



# 2020 Seniors Ranking, Seeding and Draws System

## 1. RANKING LISTS

- 1.1. There will be South African Seniors ranking lists for **MEN'S SINGLES, WOMEN'S SINGLES, MEN'S DOUBLES, WOMEN'S DOUBLES and MIXED DOUBLES.**
- 1.2. ITF ranking points will also be earned in those tournaments that are designated as ITF tournaments but are not discussed in this document.
- 1.3. Players will only appear on the ranking list of their **current** age group.
- 1.4. When moving up an age group, the points earned in the younger age group will be **carried over** to the new age group and will count until they have been replaced by new tournament results or until they fall outside the period being used to calculate points.
- 1.5. Points will be awarded at the **3 Inter-Provincial tournaments** and **14 ranking tournaments** played during 2020. Points earned in 2019 at these tournaments will be kept until the next time the tournament is played in 2020. If a tournament is cancelled or replaced, points earned in the previous year will fall away on the date the tournament would have been played the following year. The list will never include two results from the same ranking tournament held in successive years even if the date of the tournament has moved to a different time.
- 1.6. A player's position on the ranking list is determined by the **sum of the ranking points** earned in the **best three results** achieved in the ranking tournaments, **plus** the points for **one** Inter-Provincial.
- 1.7. Ranking points will be loaded on the **second Monday** after the closing of the tournament.

## 2. TOURNAMENTS WHERE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED

- 2.1. Attendance points will be awarded for the Inter-Provincial tournaments in the table below.

Inter-Provincial	Host
30-45+ age groups	Eden
50-60+ age groups	Eastern Province
65-75+ age groups	Gauteng North

- 2.2. Ranking points will be earned for the ranking tournaments in the table below. Each ranking tournament is given a grade which guarantees the winner of an event a fixed no. of points.

Ranking tournaments	Tournament grade
Cape Town Seniors	B (200 points)
Gauteng East Seniors	B (200 points)
Growthpoint S A Nationals ITF Seniors (Closed)	A (290 points)
Growthpoint Soweto Seniors	B (200 points)
Eastern Cape Seniors	B (200 points)
Gauteng North Seniors	B (200 points)
Ugu South Coast Seniors	B (200 points)
Mpumalanga Seniors	B (200 points)
Kwa Zulu-Natal Seniors	B (200 points)
Boland Seniors	B (200 points)
North West Seniors	B (200 points)
Growthpoint Atteridgeville Seniors	B (200 points)
Gauteng Central Seniors	B (200 points)
Senior Masters (30-45+) (Invitation only)	A (290 points)
Eden Seniors	B (200 points)

2.3. If a ranking tournament is cancelled in 2020, points from 2019 will be cancelled.

2.4. The **Senior Masters (30-45+)** will consist of four male and four female players selected from each age group. The players will be selected strictly according to ranking. Thereafter **wild cards** will be selected at the discretion of TSA. Player behaviour during the year and code of conduct violations will be taken into consideration. Late withdrawals will be required to produce **Doctor's certificates**.

All players will be required to be available for the full duration of the event. They will also be expected to attend the **prize-giving function** or they will **forfeit** their ranking points and prizes. Only players **completing** the tournament will qualify for ranking points, irrespective of the reasons for withdrawing. No bonus points will be awarded for this event.

**Alternates** will be allowed to enter during the **round robin phase** in case of injury. They would assume the position of the player who has withdrawn along with their wins or losses and would be required to pay the full tournament fee. They would receive ranking points according to the position in which they finish. The withdrawn player would **not** receive any ranking points.

### 3. POINTS FOR INTER-PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENTS

3.1. 80 attendance points will be awarded for Inter-Provincial tournaments in the singles, doubles and mixed ranking lists.

3.2. All players and their substitutes will be awarded full points provided that they play at least one match in a tie.

3.3. A player may earn points for only one Inter-Provincial.

3.4. Attendance points will be awarded to all players regardless of whether they play in another age category or for another province.

### 4. SEEDING AND DRAWS FOR RANKING TOURNAMENTS

4.1. For the CLOSED ITF Nationals, the TSA Seniors ranking will be used. This will run as a local tournament with the local rules applying. For other ITF tournaments the ITF ranking will be used.

4.2. The Seeding Committee of TSA Seniors will send the seeding documents to the Tournament Director after the withdrawal deadline. They will request the Tournament Director to do optional pairings of LOCAL players, recommendations of discretionary seeds (strong players with little or no ranking) before the seeding meeting.

4.3. All **SENIORS SINGLES, DOUBLES AND MIXED DOUBLES** matches in local ranking tournaments are standardised as follows:

- All matches in the over 80 age groups will be the best of 3 tiebreaker sets with the third set a 10-point match tiebreaker.
- Main draw matches in the men's singles, woman's singles, men's doubles and woman's doubles for all other age groups, including those events that combine an over 80 event with a younger age, will be the best of three tiebreaker sets.
- Consolation draws (after losing at least one match) will be the best of three tiebreaker sets with the third set a 10-point match tiebreaker.
- All MIXED DOUBLES matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker.
- The change-of-ends tiebreaker, (Coman method), will be used for both the 10-point match tiebreaker and the 7-point set tiebreaker. Players change ends after the first point and then after every 4 points thereafter.

4.4. The draws will be done using SportyHQ tournament software. Players who have not paid will not be included in the draw. Players from the same province will be separated where possible in the first round.

4.5. There should be two types of seeding in each event: seeding according to the rankings and discretionary seeding. The ranked seeds are always given a seeding higher than the discretionary seeds. The reason why ranked seeds are given priority is to reward for both ability and loyalty. Discretionary seeds are not reflected on the draw sheets.

4.6. When using the rankings for seeding, only the players with more than 160 points in singles and combined points of 320 in doubles and mixed need to be considered.

4.7. Two discretionary seeds are allowed in any event. If there are fewer seeds than the number of ranked seeds specified by the size of the draw, more discretionary seeds may be used to make up the number.

4.8. Whenever possible the head-to-head results of entries will be looked at when discretionary seeds are chosen. Discretionary seeds should not be considered as giving local players an easy draw but are there to prevent strong players meeting in the early rounds of a tournament where possible.

- 4.9. Players from higher age groups will be included in the seeding order with ranking points of their own age group ranking, reduced by the following percentages:
- Players playing down 1 age group: 20% reduction from their ranking points
  - Players playing down 2 age groups: 40% reduction from their ranking points
  - Players playing down 3 age groups: 60% reduction from their ranking points
  - Players playing down 4 age groups and more: 80% reduction from their ranking points
- 4.10. In men's and woman's singles, only 3 adjacent age groups can be combined without referring the matter to the players. If players have to be moved more than two age groups the players must be informed and they need to decide immediately whether to withdraw or remain in the draw.
- 4.11. In men's and woman's doubles and mixed doubles, 4 adjacent age groups can be combined without referring the matter to the players.
- 4.12. In the round robins of two groups the two top ranked players will be separated. The remainder of the players will be seeded in order of strength at the discretion of the Seeding Committee and then randomly drawn.
- 4.13. For an event with 6 to 9 players, two ranked entries should be seeded. The seeding committee to decide whether two discretionary seeds are required.
- 4.14. For an event with 10 to 17 entries, four ranked entries will be seeded. The seeding committee to decide whether two discretionary seeds are required.
- 4.15. For an event with over 17 entries, six ranked entries will be seeded. Two discretionary seeds may be chosen if there are less than 25 entries and four discretionary seeds may be chosen if there are more entries.
- 4.16. For an event of over 33 entries, eight ranked entries will be seeded. Two discretionary seeds may be chosen.
- 4.17. If a seed withdraws from a tournament after the draws have been done but before the order of play has been published, then the next eligible player on the ranking list will take the position vacated by the seed in question. If a seed withdraws from a tournament after the order of play has been published, then it's a walkover to the opposing player.
- 4.18. Where there is a withdrawal before play commences in the round robins of two groups which causes an imbalance in the two groups, then the draw will be re-done.
- 4.19. The draws for **MEN'S SINGLES, WOMEN'S SINGLES, MEN'S DOUBLES AND WOMAN'S DOUBLES** should be so chosen that there is a match in each event every day for as many entries as possible. This may mean playing a double round in either the singles or the doubles in an age group. A decision on what format is to be played will be made jointly by the Tournament Director, the Referee and the Seeding Committee. The list below gives the options available:
- **3 entries:** Round robin (3 rounds). This size of draw is only permissible in the over 70 age groups or when deemed necessary by the Seeding Committee in the best interests of the tournament. Entries of 3 or less, wherever possible, are to be combined with an adjacent age group, preferably a lower age group provided that it doesn't result in a draw of 5 or 9. In that case, a draw of 3 will be permitted.
  - **4 entries:** One Round Robin group. (3 rounds).
  - **5 entries:** One Round Robin group (5 rounds which may necessitate a double round on one day in a four-day tournament). This may be combined with an adjacent age group, preferably a lower age group, in a four-day tournament, provided that the combined draw is 16 or less entries.
  - **6 entries:** In a four-day tournament, a Round Robin in two groups and a playoff is played (4 rounds). In a five-day tournament a Round Robin in one group (5 rounds) is played.
  - **7 to 8 entries:** Round robin in two groups and a playoff round (4 rounds). Where there are 7 entries the first seed is placed in the group of 3.
  - **9 to 10 entries:** Monrad in a four-day tournament (4 rounds). In a five-day tournament there is a choice between a Round Robin in two groups and a playoff round (6 rounds) which will mean a double round on one day, or a monrad draw. Where there are 9 entries the first seed is placed in the group of 4.
  - **All draws for events** of 11 entries and over will be Monrad draws.

- 4.20. The format for draws in **MIXED DOUBLES** will be chosen so that the final matches will be played on or before the penultimate day of the tournament if at all possible.
- **3 entries:** Will be combined with another age group as long that doesn't result in a draw of 5 or 9. In that case a draw of 3 will be permitted.
  - **4 entries:** One Round Robin group. (3 rounds).
  - **5 entries:** This will preferably be combined with another age group, preferably a lower age group, as a monrad draw, provided that the combined draw is 16 or less entries. It may also be played as a Round Robin (5 rounds, which may necessitate a double round on one day in a four-day tournament).
  - **6 to 8 entries:** Monrad (3 rounds)
  - **All entries in the mixed doubles** of 9 entries and over will also be Monrad draws.

## 5 POINTS FOR POSITION ACHIEVED IN RANKING TOURNAMENTS

- 5.1 Points will be awarded for the position achieved in the draw. These points are shown in Annexure A of this document and shall be used for both monrad and round robin draws.
- 5.2 The table to be used will be determined by the event strength and the number of players in the draw at the time that the draws are done. At the end of the tournament all players in the draw will be given a position between first and the number of players in the draw.
- 5.3 Players that are in the draw and report their withdrawal from the tournament to the tournament director in sufficient time for opponents not to arrive for the match will be given a code violation of "late withdrawal". These players will be given last position in the round of the draw that they have been placed and will be awarded no points. Players are allowed two free late withdrawals per annum, thereafter they will receive a code violation with penalty points and will be awarded no points for the tournament.
- 5.4 Players that do not arrive for their first scheduled match will be given a code violation of "no show". They will, be given last position in the event, along with the late withdrawals. They will receive no points because of the code violation and will take no further part in the event.
- 5.5 Players who do not arrive for any scheduled match after their first match and have not filled in a player release form, will receive a "no show" code violation and receive no points. They will retain the position they have already achieved in the draw.
- 5.6 Players that are scratched because they reported late to the tournament desk may request the tournament desk to include them in following matches as a "forward loser". These players will not be given a code violation and their opponents will be given a walkover.
- 5.7 Players who retire during a match are awarded a position equivalent to the loss of the match and are not forwarded to the next round. They may not play further in the event and must sign an indemnity form to compete in other events.
- 5.8 Position may be shared if a match is not scheduled or a match is not played or completed in the official tournament time. For example, if a match is not scheduled or a match is not played or completed for 3rd and 4th position, both players will be given 4th position.
- 5.9 Players that are given a code violation warning will retain their position and points. For all further code violations players will retain their position, but will lose their points.

## 6 EVALUATION OF POSITION IN ROUND ROBINS

- 6.1 Eliminate all teams who withdrew without going on court for any match as described in item 5.3 and 5.4. These teams must not be put through to the playoffs, if there are any. All other teams must be put through to the playoffs.
- 6.2 Examine the matches won, including walkovers and retirements.
- 6.3 If there is no tie in matches won, process position according to matches won.
- 6.4 If two teams tie on matches won, award the team who won the head to head match between them the higher position. This may be a played match, a retirement or a walkover.
- 6.5 If there is a second occurrence of two teams tying in a round robin, process the second tie the same as the first tie.
- 6.6 If three teams tie on matches won, check whether there are any walkovers or retirements in the three team's results.
- 6.7 If there are no retirements or walkovers, determine position by set percentage won, then game percentage won. The results of all matches played in the round robin group will be taken into account when determining the position.
- 6.8 If there is a team that has retired or given a walkover when three teams tie on matches won, allocate them the lowest position of the three and give the highest position to the team who won the head to head between the other two teams.

## **7 POINTS FOR COMBINING AGE GROUPS**

- 7.1 If the Tournament Committee combines two age groups in a singles event, the players who entered in the higher age group are entitled to a bonus of 20% in ranking points earned, provided that there is a player in the lower age group that has a better result in the event. For example, in a combined 30/35 event, where the best 30+ player gets 5th position, no bonus of 20% will be given to the 35+ players who achieve 5th position or higher, but bonus points will be awarded to the 35+ players achieving lower than 5<sup>th</sup> position.
- 7.2 In a doubles event where the tournament committee has combined two age groups, both the player who entered in the higher age group and the partner who entered the lower age group are entitled to a bonus of 10% in ranking points earned; a couple who entered in the higher age group are each entitled to a bonus of 20% in ranking points earned. The bonus points are earned provided that there is a player in the lower age group that has a better result in the event.

## **8 WALKOVERS AND NOT PLAYED MATCHES**

- 8.1 The reason for walkovers and not played matches must be stored in the tournament data. This must be recorded on the control sheets and entered into the computer application with the assistance of a drop-down list.

## Event Strength A

## Annexure A

- Winner (guaranteed points) – 290 points
- Loyalty points (last position) – 48 points

A	Draw size					
	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-24	25-32
1	290	290	290	290	290	290
2	159	224	246	257	268	274
3	87	173	209	228	248	258
4	48	134	178	202	229	244
5		104	151	180	212	230
6		80	128	159	196	217
7		62	109	141	181	205
8		48	92	125	168	193
9			78	111	155	182
10			67	99	143	172
11			57	87	133	162
12			48	78	123	153
13				69	113	145
14				61	105	136
15				54	97	129
16				48	90	121
17					83	115
18					77	108
19					71	102
20					66	96
21					61	91
22					56	86
23					52	81
24					48	76
25						72
26						68
27						64
28						61
29						57
30						54
31						51
32						48

## Event Strength B

## Annexure A

- Winner (guaranteed points) – 200 points
- Loyalty points (last position) – 16 points

B	Draw size					
	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-24	25-32
1	200	200	200	200	200	200
2	86	139	159	169	179	184
3	37	97	126	143	161	170
4	16	68	100	121	144	157
5		47	80	102	129	144
6		33	63	86	115	133
7		23	50	73	103	123
8		16	40	62	93	113
9			32	52	83	104
10			25	44	74	96
11			20	37	67	89
12			16	31	60	82
13				27	54	75
14				22	48	69
15				19	43	64
16				16	39	59
17					35	54
18					31	50
19					28	46
20					25	43
21					22	39
22					20	36
23					18	33
24					16	31
25						28
26						26
27						24
28						22
29						20
30						19
31						17
32						16



## SENIORS DIVISION

### INTER-PROVINCIAL CUP – ‘A’ AND ‘B’ SECTIONS AND SHIELD 2020 RULES FOR ALL GROUPS

#### 1) GENERAL

- **AGE CATEGORIES**

There will be three separate Inter-Provincial Tournaments (IPTs) organized by the National Seniors Committee (NSC) each year for the three age categories. The **Young Seniors IPT** (30 – 45+), the **Seniors IPT** (50 - 60+) and the **Super Seniors IPT** (65 – 75+). Players may, however, play down in a younger age group IPT if they choose to.

- **IPT CUP – A & B**

The **IPT Cup** is open to all “A” and “B” teams with each Province being allowed to enter **one team** per Cup. Additional teams will be accommodated where possible, with the host team getting preference. Teams can enter an **A Cup** or **B Cup** in each age group within the age category, with a maximum of **8 teams** per Cup. The Province will submit the number of teams to be entered to the **TSA Seniors Co-ordinator** two months prior to the Inter-Provincial Tournament.

- **SHIELD EVENT**

The **Shield** is open to **additional** teams in **all three age groups** as long as there are at least **five teams** available to play. If there are less than 5 teams then they will be combined with the Shield teams in a younger age group or incorporated into the B Cup if possible. **There may be specific cases where four teams will be allowed to compete.** A maximum of **8 teams** may enter with the host province having first option to enter **an extra team**.

- **COMBINING & MOVING TEAMS**

The final decision with regard to **combining teams** and **moving teams** between the **Cups and the Shield Events** lies with the **Organizing Committee**, which consists of **the Referee, the TSA Seniors Co-Ordinator and members of the Seeding Committee**.

- **BYES**

Due to the **transient nature** of the number of teams entered by each province, players need to understand that **A BYE** may be unavoidable on one of the tournament days.

#### 2) TSA MEMBERSHIP

- All players participating must be **fully paid-up members** of **TSA** as well as **TSA Seniors** and must belong to a **tennis club**.
- The **onus is on the Province** when submitting their teams and followed up by the Captain to ensure compliance.
- **A team that fields players who are not members of TSA may be disqualified.**

#### 3) ENTRIES AND ENTRY FEES

- **CLOSING DATES** for entries **with names** of team members will be **45 days** prior to the first day of the competition, or as determined by the NSC. **The amount of R150 per player must be paid over to the hosting province.** This is a provincial expense and not a player expense.

- **IPT PLAYER FEE**

An amount of **R550** per player must be collected by **the province** and **paid over to the hosting province**. This amount to be used for the general running of the tournament e.g. hiring of courts; tennis balls; team **photos**; both the welcome function and the official prize-giving dinner, etc.

- **WITHDRAWAL DATE**

The withdrawal date for teams and players will be **two weeks prior** to the first day of the competition, or as determined by the NSC. **No refunds will be issued after this date.**

- **TEAM COMPOSITION**

**30 - 60+ Mixed teams:** Each team shall consist of 6 players—3 men and 3 women with an option of **one or two additional players, one man and/or one woman.**

**65 - 75+ Mixed teams:** Each team shall consist of 4 players – 2 men and 2 women **with an option of one or two additional players, one man and/or one woman.**

**Excess men’s and women’s teams:** Each team to consist of 2 players **with an option of one additional player.**

- **MEN'S AND/OR WOMEN'S ONLY TEAMS**

Should provinces find themselves in a position of having too many **men and/or women** then those provinces will be able to enter **Men's only or Women's only** teams, but the **first priority** and the best players must be used in the **mixed sides**. This will only take place if there are **enough teams** to warrant it happening.

#### 4) **PLAYER "KITTY"**

- **COMBINATION OF NEIGHBOURING PROVINCES (PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NOW ONLY NINE PROVINCES)**

If players do not make themselves available for their own province, then they may not play for another Province. If Provincial Chairmen are short of players, they may approach their neighbouring province directly without submitting kitty requests.

The provinces would be grouped as follows:

- Gauteng (which includes Gauteng North, Gauteng Central and Gauteng East)
- Free State, Northern Cape and North West Province
- Kwa-Zulu Natal
- Western Cape (which includes Boland, Western Province and Eden)
- Eastern Cape (which includes Border and Eastern Province)
- Mpumalanga and Limpopo

If two or more players from a province are in the team, then it is a combined team and that province is mentioned in the team's name and both tracksuits are worn. Provinces may **ONLY** negotiate with the provinces in their group. Thereafter they must work through the "kitty".

- **PLAYING DOWN**

Players **may play down** in a lower age group IPT. Provincial Committees may allow players to do so if they wish to. The idea is that the **best team is entered in the A Cup**, regardless of the age of the players who make themselves available. If they are stronger than the correct age group players they may be given priority by the selectors in order to submit a stronger team. Provinces are obliged to release players that have not been selected to their neighboring provinces and then to the kitty.

- **EXCESS PLAYERS**

If there are still excess players who cannot be accommodated in teams after consulting with neighbouring provinces as per the groupings above, their names **may be submitted to the kitty by Provincial Chairpersons**, which will be controlled by the **TSA Seniors Co-ordinator**. This "kitty" will be used to assist provinces who are short of players after the entry deadline. Provincial Chairpersons needing players must submit their requests to the TSA Seniors Co-ordinator stating the age, gender and strength of player required.

- **ALLOCATION OF PLAYERS**

Players wishing to be placed in the kitty need to put their names and **TSA** numbers forward to their Provincial Chairpersons, who will forward them to TSA in writing for placement in the kitty. **Players cannot be refused to be placed in the kitty on the basis of age.** Provincial requests will then be paired with player requests. Decisions around allocation of players will be taken by the Seniors Co-Ordinator, if necessary, on a ballot system but players may state their preferred province. **Allocations from the kitty will be made only after the closing dates for entries, which is 45 days prior to the start of the competition. No kitty players will be released before this date.**

- **All requests to be sent to seniors@tennissa.co.za or faxed to 086 238 2719.**

#### 5) **NUMBER OF COURTS**

- Each tie will be played on 2 courts, **except the 65 – 75+ group and the one gender ties which will be played on 1 court.** Two ties may be played on 5 courts, i.e. two ties will share one extra court if time constraints prove to be a problem. In the 65-75+ group two ties may be played on 3 courts for the same reason. The men/women only groups will use 1 court only.
- Players must be prepared to play under floodlights if circumstances so dictate.

#### 6) **NUMBER OF MATCHES**

Age Group	Cup	Men's Singles	Women's Singles	Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles	Mixed Doubles	Total Matches
30 – 55+ Mixed	A, B & Shield	2	2	1	1	2	8
60+ Mixed	A	2	2	1	1	2	8
60+ Mixed	B & Shield	1	1	1	1	3	7
65 – 75+ Mixed	A, B & Shield	1	1	1	1	1	5
Men's only Teams	A & B	2		1			3
Women's only Teams	A & B		2		1		3

- **30 - 45+ Young Seniors Age Groups (mixed) A Cup, B Cup & Shield Event:**

The tie will consist of: 2 x men's singles; 2 x women's singles; 1 x men's doubles; 1 x women's doubles and 2 x mixed doubles – i.e. 8 matches in total. **Up to three men and three women in each team will take part in each tie in the eight matches. All singles matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker in the third set. All doubles and mixed doubles matches will be THREE FAST FOUR SETS (first to 4 with a tiebreaker at 3 all). Alternatively, in doubles and mixed doubles, matches will be THREE SHORT SETS (start at 2 all with a tiebreaker at 6 all.) Deciding points will be played on deuce in all matches (singles, doubles and mixed doubles), in both formats. A decision will be taken at the Captain's meeting which of the two formats will be played at each specific Interpro.**

- **50 - 55+ Seniors Age Groups (mixed) A Cup, B Cup & Shield Event: (8 matches)**

The tie will consist of: 2 x men's singles; 2 x women's singles; 1 x men's doubles; 1 x women's doubles and 2 x mixed doubles – i.e. 8 matches in total. **Up to three men and three women in each team will take part in each tie in the eight matches. All singles matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker in the third set. All doubles and mixed doubles matches will be THREE FAST FOUR SETS (first to 4 with a tiebreaker at 3 all). Alternatively, in doubles and mixed doubles, matches will be THREE SHORT SETS (start at 2 all with a tiebreaker at 6 all.) Deciding points will be played on deuce in all matches (singles, doubles and mixed doubles), in both formats. A decision will be taken at the Captain's meeting which of the two formats will be played at each specific Interpro.**

- **60+ Seniors Age Group (mixed) A cup: (8 matches)**

The tie will consist of: 2 x men's singles; 2 X women's singles; 1 x men's doubles; 1 x women's doubles and 2 x mixed doubles – i.e. 8 matches in total. **Up to three men and three women in each team will take part in each tie in the eight matches. All singles matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker in the third set. All doubles and mixed doubles matches will be THREE FAST FOUR SETS (first to 4 with a tiebreaker at 3 all). Alternatively, in doubles and mixed doubles, matches will be THREE SHORT SETS (start at 2 all with a tiebreaker at 6 all.) Deciding points will be played on deuce in all matches (singles, doubles and mixed doubles), in both formats. A decision will be taken at the Captain's meeting which of the two formats will be played at each specific Interpro.**

**60+ Seniors Age Group (mixed) B Cup & Shield Event: (7 matches)**

The tie will consist of: 1 x men's singles; 1 X women's singles; 1 x men's doubles; 1 x women's doubles and 3 x mixed doubles – i.e. **Up to three men and three women in each team will take part in each tie in the seven matches. All singles matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker in the third set. All doubles and mixed doubles matches will be THREE FAST FOUR SETS (first to 4 with a tiebreaker at 3 all). Alternatively, in doubles and mixed doubles, matches will be THREE SHORT SETS (start at 2 all with a tiebreaker at 6 all.) Deciding points will be played on deuce in all matches (singles, doubles and mixed doubles), in both formats. A decision will be taken at the Captain's meeting which of the two formats will be played at each specific Interpro.**

**65 - 75+ Super Seniors Age Groups (mixed) A Cup, B Cup & Shield Event (If numbers allow): (5 matches)**

The tie will consist of: 1 x men's singles; 1 x women's singles; 1 x men's doubles; 1 x women's doubles and 1 x mixed doubles i.e. A total of 5 matches. **Up to three men and three women will take part in each tie in the five matches. All singles matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker in the third set. All doubles and mixed doubles matches will be THREE FAST FOUR SETS (first to 4 with a tiebreaker at 3 all). Alternatively, in doubles and mixed doubles, matches will be THREE SHORT SETS (start at 2 all with a tiebreaker at 6 all.) Deciding points will be played on deuce in all matches (singles, doubles and mixed doubles), in both formats. A decision will be taken at the Captain's meeting which of the two formats will be played at each specific Interpro.**

**30-75+ Two/three men / women sides A Cup and B Cup: (3 matches)**

The tie will consist of: 2 x men's/women's singles and 1 x men's/women's doubles, i.e. a total of 3 matches with each player playing at least one match per day. **Up to three men or women will take part in each tie in the three matches. All singles matches will be two tiebreaker sets and a 10-point match tiebreaker in the third set. All doubles matches will be THREE FAST FOUR SETS (first to 4 with a tiebreaker at 3 all). Alternatively, in doubles, matches will be THREE SHORT SETS (start at 2 all with a tiebreaker at 6 all.) Deciding points will be played on deuce in all matches (singles and doubles), in both formats. A decision will be taken at the Captain's meeting which of the two formats will be played at each specific Interpro.**

## 7) METHOD OF PLAY:

- A **Round-robin** format will be played in all age groups, either in **two sections (7 or 8 teams)** or **only one (5 or 6 teams)**.
- If there are **two sections with 8 teams** then there will be a **round-robin for three sessions, followed by cross-over on session four and final play-offs on session five**.
- If there are **two sections with 7 teams**, then there will be a **round-robin in each section for three sessions**. To determine positions **1 to 4**, this will be followed by **cross-over matches** on session four and final play-offs on session five. To determine positions **5 to 7**, a **round robin play-off** will be played. In this case, two teams would have already played each other during the first round-robin section, so they will not play again. **Their initial result will be duplicated into the round-robin competition for position 5 to 7.**

## 8) POINTS ALLOCATION

- In the **round-robin** matches each team receives **one point** per set won. The team with the most matches won in a tie wins the specific tie. Five bonus points will be awarded to the winning team. If a team wins all their ties then they will automatically be the winner of the event regardless the number of points. If not, then the winner will be determined according to points allocated.
- If there are **two round-robin groups with play-offs** and a team wins all their ties in the initial round-robin group, then they will end as number one in that group regardless of the number of points earned. If no team wins all its matches in either of the two round-robin groups, then the winner in each group will be determined according to points allocated.
- **If a tie ends up with each team having an equal number of matches as well as an equal number of sets and an equal number of games, then a mixed doubles tie-break shoot-out will be played to determine the winner (the best of 3 championship tie-break games i.e. first to 10 or lead by 2).**
- If two teams end up with equal points in a section, the winner of the **head-to-head** match between them will be declared the winner.
- The **computer** is programmed to do all the **necessary calculations**.

## 9) PLAYING RULES

- All Captains will be required to **fill in their team nomination sheets straight after their tie but by 12h30 at the latest when playing two ties in one day.** The home team Captains will also need to collect their **tennis balls and scoresheet for the next tie.**
- Each Captain must have completed **the match scoresheet** in full **15 Minutes prior** to the commencement of the tie, with the names of the **singles players** as well as the **doubles and mixed combinations** having been written down.
- Once the line-up has been written in and exchanged with the opposing Captain, it **may not be altered without the consent of the Referee.** **Should rain interrupt play the original line-up will stand, except when the entire format changes.**
- The **singles matches** will be played first in all age groups. In the **30 – 60+ age groups** the singles will be followed by either the doubles or the mixed doubles, depending on which one can take to the court without wasting time. In the **65 – 75+ age groups** the doubles must be played before the mixed doubles. (If not done this way a team might have to forfeit two matches in case of injury).
- Any player not ready to play within **15 minutes** of the scheduled time, or after the court becomes available will be reported to the **Referee** who will award the match to his/her opponent, unless circumstances require otherwise.
- The **warm-up** period is a maximum of **5 minutes**.
- The maximum rest period **between a singles and doubles match is 30 minutes – or as agreed by the Referee.**
- The maximum rest period **between a doubles and a xd match is 15 minutes – or as agreed by the Referee.**
- All round-robin matches must be completed fully. Teams may be penalized by the Referee for **not completing all matches in a tie.**
- All teams are to be played strictly in **the order of strength** submitted by their Province and **confirmed at the Captain's meeting.** No deviation will be allowed.

## 10) DAILY ORDER OF PLAY

- Playing **times** and **court allocations** to be decided by the **Referee** and the host province.
- The **singles will be played first**. In the **30 – 60+ age groups** the singles will be followed by either the doubles or mixed doubles. In the **65 – 75+ age groups** the singles must be followed by the doubles and then the mixed.
- **Court allocations** will be made on a daily basis by the **Referee**.
- The **Order of Play** will be published by the Referee as **early as possible** each evening.
- The first team on the “**Order of Play**” is regarded as the home team and is responsible for collecting and returning the **score sheets** and **balls** from and to the Organizers.
- There will be **no deviation** from the scheduled Order of Play – **except by agreement from the Referee**.

## 11) TENNIS BALLS

The host province will provide the required number of new balls for each tie. Captains are responsible for ensuring that new balls are given to players for each match in the tie and that all balls are returned to the tournament desk. **No new balls will be available for third sets or 10-point match tiebreakers.**

## 12) SELECTION OF TEAMS

- Teams must be selected **prior to the closing date** of the entries.
- All players must be **registered with TSA** and their **TSA numbers** included on the entry form.
- The team member’s names must be submitted on the entry form in their **correct order of strength**. Any additional team members must also be included strictly IN ORDER OF STRENGTH The NSC must be informed of any changes in the teams or in the order of strength prior to the start of the tournament.
- Any objections regarding team order of strength should be made **at least seven days before the tournament**. The Seniors Co-ordinator will distribute the team documents to all captains/provinces in advance. This needs to be done to enable the organizers to print the relevant documents in time.
- Last minute changes should only be made when absolutely necessary at the captains meeting! The teams as officially submitted by the provinces – the order will stay the same unless there is an objection raised by another province and then this will be discussed at the captains meeting.
- Submitting new names at the meeting should be avoided in order to keep the captain’s meetings as short as possible. These should be submitted to the Seniors Co-ordinator at the latest 24 hours before the tournament commences.

## 13) AGE CATEGORY QUALIFICATIONS

A player must have reached the minimum age in question by **31 December of the year** in which the tournament is being held. Players may play in a lower age group.

**In cases of emergency - if a younger player is required to play in an older age group, with the permission of the NSC, then the following will apply:**

- Points will be conceded in both matches in whom the younger player participates. Matches have to be played.
- The younger replacement may not play singles and can only play in the second doubles and mixed combinations.
- Qualification of players borrowed from another province: See Rule (18) Residential Requirements.

## 14) CAPTAIN’S MEETING

On the first day of the tournament the host Province must convene **a meeting of all the Captains**. The **Seniors Tennis Co-ordinator** or other designated member of the **NSC** will Chair this meeting. The following points will be covered:

- The **Referee** will be introduced to the meeting.
- All **arrangements** regarding functions, tournament office location and other issues relevant to the tournament.
- The tournament rules will be the **IPT Rules for 2020** as stated in the **booklet** and cannot be changed.
- The format for the **doubles and mixed doubles** will be decided upon – either **THREE FAST FOUR SETS** or **THREE SHORT SETS**.
- **Finalization of order of strength** of teams and any other changes to team compositions due to an objection being raised by another province. Any **other issues** relevant to the tournament may be raised.

## 15) INJURY TO PLAYERS

An injury is defined as “an injury sustained on court rendering a player unfit to proceed with the match in progress or a scheduled match”.

### 30 – 60+

The following principles shall apply:

- **One match** (either the one in progress, or if completed, the next match in which that person was to play), **shall be conceded**.
- If a player concedes **during** a match due to illness, injury or any other reason and leaves the court, the match **being played** is forfeited. The score needs to be recorded on the score sheet **as it was at the time**, and the **reason** given for forfeiting, so that it is clear to the Referee why the match was conceded. However, if there is a tie in matches at the end of the tie, then the additional sets and games need to be considered by the Captains when determining the winner of the tie.
- The **lowest ranking member** of the team must replace the injured player in any remaining match of the tie. If the lowest ranked player is injured, the 2nd lowest ranking player will replace the injured player. **This player will then play three matches in the tie if he/she is not an additional team member who was not listed to play. No external substitute may play in the specific tie.** A replacement can, however, be found for subsequent **sessions**. An injured player may play again on **subsequent sessions** if **no external substitute** has played in his/her place.
- The situation should **not be abused** to allow stronger players to take the place of weaker players.
- Once the **singles** is conceded the injured player **may under no circumstances** return to play **doubles** or **mixed** **in the same tie**.
- If two players from the same gender are injured or unable to play and no substitute can be found, then one singles and the doubles shall be conceded. The remaining player will then play one singles and both mixed doubles matches.
  - If the remaining player is the number one or number two player in the team, then he/she will play the number one singles.
  - If the remaining player is the number three player in the team, then he/she will play the number two singles.
- In all cases where matches could not be completed or played, the remaining set points and game points will automatically be awarded to the opponents by the SportyHQ program when the results are entered.

### 65 – 75+

- **One match (either the one in progress, or if that one is completed, the next match in which that person was to play), shall be conceded.**
- **SINGLES:**
- If a player concedes **during** a match due to illness, injury or any other reason and leaves the court, the match **being played** is forfeited. The score needs to be recorded on the score sheet **as it was at the time**, and the **reason** given for forfeiting, so that it is clear to the Referee why the match was conceded. However, if there is a tie in matches at the end of the tie, then the additional sets and games need to be considered by the Captains when determining the winner of the tie.
  - **The additional player** can then play the doubles or an **external substitute** can be found if possible for the doubles in **the same tie**, provided that the substitute is equal in strength or weaker than the injured player. If **the additional team member** plays then the injured payer may return to play **the next session** but if a substitute plays, then the injured player may not play again for the remainder of the tournament. If there is no reserve and no substitute is found, the doubles must also be forfeited and indicated as w/o on the scoresheet.
  - If the player completes the singles and thereafter cannot continue playing, the doubles is forfeited and indicated **as w/o on the scoresheet**.
- **DOUBLES:**
- If a player concedes **during** a match due to illness, injury or any other reason and leaves the court, the match **being played** is forfeited. The score needs to be recorded on the score sheet **as it was at the time**, and the **reason** given for forfeiting, so that it is clear to the Referee why the match was conceded. However, if there is a tie in matches at the end of the tie, then the additional sets and games need to be considered by the Captains when determining the winner of the tie.
  - The **additional or other team member** of the same gender will then play the mixed doubles. If this is the singles player, then he/she will play a third match in the tie if there is no additional team member.
  - If the player completes the doubles and thereafter cannot continue playing, the **mixed doubles** is forfeited and indicated as w/o on the scoresheet.
- An injured player may play again on subsequent **sessions** if no external substitute has played in his/her place. A replacement can, however, be found for **subsequent sessions**.
- The situation should **not** be abused to allow stronger players to take the place of weaker players.
- Once the singles is conceded the injured player may under no circumstances return to play doubles or mixed in the **same tie**.
- In all cases where matches could not be completed or played, the remaining set points and game points will automatically be awarded to the opponents by the SportyHQ programme when the results are entered.

### ONE GENDER TEAMS WITH TWO/THREE PLAYERS (ONE IS A RESERVE)

- **One match (either the one in progress, or if that is completed, the next match that person was to play), shall be conceded.**
- If a player concedes **during** a match due to illness, injury or any other reason and leaves the court, the match **being played** is forfeited. The score needs to be recorded on the score sheet **as it was at the time**, and the **reason** given for forfeiting, so that it is clear to the Referee why the match was conceded. However, if there is a tie in matches at the end of the tie, then the additional sets and games need to be considered by the Captains when determining the winner of the tie.
  - The reserve or an external substitute can then be found if possible for the doubles **the same tie**, provided that the substitute is equal in strength or weaker than the injured player. If the reserve plays then the injured player may return to play the next **session** but if a substitute plays, then the injured player may not play again for the remainder of the tournament. If there is no reserve and no substitute is found, the doubles must also be forfeited and indicated as w/o on the scoresheet.
  - If no substitute could be found and there is no reserve for the remainder of the tournament or part thereof, the player who is not injured will be allowed to play two singles matches **per tie** with a maximum of 60 minute rest between matches. In this case the doubles will be conceded and indicated as w/o on the scoresheet.

#### Rules applying to replacements on subsequent sessions:

- If there is no additional player in a team, then in all further ties an **injured player** may be replaced by a **substitute**, who will become the **lowest ranked player** for the remainder of the tournament.
- The replacement must **not be stronger** than the current members of the team.
- The replacement must be **approved** by the tournament referee and TSA representative.

#### If there is no additional player in the team and a replacement cannot be found the following will apply:

- All singles matches have to be played.
- One doubles match will have to be conceded (men or women depending on which gender is injured).
- The conceded match will reflect as w/o on the score sheet and the 2 sets and 12 games awarded to the opponents.

### 16) REFEREE

- The **Referee** will be appointed by **TSA** and will be charged with ensuring that the tournament is run in accordance with the current **Seniors IPT Rules** and **General TSA Rules**.
- Other than the Rules described above, the **General Rules of Tennis** as prescribed **by the ITF** will apply.
- The Referee has full authority to amend the playing format if deemed necessary and move matches to different venues in order to achieve results in all events. The Referee's decision will be final in all matters pertaining to the running of the tournament.
- The **TSA code of conduct** for players will be applicable and strictly enforced by the Referee.
- The **Tournament Management Committee**, consisting of the Referee, the TSA Representative and the local Tournament Organiser, will make all other decisions pertaining to the successful running of the tournament.

### 17) COACHING

- The Captain may only enter or leave the court **at the change-overs** but **not during tiebreaker changeovers**.
- **On court coaching** may only be carried out by the Captain/Manager of a team during change-overs but **not during tiebreaker changeovers**.
- Should the Captain **be playing** a match he/she may **nominate** another member of the team to stand in. The opposition Captain needs to be informed of this nomination prior to taking the court.
- No coaching will be permitted from **outside** the court.
- No captain or any other player is allowed to remain on court while play is in progress.

### 18) RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- A player must be a **member of a club** (irrespective of where he/she resides).
- A player is available for the Province in whose territory his/her permanent residential address is situated.
- In the event of a player being available and not being selected by the Province where he/she resides (point 2 above), he/she may be eligible for selection to another Province, by making use of the "kitty" system mentioned in point 3) above.
- In the case where a player owns two or more properties in different provinces, the player must choose **one province** for a **full calendar year** on his **TSA profile** online.
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## 19) RANKING POINTS

- Every player participating in the Inter Provincial tournaments will receive **full attendance points** as per the table below as long as they participate in at least **one** match.
- Points will be awarded for each player in the team in **singles, doubles and mixed doubles**, irrespective of what matches they play.
- **Players will get attendance points as follows :**

POINTS ALLOCATION	A CUP	B CUP	SHIELD	ONE GENDER
Attendance points for all players in all age groups regardless of whether they are playing out of their age group or for another province.	80	80	80	80

A player may **participate** in more than one Inter-Provincial but may only **earn points** for **ONE** Inter-Provincial. **Attendance points** earned in 2019 Inter-Regionals will be kept until the next Inter-Provincial in that age group is played in 2020.