

NORTHERN SUBURBS **TENNIS ASSOCIATION** **Inc**

JUNIOR and SENIOR **COMPETITION** **RULES**

**These Rules apply to all NSTA
competitions and should be read in conjunction
with any rules pertaining to specific competitions**

(Updated April 2021)

SATURDAY MORNING, SUNDAY A.M AND FRIDAY

JUNIOR COMPETITION RULES

N.B. THESE RULES ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE **SENIOR COMPETITION RULES** EXCEPT AS ALTERED BELOW.

1. **PLAYING TIMES**: Saturday 8.00 am – 10.00am; 10.00am – 12.00 noon; Sunday 8:00am – 10:00am; 10:30am – 12:30pm
2. **SUPERVISION**: Saturday Jnr comp supervision is to be supplied by the schools at all venues. The person supervising is required to have a valid WWCC and remain at the venue for the duration of all matches scheduled at that venue. Adult supervision must be present at Sunday 8am comp at all courts/centres.
3. **TENNIS ATTIRE**: Competition players may wear either white or coloured tennis clothes. Jeans or trousers are not considered correct tennis attire. Rippled sole or heeled shoes are not to be worn. Players who are incorrectly dressed will not be permitted to play
4. **RESERVES**: Saturday & Sunday comp - A reserve must be 18 years of age or under and be of the same grade (standard) or lower as the player being replaced. * If reserve is 18yrs they must be attending high school. It is the responsibility of the team using a reserve to let the opposition know. If a reserve is used that is off a higher standard (as deemed by xpoint, UTR ratings or by current division they play in) then, any set that player participated in will be forfeited. Players can reserve between teams in the same division.
- 5.
6. **SPECTATORS/PARENTS**
 - a) must **NOT** make line calls or interfere with or comment on any line calls
 - b) speak to any of the players whilst they are on court
 - c) must **NOT** enter or stand on court during the match unless there is an injury to a player.
 - d) if there are any issues speak to the court supervisor on duty on the day of the match otherwise contact your club/coach or NSTA Administrator to report an issue.

* Failure to follow these rules may result in the court supervisor at the venue to take further action and an official warning from NSTA. Any further issues and/or incidents will be reported to the NSTA disciplinary committee for further investigation.
7. **FORFEITS**
 - a) Forfeits are only acceptable in emergency circumstances only. If players for both teams are not ready to play at the stipulated starting time, play may commence up to 10 minutes late without incurring a forfeit. *If teams are in contact and both teams agree to start late there can be exception to the 10min. Unplayed/incomplete sets will still be awarded to the team who was on time. Matches must not go past the finish time.
 - b) If after a match has commenced, a team does not have the required pair to play the next set within 5 minutes, that team must forfeit that set and further sets each 5 minutes thereafter.
 - c) If all sets are not completed by the stipulated finishing time, then the team which was late or not ready to play will forfeit any unfinished or unplayed set. Any remaining games in a set still to be played will also be forfeited and the team that was late will forfeit that set. If players are not ready to play after 10 minutes after the stipulated starting time, the whole match shall be forfeited.
 - d) No team can be forced to play beyond the finish time to accommodate a late team to complete a set.
8. **WET WEATHER**: Court conditions may be obtained by calling the numbers listed under venues in the Competition Draw on xpoint. Please be aware these numbers may not be contactable until at least 7:15am or later on Saturday/Sunday morning. It is the responsibility of the employee or person in charge at each centre to determine the playability of their courts - not the responsibility of the court hirer, club/school supervisor, team manager or players to make a decision on court conditions without consulting staff at the venue of play. Do not contact the NSTA administrator.

9. **MATCH DELAYED:** A court is unplayable if the playing surface is too wet or too dangerous or could be damaged by play as deemed by the person in charge at the court (or centre) (court operator) who shall make the decision as to the court conditions. However, if a match has not started 30mins after the correct starting time, or if it is stopped for 30mins, say due to rain, it shall be called off
10. **HIT-UPS:** A 5 minute hit-up will be allowed before each player's first set only.
11. **FORMAT FOR DIVISIONS:**
- a) Saturday Morning play a total of 3 sets. 1 singles per player and 1 doubles. Match time 2hrs. Note – Schools may use 3 players due to students requiring to play Saturday Sport.
 - b) Sunday 8am play a total of 3 sets. 1 singles per player and 1 doubles. 3 point deuce. Match time 2hrs
 - c) Sunday 10am play a total of 3 sets 1 pro-singles per player and 1 doubles. Match time 2.5hrs
12. **UMPIRING:** If both teams mutually agree the need for an umpire please approach the court supervisor first. If there is not a court supervisor on site players should try to resolve the issue on court. If an umpire is to be used, they must stay on court for the duration of that set. Players then must abide by the umpire's decisions. No ball boys/girls are required. Players not participating in the match are NOT to be on court.
13. **INJURED PLAYER:** May be replaced during the course of a match (including semis or finals). The reserve must be of an equal or lower standard. If a player is injured during a set, that player's team must forfeit the incomplete set. Reserve must be available to play within 15mins.
14. **POINT SCORES:** All matches are scored:
- a) one (1) point for each set won PLUS
 - b) a bonus of two (2) points for winning the match
 - c) if there is no result the bonus points are shared – 1 point each
 - d) any unplayed/incomplete set the point is halved
 - e) When all sets are played each match is decided on sets won – if sets equal, then the match is decided by the team with the greater number of games won. If all sets are unplayed match winner will be decided by xpoint.
 - f) Weekly point scores are available for viewing on the Xpoint website
15. **ENTERING RESULTS:**
- a) Scores cards are no longer needed due to xpoint now providing a live scoring option
 - b) Both teams must agree on scores recorded.
 - c) The winning team is responsible for submitting the result on XPoint. NB: A winning team is any team receiving a forfeit.
 - d) In the event of a drawn, wet or unplayed match, the home team is then responsible for submitting the result on XPoint.
 - e) Scores MUST be submitted ASAP at the conclusion of the match
16. **FINALS:** To be played between teams finishing 1st and 2nd on points after completion of rounds.
- a) In the event of a tie on points at the end of a competition, the finalists will be decided as per XPoint
 - b) If finals are washed out, winners will be determined by 1st past the post.
 - c) If finals are washed out after play has commenced, results will be entered and winners will be decided as per xpoint.
 - d) In the event of a draw in the finals, the four doubles players will play a tie-break only (first to 7 points or 2 point advantage) to decide the winner.
 - e) Finals must be completed on the date set down and if not, then the team(s) placed highest on points will be declared the winner(s).
17. **PLAY-OFFS:** Saturday & Sunday comp - All teams not involved in finals will play-off after 5 rounds – 3rd v 4th and 5th v 6th
18. **TROPHIES:** Medals are provided for winners and runners up in all Grades
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SENIOR COMPETITION RULES

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1. ELIGIBILITY

All tennis players complying with the rules and by-laws of the Northern Suburbs Tennis Association Inc. and Tennis New South Wales are eligible to participate in the competitions.

2. INELIGIBILITY

Any player unfinancial with any Club or the Association or with any other Association will not be permitted to compete with a team in any Club until such time as the person has become financial. The eligibility or otherwise of players not covered by the above shall be determined by the Committee of Management as the need arises.

3. FEES AND FINES

- a) Fees of all nature shall be determined by the Committee of Management.
- b) If any team withdraws from a competition, the Committee of Management will decide if any action is required to be taken against the team/club. Registration fees will NOT be refunded. Full fees may be withheld to pay for any expenses i.e court hire if a team withdraws within 48hrs of the commencement of the competition or after the competition has commenced.
- c) Late entries will only be accepted prior to the grading of teams, as determined by the Committee of Management.

4. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- a) Competitions will be conducted on days as set by the Committee of Management determine.
- b) Teams shall be of such composition and shall play in such manner in the format decided by the Committee of Management.
- c) Clubs should not enter players in a team with a grading difference of more than two grades or 2 rating points as determined by either IPR or UTR , except in the case of reserves (see rule 11b - reserves are not "entered players"). Players who fall under this rule, cannot play for that team as a full member.
- d) There may be as many grades and divisions as needed and will be decided by the Grading Committee.
- e) The NSTA Administrator and Committee or Management has the right to decide in which grade or division a team or individual player shall compete. No appeal will be allowed against any decision of the Committee of Management once teams are entered for the competition.

- f) Each team that enters must have a Captain and supply contact details for this captain ie email and telephone number submitted with the team entry.
- g) With the permission of the Competition Committee a player shall be allowed to play in more than one match on the same day. This player may only play in a higher grade than their own graded team. If a player is entered in a team but fills in more than 3 times in a grade above themselves then they must remain in that grade for the remainder of that competition, with the exception of juniors who may play in both Saturday/Sunday morning and/or Saturday afternoon competitions without penalty.
- h) If subsequently appears that a team has been entered in a higher or lower grade than it should have been by way of incorrect information supplied by the Club as to grading or ability of any member of the team, such team may be disqualified by the Committee of Management and all competition points earned by or against it may be disallowed.
- i) The Committee of Management reserves the right to refuse the entry of any Club or player at their discretion.

5. MATCH RULES

- a) All matches must be played under the Rules of Tennis as adopted by Tennis New South Wales. This will preclude the use of mobile phones and similar devices on court during matches.
- b) Matches (not hit-up) will commence and finish at times and dates stipulated by the Committee of Management subject to local Club conditions.
- c) Players are entitled to a five minute hit-up before their first set ONLY.
- d) Every Club must delegate a person to be contacted for court condition in the event of doubtful weather. Should this person be unavailable then a responsible person of the Club will make the decision as to play. The Team Captain is deemed to be a responsible person.
- e) Matches suspended by 30mins shall be called off unless both teams mutually agree to wait longer.
- f) When a team does not have a pair ready to play 10mins after the stipulated commencing time, that team must forfeit a set. An additional set shall be forfeited for each 5 minutes elapsed when no pair is available to play. If after a match has commenced a team does not have the nominated player/players ready to play a set 5 minutes after the previous set has been completed, then the offending team must forfeit the following set and further sets for each 5 minutes which elapse before a player/players are ready to play. Any set which has been forfeited must be immediately noted on the result card by both captains.
* Injured players refer Rule 11 g).
- g) Partners in a match once started cannot be altered. They may be altered for subsequent matches.
- h) Saturday Mixed competitions shall consist of 2 men and 2 women and play 2 mens and 2 ladies doubles and 4 mixed doubles. Order of format is to be agreed by both captains and to be played across 2 courts as specified on the draw.
- i) Saturday Doubles only competition shall consist of 2 players of either gender, playing 3 sets against the opposing team.
- j) Saturday Singles and Doubles / Sunday 8am & 10am competitions shall consist of 2 players of either gender and play – 1 singles and 1 doubles each player, equalling a total 3 sets against the opposing team. Players will be numbered 1 & 2 for the entire competition (unless a reserve is filling in). Toss will occur at the start of each singles and doubles set.
- k) If the Clubs concerned mutually agree to play their match on the court of the visiting Club or any other court, they may do so, but the Committee of Management will regard the fixture as having been played on the court of the team shown as the “home” team.
- l) The home team must supply at least 3 NEW approved tennis balls for all grades/divisions except for Saturday morning junior and Sunday 8am green ball competitions. All balls must comply with Rule 16b).
- m) A forfeit will apply against Clubs who do not notify their opposition by 10.00am Friday prior to any match being moved from the court as shown in the “Directions to Courts”. No play in that match shall take place, but if it does, it will be deemed that this rule has not been exercised.
- n) In the event of extreme heat (34 degrees celsius and above), any match in progress may be abandoned by a team and/or player electing not to continue. In this case subsequent sets and points will be split between the teams.
- o) In extreme heat if both teams mutually agree then the match may continue. NO FORFEIT will be awarded due to a team not wanting to continue play.

6. DETERMINING QUALIFYING TEAMS

- a) Each grade or division is a competition on its own. Each team shall meet each other team in its own grade or division in the preliminary rounds. Unless prior permission is received from the Competition Committee, all rounds as set down in the fixture shall be played on the day set down in the draw. To decide which team is the winner of the grade or division at the end of the preliminary rounds, knockout semi-finals and then a final shall be played where deemed appropriate by the Competition Committee and/or Committee of Management. The leading teams in the preliminary rounds as calculated below (Rule 7) shall participate in such knockout matches. The draw for all play semi-finals is determine by xpoint team. Winners will be determined by xpoint to play in the finals.
- b) When 2 or more teams finish on equal points then the team/teams which qualify shall be decided on match results between those teams. Where the result was a draw or the match(es) not played, the result will be decided on percentages. The percentage shall be percentage of sets won to total sets played. Should these be equal, the percentage of games won to total games played shall be calculated.

7. SCORING AND MATCH POINTS

- a) All NSTA competition matches play a tiebreak at 5-5. The exception to this rule is if the singles is a pro-set where players will play to 8 games with a tiebreak at 7-7.
- b) The 1st player to win 7 points wins the tiebreak unless the score is 6-6. If the tiebreak score reaches 6-6 a player/s must win by a 2 point advantage. i.e 8-6
- c) Tie-break sets commencing at 5 games all are to be played in all competitions unless otherwise directed by the Competition Committee and/or Committee of Management.
- d) The result of matches will be decided on sets. If the sets are equal, the result will be decided on games.

8. RESULTS

- a) All results are to be entered into xpoint.
- b) Home and Visiting Captains must agree on the result
- c) The team responsible for entering the score in xpoint is:
 - 1. If match is finished - winning team
 - 2. If match is drawn - home team
 - 3. If match is unfinished - home team
 - 4. If match is forfeited - winning team
 - 5. In the event of a match being rained out the Team Captain or Club official from the home team must enter results into xpoint.
- d) Protest action - see Rule 1

9. UMPIRES

- a) There are no umpires or ball boy/girls needed for senior matches.

10. DIRECTIONS FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

- a) Semi-finals shall be played, where possible, on court of the team/s finishing highest in the rounds. Venues for semi-finals and/or finals may not be altered by players once they have been allocated by the Competition Committee, unless with the approval of the Competition Committee.
- b) Clubs using courts without lights for semi-finals and/or finals MUST commence their semi-final or final matches at 2:30pm or make alternate arrangements to provide a court with lights where play may continue until at least 5:30pm.
- c) The team on whose court the semi-finals and final are played will be responsible for providing the new balls in accordance with Rule 5k) and score book if desired.
- d) In semi-finals played on the court of the team/s finishing highest in the rounds, the **visiting** Team Captain shall nominate his/her mixed pair for the first and seventh sets. In semi-finals and/or finals played on a *neutral* court, the Team Captains shall toss to determine home and visiting teams *prior to the start* of play.
- e) Semi-finals and finals must be completed on the date set down and if not, then the team(s) placed highest on points will be declared the winner(s). If a set is unfinished but is a deciding set and where time permits

the set is to be completed to determine the winner.

- f) If the set is not able to be completed winner will be decided by xpoint. Higher placed team are given preference depending on score.
- g) If the result of a semi-final or final is a tie (i.e. sets and games even), a tie-break game (not a complete set) will be played by the pairs that completed the last set.
- h) The Committee of Management may determine a finishing date for all grades/divisions.

NOTE: It is customary for both teams to provide afternoon tea in semi-finals and finals - see Reserve Rule 12 (this rule also includes quarter finals).

11. RESERVES

- a) Clubs may register as many players as they wish prior to the commencement of the first round of the competition, provided the player/players do not lift the team out of the grade or division in which the team has been placed by the Grading Committee.
- b) A reserve or substitute player must be of the same grade or lower than the player replaced, regardless of the nominal grade in which the team is entered. It is the responsibility of the team using the reserve to check the IPR or UTR of the reserving player.
- c) A reserve may play for more than one team in the same division of the competition, but that reserve may be ineligible to play in the semis and/or finals, subject to the discretion of the Competition Committee.
- d) Provided that the reserve is registered with the NSTA there is no need to notify the Competition Secretary where a substitute is made during the rounds.
- e) Reserve's name, email and grade must be recorded on xpoint. If a reserve is to become a permanent playing member of a team the competition administrator is to be notified so that player can be added to the team on xpoint.
- f) No player whose team has qualified for the higher division after an 8 team division has been split may reserve in a team which qualified for the lower division.
- g) A reserve may be introduced into a match after the commencement of play. For example, if a player is unable to continue due to an injury during a match, a reserve, provided he/she complies with the reserve requirements, may replace him/her. However, any incomplete set must be forfeited by the team of the injured player. A reserve used to replace an injured player must be available within 15mins. A time limit of 5 minutes applies from the stoppage of play for the injured player to decide if he/she can continue the set. At the completion of the 5 minutes the injured player either re-commences the set or forfeits same. Should the injury occur within 5 minutes of finishing time, the set is not forfeited, only the game in progress.

NOTE: I) For the purpose of this rule a player is deemed to be a person named on the original team entry form or subsequently added to that form. A reserve is deemed to be any other person who is not nominated for any team.

II) Refer Rule 11a) and 11b)

12. RESERVES FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

- a) Players who have not played 2 rounds for their team are considered reserves, regardless of whether they were on the original team entry form or not.
- b) A player listed on the team entry but has not played 2 matches for their team during the rounds is NOT eligible to play the semi and/or finals. Players from other teams may be used if they have played 2 or more matches. Approval from NSTA Competition administration is needed in this instance.
- c) The maximum reserves for three or four person teams is two, while only one reserve is permitted in two person teams. Thus, if any team needs more than the permitted number of reserves, it shall have to forfeit the match. The Competition Committee may replace any unavailable team with the next highest ranking team to play in the semi or final.
- d) Apart from complying with the above conditions, where applicable when a team requires a reserve, the Club/Captain must submit to the Competition Administrator, before the match commences, the name of the intended reserve who shall be of the same grade or lower as the player being replaced, for approval.
- e) Any member of the Executive or Grading Committee shall have the power to accept last minute registrations for reserves, subject to confirmation by the Competition Secretary.

- f) Any person who has played in at least 3 rounds as a reserve is eligible to play.
- g) A player who is injured after commencement of play in a semi or final may, with the consent of the opposing Captain, after forfeiture of the set in progress, be replaced by a person who is a registered team member and who has played sufficient matches to qualify for the semi or final.

13. FORFEITS

- a) If any team forfeits or fails to play any match set down, its opponents shall be awarded the whole match points.
- b) In the event of a team forfeiting more than three matches, all points, sets and games relative to that team will be deleted, the team withdrawn from the competition and may be debarred from further competitions.
- c) See Rule 6 for effect on qualifying team.

14. PROTESTS

- a) Any question arising in any of the competitions as to the construction or application of these rules shall be decided by the Committee of Management, its decisions to be final. In the event of any dispute, protest in writing must be lodged within 3 days or such further time as the Committee of Management may allow, with the Association.
- b) In the event of a protest arising out of any particular match, the intention to protest must be indicated ASAP via email directly to NSTA.

15. MISCONDUCT

- a) Complaints relating to any form of unsportsmanlike behaviour referred to the NSTA Disciplinary Committee of Management and could result in that player being suspended from any or all NSTA events for a period of up to 12 months.
- b) The Tennis Australia Code of Conduct and Tennis Etiquette shall be observed in all NSTA competitions and tournaments and read in conjunction with the respective event's conditions.
- c) Misconduct rules also apply to spectators

16. COURTS AND BALLS

- a) All courts shall be kept in good order and be properly equipped and be subject to the Committee of Management's approval.
- b) Matches will be played with any tennis ball approved by Tennis Australia. Must be NEW balls.

17. CORRECT TENNIS ATTIRE

Competition players (including reserves) may wear either white or coloured tennis/sports clothing while playing in all competitions. Players who are incorrectly dressed will not be permitted to play at any time on the Association's courts. Correct tennis shoes or runners are to be worn. No studs, heels, rippled, thongs/sandals or barefeet are to be worn at any time.

18. GRADING LIST

- a) The Committee of Management reserves the right to re-grade any player at any time throughout the year.
- b) Whenever a player is regraded that grade becomes effective immediately, except however, if that player is playing in a competition which is deemed to be in progress, then, it is for the Competition Committee to adjudicate upon who is an acceptable reserve for that re-graded player.
Note Rule 11 - Reserves.

19. USE OF COURTS FOR TOURNAMENTS ETC.

Each Club entering a team or teams in any Senior Competitions (i.e. Saturday afternoon and/or Sunday morning) shall be obliged, if required, to place courts at the disposal of the Association for tournament purposes.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) All correspondence to the Association's Committee of Management or Sub-committees on competitions from any registered member or our Association may only be accepted if submitted through the Secretary of their Club direct to the Association's Secretary.
- b) All correspondence from the Association will be directed through Club Secretaries unless the Association is notified otherwise.

21. INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

NSTA follow the rules and regulations as set by Tennis Australia for tournaments and competitions and as determined by the Committee of Management.

NSTA TENNIS ETIQUETTE

PARENTS AND PLAYERS ARE REQUESTED TO ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING TENNIS ETIQUETTE WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED AND ADOPTED BY THE NORTHERN SUBURBS TENNIS ASSOCIATION FOR ALL COMPETITION PLAY:

- When you are the home team, try to identify your opponents before the match starts, welcome them and tell them which court the match will be played on
- Players are to display good sportsmanship at all times. It is important to remain calm while you are playing and not lose your temper or throw your racquet. Staying calm will assist you to play better and improve your tennis
- Return the balls along the ground or hit gently directly back to the server.
- Don't walk at the back or side of the court when a point is being played
- Say sorry or hold up your hand if you get a net cord
- Don't return faults unless the ball is very close
- Compliment good shots
- Don't talk during a point unless to say 'yours/mine' etc.
- If your partner is playing his/her singles, do not talk to the players on court
- Don't talk to the umpire as it can disrupt his/her concentration
- Don't question the umpire's calls and especially don't hassle the umpire. Accept mistakes if they are made (mistakes are made at Wimbledon)
- **It is very important for parents and other spectators to also accept the umpire's (and players') calls, whether they are correct or not, and not interfere with the play from off the court.**
- **Spectators (including parents) should not sit court-side or speak to the players during a match**
- Umpiring –
 - * concentrate
 - * call the balls and score loudly after each point
 - * call fairly – remember the edge of the line is in
- **Spectators should clap good shots on both sides and be particularly careful not to clap mistakes, e.g. double faults**

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19. It is your obligation to call all balls on your side, to help your opponent make calls when the opponent requests it, and to **call against yourself** (with the exception of all first service) any ball that you clearly see out on your opponent's side of the net.
20. Each player is responsible for all decisions in his/her half of the court. He/she should be completely honest on all 'calls' but, if in doubt, he/she should give his/her opponent the benefit of the doubt and play the ball as good. You should **not** play a let.
21. In doubles, when returning service, the partner of the receiver should call the service line for him/her, with the receiver calling the centre and side service lines.
22. Any 'out', 'let' or 'fault' call must be made instantaneously (i.e. made before either an opponent has hit the return or the return has gone out of play); otherwise the ball continues in play.

23. If you call a ball 'out', and then realise it was good, you should correct your call.
24. Do **not** enlist the aid of spectators in making the line call.
25. If players cannot agree on the score, they may go back to the last score on which there was agreement and resume play from that point.
26. To avoid controversy over the score, the server should announce the game score before starting a game and the point score prior to serving each point.
27. Players are prohibited from checking the mark of the ball on their opponent's side of the court.
28. Wait until a point is over before walking behind a court where a match is in progress.
29. To retrieve a ball from another court or to return a ball to another court, wait until the players have completed a point.
30. Do not stall, sulk, complain nor practice gamesmanship.
31. When ball persons are not available all balls on your side of the net are your responsibility to pick up and where appropriate, return direct to the server.
32. The receiver should not return the first service if it is an obvious fault – let it go by or ground it.

1. TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE

1. SINGLES

- a) A player who first wins seven (7) points shall win the game and the set provided he leads by a margin of two (2) points. If the score reaches six (6) points all, the game shall be extended until this margin has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tie-break game.
- b) The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. His opponent shall be the server for the second and third points and thereafter each player shall serve alternately for two (2) consecutive points until the winner of the game and set has been decided.
- c) From the first point, each service shall be delivered alternately from the right and left courts, beginning from the right court.
- d) Players shall change ends after every six (6) points and at the conclusion of the tie-break game.

2. DOUBLES

In doubles, the procedure for singles shall apply, the player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter each player shall serve in rotation for two points in the same order as previously in that set until the winners of the game and set have been decided.