

MELBOURNE TENNIS CLUB AMERICAN TOURNAMENT RULES

THE DRAW

1. The draw for partners will be made before the start of the tournament.
2. If there is an unequal number of gents and ladies then, before the draw is done, an appropriate number of ladies shall be chosen to play as gents or, conversely, gents chosen to play as ladies.

THE PLAY

3. Couples will be split into groups; the number of groups will depend on the number of couples participating.
4. Each couple will play a set against every other couple in their group. Therefore, in a group of four couples each couple plays three sets.
5. A set consists of 8 games, 6 games or 4 games, depending on the number of couples in the tournament.
6. Half of the games in the set are played WITH your partner and half are played AGAINST your partner.
7. Before play begins the LADIES spin for choice of side or service.
8. After the first half of the set, the GENTS change partners.
9. The order of serve is as follows:

For an 8 game set: gent1 gent2 lady1 lady2
 gent2 gent1 lady1 lady2

For a 6 game set: gent1 gent2 lady1
 lady2 gent2 gent1

For a 4 game set: gent1 gent2
 lady2 lady1

10. Sudden death at deuce, and receiving couple choose who receives.

11. When 2 gents play together against a lady + gent, the gents start scoring at -15. Similarly, when 2 ladies play against a lady + gent, the ladies start scoring at +15
12. If time allows, the highest scoring lady and gent in each group go through to a final. Otherwise, the lady with the highest number of points is the ladies' winner and the gent with the highest number of points is the gents' winner.
13. Each player is responsible for keeping a count of the number of games he/she wins in each set. These scores are then recorded on the score sheet at the end of each set. For an example of how the scoring works, see below.

SCORING EXAMPLE:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| gent1 + lady1 v gent2 + lady2 | score 3-1 | gent1 scores 3 | lady1 scores 3 |
| | | gent2 scores 1 | lady2 scores 1 |

They then swap partners

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| gent2 + lady1 v gent1 + lady2 | score 4-0 | gent1 scores 0 | lady1 scores 4 |
| | | gent2 scores 4 | lady2 scores 0 |

Total scores for the set are:

| | |
|--------|-------------|
| gent1: | $3 + 0 = 3$ |
| lady1: | $3 + 4 = 7$ |
| gent2: | $1 + 4 = 5$ |
| lady2: | $1 + 0 = 1$ |