:

- (c) Discriminatory, racist or sexist;
- (d) Derogatory, belittling or negative, for example, by calling a child a 'loser' or telling them they are 'too fat';

- (e) Intended to threaten or frighten; or
- (f) Profane or sexual.

It was also suggested that clubs encourage team managers to work with the opposition team manager to resolve issues and talk to children together, so they don't feel intimidated.

- 2. The following proposal to amend the By-laws to change the reference temperature for heatouts to the Essendon airport temperature according to the Bureau of Meteorology website, instead of the 1196 weather line which no longer operates was proposed and debated:

Replace By-law 41 with the following to take effect immediately:

- 41) a) On extremely hot days, the Match and Permit Committee may completely cancel competition for that day, and will place this decision on the NSJTA website at least one hour before the scheduled starting time. Otherwise, all teams must attend venues as usual.
- b) On hot days, the Home Court Supervisor must regularly check the Bureau of Meteorology website and look at the Essendon airport temperature.
- c) On Saturday mornings, play must immediately cease, including unfinished sets, if 35 degrees has been reached.
- d) On Friday evenings, play must not commence until the temperature had dropped to 35 degrees or below, and if this has not occurred by 8.00 p.m., matches will be cancelled.

MOVED: Robert McDonald (Airport West)

SECONDED: Neil Campbell (Fawkner)

Carried unanimously.

- 3. The following proposal to amend the By-laws to provide the Match Committee with discretion to allow players to play in finals when they have not played three matches during the season in limited circumstances was proposed and debated:

Replace By-law 52(a) and (b) with the following to take effect immediately:

- 52) a) All players participating in finals matches must be registered in the team and have played at least three (3) matches in a season. A player shall be deemed to have played a match when:
 - i) their name is listed on the match result sheet and the match has been played and completed (even if one or more of the sets the player was listed to play was forfeited by the opposition); or
 - ii) their name has been recorded on the match result sheet and the match has commenced but is unable to be completed due to unplayable conditions.

A player will not be deemed to have played a match when the match does not commence due to unplayable conditions (e.g. complete washout) or the entire match is forfeited by one team.
- b) A registered, qualified player from a lower team from the same club may play in a finals match if there are insufficient registered, qualified players from the team available to field a complete team.
- c) In exceptional circumstances, the Match Committee may grant approval for a player who has played fewer than 3 matches during the season to play in finals, provided:
 - i) the player was registered and played 3 or more matches in the previous season;
 - ii) the player has been prevented from playing 3 matches due to illness or injury; and
 - iii) the Match Committee does not believe the player will strengthen the team.

MOVED: Robert McDonald (Airport West)

SECONDED: Ray Reymers (Coburg)

Carried unanimously.

4. The following proposal to amend the By-laws so that one club can only have a maximum of two teams in the one grade was proposed and debated (the wording was changed from “three teams” to “more than two teams” following a suggestion from the floor):

Replace By-law 5 with the following to take effect immediately:

- 5) a) Clubs may nominate to enter one or two teams in each grade. The Match Committee shall have power to accept or reject such entries and may finally decide in which grade they shall play and shall notify all clubs accordingly. The Match Committee decision will be final.
- b) No club may nominate to enter more than two teams in the one grade and the Match and Permit Committee must not place more than two teams from the one club in the one grade. This rule also applies to combined teams.
- c) When a club has nominated two teams for different grades but are placed in the same grade by the Match Committee, the club will be given the opportunity to rearrange the two teams.

MOVED: Robert McDonald (Airport West)

SECONDED: Connor Ferris (Oak Park)

Carried by a majority.

5. **Saturday mixed grades** — The Committee has circulated a discussion paper about Saturday mixed grades. We want to better understand the reasons why clubs choose to enter unisex teams instead of mixed teams and explore ways to encourage and make it easier for Clubs to enter Saturday mixed teams. We request that all clubs complete the attached survey, so we can get your direct feedback and suggestions for improvement.
6. **League Manager update** — With the assistance of Tennis Victoria, the Association is migrating its results system to League Manager. The current season has been entered and we are currently in the process of entering the first three rounds of results before making it public. An information session for Grade Secretaries will be held on Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 7.00 pm at Hume Tennis and Community Centre. Clubs will be asked to enter their teams through League Manager for Season 2 2020 and further instructions will be provided closer to then. At this stage, we will continue to use grade secretaries for Season 2 2020, but the system has the capability for clubs or teams to enter their own results in future. At the same time, work has been undertaken on a new NSJTA website.
7. **Multi-marked courts** — The Association is seeking club views on multi-marked courts, as East Coburg approached the Association about using courts at Coburg High School which have markings for four sports. After discussion, the general consensus was that dual marked courts (netball and tennis) are acceptable but clubs would have concerns about courts with additional markings.
8. **Air quality policy** — A draft air quality policy had been circulated to clubs. It was developed in response to the bushfires in January that significantly impacted air quality.

Motion: That the air quality policy be adopted.

MOVED: Robert McDonald (Airport West)

SECONDED: Alicia Dachs (St Thereses)

Carried unanimously.

9. **Filming and photography of matches** — Club Delegates were asked to remind their team managers about the Filming and photography of NSJTA matches guidelines on the NSJTA website. Filming video or photography of players on court is only permitted where all players provide their express consent both to the filming/photography and to the purpose for which it is being taken and the host venue provides its express consent.
10. **Result sheets** — Club Delegates were asked to remind their team managers to write player surnames on result sheets and list all emergencies, or they risk being fined.
11. **Conduct of matches** — Club Delegates were asked to remind their team managers that only umpires and another person training them are allowed on court during D Grade matches. Parents should not be on court as spectators or to assist in other ways (such as collecting balls). Club Delegates were also asked to remind their team managers that the order of play on the match result sheet is singles first and then

doubles for A, B and C Grade. Teams can agree to play the doubles first, but if teams cannot agree, sets are played in the order listed on the sheet.

MEETING CLOSED: 9.35 PM