

NOTES TO ORANGE BALL SUPERVISORS

2021/22

The Hot Shots Orange Ball Competition is a format that allows children to be involved in competition tennis at a younger age. Using a three quarter court, low compression balls and a lowered net, gives the opportunity for children to play matches that otherwise they would not be able to on a full court. This competition is aimed at children aged 7 or 8 years at the beginning of the season. If a child is aged 9 at the time of the first match and better suited to orange ball rather than green ball competition then they are also encouraged to participate.

Matches are played on two (2) courts and commence no later than 8:30am and 10:30am on Saturday and no later than 6pm on Friday.

If two (2) sets of either doubles or singles **have not commenced by the scheduled start time**, then the team not ready to play **will forfeit all sets not completed** by the appointed finishing time. A note to this effect must be made on the score sheet and signed by both supervisors. **It is not necessary for the doubles sets to be played first.**

FINISH TIME:

Saturday matches will finish at 10:30am or 12:30pm. Friday matches finish at 8pm. Matches may go past the finish time if courts are available. In the event of late players the finish time is 2 hours after the scheduled start time regardless of whether there are spare courts or not.

HIT UPS:

A three (3) minute warm up is allowed. Adherence to this rule will avoid incomplete sets later. Juniors should hit up before their scheduled start time if there are vacant courts.

MATCH FORMAT:

- **8 and Under (Orange Ball Division)**
- Parent supervision is aimed at helping players develop throughout the season.
- Orange Balls are to be used and 4 balls are to be supplied by the Home team. They must be in good condition with a visible brand.
- Coaches should also use orange balls when coaching these divisions.
- No finals will be played.
- Teams will be made up of 4 or 5 players either boys, girls or mixed. Teams that have 5 will have one player only competing in singles and one player only competing in doubles.
- Each match will consist of two doubles and four singles that will be first to 4 games. Traditional scoring will be used except sudden death deuce will apply and if two children are tied at 3 games all, the next game will determine the winner.
- All players must serve their first serve on the full but are allowed to let their second serve bounce before they hit it in order to get the ball in play. Traditional tennis rules will be used except for the serving. Players are allowed to serve underarm and the ball must be served into the correct square as per rules of tennis. Players will change ends after the first, third and fifth games.

THE COURT

- The orange court will be a normal singles court width for both singles and doubles.
- The court is 18m long
- The height of the net should be between 81 – 90cms.
- The net is to be lowered for ALL orange ball matches.

SCORING:

If the score in any match is disputed by any on court player, the match will be continued at the last agreed score. The supervisor will keep score (not umpire, unless requested) for the remainder of the match.

SUPERVISION: Each team is required to nominate a coach and/or parent as a volunteer supervisor for the respective team. Each match is assigned two courts for their respective matches, and nominated supervisors adjudicate each court. The supervisor will encourage both children, score and provide assistance to players. The supervisor will also fill out the score at the end of each individual match on the score sheet.

Supervisors must ensure that spectators and resting players do not interfere with play. No one other than the players or nominated supervisors are allowed on the court. **One umpire/supervisor only per court. An additional adult may assist on court if required. All resting players and spectators must remain outside the court and at least 1 metre from the fence.** All decisions for line calls must be made by the players or umpire, without any external influence. **If any doubt regarding a line call, then the ball should be called in.**

Should a problem or dispute arise, supervisors, after conferring, should act promptly to resolve the dispute. Contact your Junior Coordinator for any problem which cannot be resolved on the spot or for clarification of any rule.

SCORESHEET:

Encourage a team member to write out the score sheet each week. **Both First & Surname** of every player **MUST** be filled in. Check that the score sheet is completed, check against the opponent's scoresheet for correctness and then signed by both captains and supervisors at the end of the match. Please remember to circle "orange ball" and to fill in the division number (if applicable).

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & FILL-INS:

Beginner Division – Orange Ball: Players must be 8&U as at 30/9/21 to be eligible to commence playing Saturday Morning Junior Tennis if they have achieved the skills as per the *Beginners Skills Checklist*. No player aged 6 and under can play competitive tennis.

Clubs can use fill-ins from their Hot Shots program provided they meet the age restrictions.

ORDER OF MERIT:

Order of Merit (OOM) - means that players are ranked in order of their ability in relation to other players from their club. OOM applies after the first 4 weeks. Teams have the first 4 weeks to organize their OOM after which players will only be able to move 1 relative playing position each week. A player moving more than one relative position may retrospectively forfeit their set.

RULES:

The rules governing play are documented in the Hills Tennis Association "Rules of Match and Play 2021/22" document. **A copy must be available at home court clubrooms.**

ILLNESS/INJURY:

In the event of a player being unable to commence or complete a set due to illness/injury:-

- The supervisors and players must reach agreement on stopping or delaying the set. The exact scores should be recorded.
- The order of play may be altered, but not player position.
- A delayed set must be recommenced from the exact score at which stopped.
- Any set not recommenced by 10:15am or 12:15pm on Saturday or by 7:45pm on Friday, is automatically forfeited.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

All parents, players and spectators need to abide by the Code of Conduct - please refer to the HTA Rules of Match and Play for a copy of the Code of Conduct, Tennis Australia Etiquette and the Tennis Australia Rules for Non Umpired Matches.