

To: Club Secretaries of affiliated Metropolitan Clubs

The following details are the conditions for entry in the 2012 Tennis Victoria Pennant Competition.

This communication has been sent to Club Secretaries rather than the Pennant Secretaries as history has shown that the latter change more frequently.

2012 Tennis Victoria Pennant competition

1. General

Entries are invited for the 2012 Pennant Competition from Clubs directly affiliated with Tennis Victoria. Entries will only be accepted from Clubs whose 2011/12 Tennis Victoria affiliation and registration fees have been paid, and any Club new to the competition must be located within the "039" telephone area code, unless accepted through By-Law 6.2.1.

2. Entry fee

An entry fee of **\$95.00** (GST inclusive) for each team entered in the competition **MUST** be forwarded to Tennis Victoria. Any entry fees received from Clubs who's 2011 Pennant Fines remain outstanding will be returned.

3. Closing date of entry

For all Grades: 11.59pm, Monday 27th February, 2012

4. Commencement date of competition

Round 1 of Pennant will commence on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd April, 2012.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no play on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June due to the Queen's birthday weekend.

5. Number of teams

Clubs may enter teams in any of the divisions of Pennant in accordance with the following:

- With two courts available a maximum of two teams may be entered per session
- With four courts available a maximum of four teams may be entered per session
- And so on...

6. Players

6.1 Eligibility of Nominated Players

To be eligible to play in the competition, every nominated player must be a bona-fide registered member of the club submitting nominations. The club in turn, needs to be affiliated to Tennis Victoria.

6.2 Availability of Nominated Players

Attention is drawn to the certification with team entries that nominated players are available to play regularly as considerable time is devoted to ensure team grading are carried out in an equitable manner to all clubs.

6.3 **Players Application for Transfer**

For players not nominated in a team, applications shall close prior to the commencement of the seventh (7th) round of home and away matches. In exceptional circumstances, later applications may be considered by the Pennant Committee.

Any nominated player or any player who has played in the current season will not be granted a transfer.

Supplies of this form are enclosed. It should be noted that only one form should be completed by the player and after certification by the new Club, the form, together with \$44.00 (GST inclusive) transfer fee, must be forwarded to Tennis Victoria for action.

7. **Condition of Entry**

7.1 The following time slots are available for **Women**: Saturday AM, Sunday AM and Sunday PM. The following time slots are available for **Men**: Saturday PM, Sunday AM and Sunday PM.

7.2 **Men's Seniors Doubles**

In the case of Seniors Doubles, clubs may enter teams and this competition will be conducted in conjunction with the Pennant competition. Players must be 35 years of age or over on 31 December in the year of the competition.

Split age groups will be offered –

35 – 40 yrs

50+ yrs

In the event that there are insufficient teams to provide a split age group structure, the structure of 2011 will be delivered.

Format: Doubles will consist of three tiebreak sets.

7.3 **Women's Open Doubles**

Will be available in all Saturday AM & PM and Sunday AM timeslots and open to all ages.

Format: Doubles will consist of three tiebreak sets.

8. **Home Matches**

All home matches must be played on the courts of the club concerned, and on courts hired especially for the purpose of playing the Pennant competition. (Except for teams outside the "039" area).

9. **Finals**

9.1 Minor Premiers –the team finishing on the top of the ladder at the completion of the home and away matches, will be known as the 'minor premiers' and will receive a banner.

Grade Elimination Finals – weeks 1 – 4 will see the top teams in each section play four singles plus two doubles matches as follows:

1 v 4

2 v 3

The two winning teams in each section will go into a seeded draw commencing week 2. Each week up to the grand final will continue as four singles plus two doubles.

Grade Finals - the grand final will be played over one weekend with four singles matches followed by four doubles commencing at 11 am. The winner will be the grade premiers, and a Winners and Runners Up Pennant flag will be awarded to the respective teams.

PLEASE NOTE: following the final round of the home and away matches (Round 14), week 1 of finals will be played at the courts of the teams finishing first and second on the ladder. Week 2 of the finals will be played on neutral courts and be scheduled on Saturdays. Therefore, all players need to be available to play in any timeslot, as per the schedule, once finals begin.

9.2 Courts for Finals

Clubs entering teams in any grade and section are advised that their courts must be available through to the Grand Finals.

10. Team Entry

10.1 General

Team entry is via the on line system. No paper entries will be accepted.

10.2 New Players

Full details of the performance of the players new to the Pennant Competition must be furnished via email.

10.3 Grading

Clubs are reminded that teams are graded by the Pennant Committee on the basis of the players nominated. Note no appeals. Clubs should provide as much evidence as the club may think fit in support of the application. This can be done via email.

10.4 Player Order

Teams must be nominated in playing order of merit and cannot be changed without the express sanction of Tennis Victoria. Change of personnel requests will be closely monitored and restricted.

10.5 To assist in grading, clubs are requested to submit with team with the fullest information regarding nominated players. **Often teams are downgraded as a club has not supplied enough information with the initial entry.**

11. Facilities

It would appear that in some instances Clubhouse facilities and courts provided for Pennant matches are not up to the standard required. Any Club whose facilities are not considered to be of sufficient standard may be refused entry into the Pennant Competition. For details on the minimum requirements, please contact Tennis Victoria.

12. Approved Balls

The approved ball list can be found on Tennis Australia's website (tennis.com.au). Click on the 'Facilities' link, and then click on the 'Courts and Surrounds' link, then click on the 'Resources' link, then click on the 'Approved Balls'.

13. Pennant Fixtures and By-Laws Handbook

The 2012 Pennant handbook will be distributed on the basis of two copies to each Club Secretary and five copies for each team entered. The By-Laws of the competition can change from year to year. Please ensure all players are familiar with the By-Laws governing this competition.

Thank you

Chris Larkin
Manager – Open - Competitions and Tournaments
December 2011