

**BARBADOS TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC. (BTA Inc.)**

**REGULATIONS FOR INTER-CLUB COMPETITION - 2023**

1. The Rules of Lawn Tennis as promulgated by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the Regulations hereafter contained shall be observed in this Competition.
2. The management of the Competition shall be entrusted to the Tournament Committee of the Barbados Tennis Association Inc.(**BTA Inc.**) (hereinafter referred to as “the Tournament Committee”).
3. The Competition shall be open to all Clubs, inclusive of schools or institutions of higher learning, affiliated to the BTA. All players shall be **bona fide** members of the Clubs for which they are playing. No person may play for more than one Club during the course of the year.
4. Each Club entering the Competition must provide a minimum of two (2) Courts of like surface (hard or grass or synthetic grass, hard-tru or such surfaces as are approved by the Tournament Committee) on a Saturday afternoon as provided in the Playing Schedule and a Sunday for the conclusion or re-scheduling of a fixture. The Competition shall consist of two (2) rounds as outlined at appendix “A”. Each Club must designate to the Secretary of the BTA and the Tournament Committee the venue of its home matches and also inform the said Secretary and Tournament Committee of the name of its Captain – Male or Female and contact Tel/Cel/Fax, Text &/E-Mail details.
5. Each Club playing at home shall open its grounds/premises to the tennis public, Council Members of the BTA, members of the BTA and members and supporters of the opposing Club team. Where the competition is sponsored, home Clubs shall permit advertising of the sponsor to be displayed on the Courts (or other approved areas) for the duration of the fixture or matches.
6. The Home Team shall supply one set of new balls (of at least 3) for use on each court at the commencement of play in a fixture. A “fixture” means and shall be the Doubles Events to be played between two (2) Clubs. Should the quality or texture of the balls deteriorate or balls be lost, the home club should provide a replacement complement of balls of like quality or texture.
7. Each Team shall consist of twelve (14) players, with a minimum of eight (8) Men and six (6) Ladies.

8. Each fixture shall consist of seven (7) doubles matches played between two (2) Clubs comprising the following matches:

- 2 Men's Doubles (Open)
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- 1 Men's Doubles (Over 45)
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- 1 Ladies Doubles (Open)
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- 1 Ladies Doubles (Over 35)
- 2 Mixed Doubles (Open)

Doubles- The winner of a match is the Doubles team that first reaches **nine (9)** games with a tie-breaker at eight all (8-8) in all matches. The **tie-breaker** will be the **7** point system using "No Ad Scoring"

9. Play in each fixture shall commence at **2.30 p.m.**, but may begin not more than 15 minutes earlier and only if the Captains of the two Clubs agree.

**- For a player to be deemed eligible for the "knock-out" round, they must have participated in a minimum of one match in the "round-robin" stage. Club rosters must be submitted by 6pm prior to the start date of the tournament; however there is no cap on the number of registered players. Only registered players are permitted to participate.**

#### **PLAYING OF MATCHES**

10. Unless the two Captains agree otherwise, the following rules shall apply:-
- (a) Prior to the commencement of a fixture, one or both of the Captains shall contact the other to ensure that two (2) matches are commenced promptly by the appointed time.
  - (b) No default can be claimed if some match is possible.
  - (c) If no match is possible within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time or ten (10) minutes of a court becoming vacant, then the match next due for that court shall be defaulted.
  - (d) If no match is possible within fifteen (15) minutes of a default, then the next match due shall also be defaulted.

11. A fixture can only be postponed on account of rain, darkness or bad weather. With the agreement of the two Captains, where a match is in progress and darkness sets in or where there was no prompt start and the Home Club has flood-lights play shall be continued. If postponed it shall be played on the following day being a Sunday at the same time or such other day and time prior to the next round of fixtures as can be agreed by the Captains or in the absence of their agreement by the Tournament Committee.
12. If a fixture has commenced and due to rain or bad weather or other prior activities at the Home Club (and play is not then permissible under flood-lights), the matches shall continue or be played at the same venue on the following day being a Sunday at the same time or such other day (s) and time prior to the next round of fixtures as can be agreed by the Captains or in the absence of their agreement the home captain decides.
13. Appeals for light shall be determined by the two (2) Captains. In the event of a disagreement, play shall cease at 6.30 p.m.
14. Prior to the start of each fixture, each Captain or the appointed Captain for the day shall hand to the Opposing Captain a list of his/her team with their signature appended. A penalty of 5 points may be deducted from any team failing to do so. No change in the composition of the teams can be made after the start of play, except in the case of illness or other unavoidable hindrance, and then only with the consent of the Captain of the opposing team. PROVIDED HOWEVER when a fixture shall be postponed before any play has taken place, the composition of the competing teams may be changed.
15. Play in each match shall be continuous and without unnecessary delay on the part of any player from the first serve until the match is concluded.
16. Each Club shall score one (1) point for every game won in each match. E.G.- in the Mixed Doubles Match (**Club Wimbledon defeats Club Forest Hills 9-5, Club Wimbledon is awarded 9 points & Club Forest Hills 5 points**) Where a match is won by default, the team shall score **nine (9) points**. In the event that a match becomes unfinished due to the refusal of an opposing team to complete same as shall be determined by the Tournament Committee, the team willing to play shall receive all points to which it could have secured if the match was played and the other team will retain any points already won.
17. In the spirit of camaraderie, each Club agrees to abide by the "Fair Play" Rule.

18. Score sheets are to be submitted by each club no later than the Monday immediately following a match. A **late penalty of five (5) points per day** can be deducted from any team failing to submit the scores by the stipulated deadline. Each team is to submit their scores for matches played for cross reference purposes.

19. All players shall wear standard tennis attire. Such dress shall not contain the logos or images of sponsors not connected with the competition. The logo of recognized tennis clothing manufacturers local or international on sleeves, pockets, pants, dresses and general tennis attire male or female shall not be construed as a breach hereof. T-Shirts are not permissible dress.

20. The Round Robin shall determine the positions of the clubs going into the second half of the competition, which will then be played on a knock out basis using a seeded draw.

21. In the spirit of camaraderie, each home Club shall be expected to entertain the opposing Club primarily after the fixture with offerings of hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

#### **COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

22. Clubs shall make every effort to settle disputes among themselves and should resort to making complaints only as a last resort when all efforts to settle such disputes have failed.

23. Any complaint against a player or Club shall be made in writing to the Tournament Committee and shall set out the Rule alleged to be breached or the misconduct complained of. The Tournament Committee shall forthwith refer any complaint to the Head of the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee shall carry out an investigation into the complaint and shall give the complainant and the person or Club against whom or which the complaint is made an opportunity to be heard. Any player or Club may appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Committee by notice in writing to the Secretary of the BTA Inc. within seven (7) days of notification of the Disciplinary Committee's decision. The appeal shall set out the grounds of appeal. The Officers of the BTA Inc. shall hear the appeal and shall give the parties an opportunity to be heard. The Officers of the BTA Inc shall determine all appeals and the decision of Council shall be final.

## **Appendix A**

### **Format For Inter Club Tennis 2023**

#### **Format of Play**

- a. The first round of the Inter-club competition 2023 will take the format of a Round Robin, with each club playing the other club on either a home or away fixture.
- b. Matches will be played on a first to nine (9) basis using “No Ad Scoring”, with a tie breaker at eight all.
- c. The second round will take the form of a Knock Out competition using a seeded draw, with the top four teams from the Round Robin being seeded one through four respectively, with 1 and 2 going to Top and bottom of the draw and 3 and 4 drawing for placement.
- d. The top two teams following the round robin will have home court advantage for the semifinals. The Finals will be played at the National Tennis Centre.
- e. The losing semifinalist will playoff for third position.

**Method of Determining Positions – Round Robin (First Round )**

(a) Final positions in the Round Robin shall be determined according to the number of games won, with the team who has won the most games being seeded one (1). If two teams win the same number of games, the head to head result between these teams shall decide the winner.

(b) If three or more teams win an equal number of games, the following procedure shall be used:

(i) The percentage of sets won/sets played, shall decide the winner.

(ii) If the percentage of sets won is equal, the percentage of games won, of games played, shall determine the winner

**Knockout** – If the final score is tied at the end of a tie in the knockout stage the winner shall be decided by “matches won” on that day.