

# VICTORIAN MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION INC.

## GENERAL PENNANT BY-LAWS

### DEFINITIONS

- (a) "The VMSA" means the Victorian Masters Squash Association Inc.
- (b) "The Pennant Committee" means the Pennant Committee of the VMSA controlling the competition.
- (c) "The General Committee" means the General Committee of the VMSA.

### 1. INTERPRETATION OF BY-LAWS

The Pennant Committee is responsible for the interpretation of the By-Laws. However, the General Committee is the final authority for such interpretation.

### 2. PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF BY-LAWS

- (a) The VMSA has the power to impose penalties for the breach of any these By-Laws, by any of the following forms: disqualification, suspension, fine, the awarding of any rubber or match to the opposing team, and/or the deduction of points already scored. The Pennant Committee will adjudicate on all matters relating to breaches of the By-Laws. The Pennant Committee is to confer and adjudicate within seven (7) days of a request for adjudication.
- (b) The Pennant Committee may elect to forward the matter to the VMSA Tribunal. The Tribunal will consist of three (3) persons from a possible panel of seven (7), all pre-approved by the General Committee. The Tribunal is to meet and adjudicate within seven (7) days following the request from the Pennant Committee. All parties relative to the adjudication must be present at the time of the Tribunal hearing.

### 3. PROCEDURE FOR PROTESTS ALLEGING BREACHES OF BY-LAWS

Protests alleging breaches of these By-Laws must be lodged in writing with the Pennant Committee within seven (7) days of the occurrence of the alleged breach.

### 4. FINES / PENALTIES

The following fines may be imposed for infringements as determined by the VMSA:

Falsifying Results:	<b>Loss of points &amp; possible suspension</b>
Ineligible or unregistered player:	<b>Loss of points</b>
Incorrect playing order:	<b>Loss of points</b>
Individual walkover:	<b>Court costs for both players</b>
Team walkover:	<b>\$100 plus all court costs</b>
Failure to officiate as markers/referees at finals:	<b>\$160</b>
Failure to attend compulsory meeting:	<b>\$50</b>
Withdrawal of nominated team after grading:	<b>\$170</b>
Non-payment of funds outstanding to VMSA:	<b>Penalty as determined by Pennant Committee</b>

### 5. PROCEDURE FOR APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS

- (a) Any appeal against an interpretation or decision by the Pennant Committee or General Committee under these By-Laws must be lodged in writing with the Secretary of the VMSA within seven (7) days from notification of such decision.
- (b) If an appeal against disqualification or suspension is correctly lodged, the disqualified or suspended team or person will not be debarred from taking part in matches until the appeal has been heard. Should the appeal not be upheld the decision of the Pennant Committee or the VMSA Tribunal shall be enforced as from the date of the original notification of the decision to the disqualified or suspended team or person, or such date as the VMSA decides.

### 6. PENALTY FOR NON-PAYMENT OF FINES

- (a) Any team or person not paying the full amount of any fine imposed under these By-Laws to the Treasurer of the VMSA within thirty (30) days after notification of the imposition of such fine shall, unless it has been appealed within the specified time of 7 days, be penalised under the provisions of By-Laws 2 and 4.
- (b) To be eligible to play in the finals any team or person must pay the full amount of any fine incurred during the season, and the provisions of paragraph 5(a) shall not apply.
- (c) To be eligible to enter teams in any pennant season a club must have paid any monies outstanding incurred by any person or team representing that club which are outstanding from the previous season.

### 7. POWER TO DEMAND INFORMATION

The Pennant Committee has the power at any time to demand the information regarding the circumstances under which any match has been played, or any matters relating thereto.

### 8. PROVISIONS FOR FINALS

- (a) All teams in the Pennant Competition are required to make available referees and markers for the finals series of the Pennant Competition.
- (b) The VMSA may require venues at which VMSA pennant matches are played to make courts available for the finals series of the competition.

### 9. RULES AND ETIQUETTE OF THE GAME

Matches shall be played under the rules of the game of Squash as determined by the World Squash Federation, the interpretation of which shall rest with the Pennant Committee unless otherwise indicated by these By-Laws and players shall observe the etiquette of the game and refrain from unseemly or improper behaviour on and off the court while present at a pennant match and its associated events.

## 10. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- (a)
  - i) Full Member who has attained the age of 35 years and who pays annual subscription, has voting rights at all General Meetings, is eligible to stand for election as an Office Bearer, is eligible for selection in State Teams, and receives other benefits of full membership (e.g. receipt of "Masters Voice" and reduced tournament entry fees); or
  - ii) Associate Member whose name/date of birth must be included on team entry forms, or is a late registration, name/date of birth/order of merit must be advised to the appropriate Pennant Co-ordinator. Each nominated player must be 35 years or over for men and 30 years or over for women, and agree to abide by the Rules, By-Laws and Philosophy of Masters.
- (b) All required registration details of players added to teams after the commencement of the pennant season must be provided on the Results sheet unless previously supplied to the Pennant Committee. Clubs are responsible to supply "Proof of Age" to the VMSA at any time; penalties will be at the VMSA's discretion.

## 11. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

The financial requirements shall be determined annually by the Pennant Committee and there will be an entrance fee for each team entered.

## 12. TRANSFERS AND LIMITATION OF PLAY IN COMPETITION

No player having been nominated to play for any club or for any team shall be allowed to transfer to another team during a season.

## 13. TEAM ENTRIES

Team entries for Pennant competition must be in the form laid down by the VMSA and be submitted to the Results Officer by the date set down. The team entry fee must be paid before the commencement of the season. All nominated teams must include a minimum of four (4) regular players in team position order, and wherever possible, should include a female. Alternate players can be nominated in original team entries.

## 14. POWER TO RESTRICT TEAMS, AND DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF GRADES

- (a) The VMSA has the right to restrict the number of teams, refuse entry, and decide the grading of teams.
- (b) If at the time of grading the number of teams entered in the competition does not divide into an exact number of grades and sections, a maximum of one bye in a section shall be allocated, or a three round season played.
- (c) Any team withdrawing from the competition after the gradings have been determined shall forfeit their team entry fee and shall be fined as per By-Law 4.
- (d) A Premiership team will not be automatically promoted to a higher grade for the following season unless it is considered to be of a suitable standard.

## 15. ORDER OF MERIT

- (a) Prior to the commencement of the first round of the competition a list must be submitted comprising all eligible Masters players in overall Club order of merit through the grades. NO player is permitted to play out of this order of merit, except as provided for in By-Law 16.
- (b) No alteration to the graded order of players will be permitted, except as provided for in By-Law 16.
- (c) Any new player who was not included in the team's original nominations for the grading must be registered on the Results sheet or have been approved by the Pennant Committee. Such inclusions will not be permitted to strengthen a team beyond the standard of the particular grade.
- (d) Any new player included in the team after teams are graded and advised to Clubs, will be graded as an alternate at the No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 or No. 4 positions with the existing players. Alternate players in each of these positions must be ranked in order of merit, e.g. 2A, 2B, 2C. Alternate players may play above their graded position, in the correct Club order of merit, but they cannot play below their graded position. Alternate players may play four matches. Requests to play additional matches must be approved by the Pennant Committee.
- (e) Where a player from a team of a lower grade is called upon to play in a team of a higher grade the player must play in accordance with approved Club order of merit described in Clause 15 (a) above.
- (f) A player cannot play twice in the same round for any other team in the same grade and must seek permission from the Pennant Committee to play for any other grade.
- (g) PLAYING ACROSS IN THE SAME GRADE: where a club has one or more teams in the same grade a player is permitted to play across into the other team/s only in accordance with the following procedure:
  - i. The number four (4) player and below from one team may play across automatically into the other team/s in accordance with by-law 15(a).
  - ii. Positions 1, 2 and 3 may only play across into the other team/s in the same grade after being approved by the Pennant Committee.
  - iii. NO player, including the number four (4) and below from one team, may play across into the other team/s during the FINALS SERIES unless permission is granted by the Pennant Committee.

## 16. ALTERATION TO ORDER OF MERIT

- (a) The Pennant Committee has the right to alter the order of merit of any team at any time. No alteration to order of merit will be permitted without the permission of the Pennant Committee.
- (b) If a team considers that their order of merit needs adjusting, details of the proposed adjustment must be submitted to the Results officer by the Club Co-ordinator of that team before that last match of the first half (or first third if a 3 round season) of the pennant season, or by the date nominated by the Pennant Committee.

## 17. DUTIES OF HOME TEAM

The home team shall supply the court, in accordance with By-Law 22, and at least one new squash ball of a type approved by the Pennant Committee. The home team shall provide supper for the visiting team. Liquid refreshments are the responsibility of each player, whether at home or away (see also By-Law 30)

## **18. COMPOSITION OF TEAM AND SELECTION OF OPPONENT**

Four registered players from each team shall compete and each player shall play a rubber against one of the opposing team. The members of each team shall be arranged in the order consistent with the order of merit of their team, and in every case No. 1 player of one team shall play No. 1 player of the opposing team, No. 2 play No. 2, etc.

## **19. PENNANT MATCH PROCEDURE**

- (a) Captains must advise their opposing captains of the composition of their teams before commencement of any match.
- (b) Each rubber shall be the best of 5 games played according to the rules of Squash and these By-Laws.
- (c) The playing order should follow the nominated playing order outlined in the pennant fixture but it is not restricted to this order if the two opposing captains agree on a variation. However, if they cannot agree on an alternate order then the playing order MUST be decided by the tossing of a coin. The team captain winning the toss shall nominate the players for the first rubber and thereafter captains alternate choice of subsequent rubbers. Subsequent rubbers must be nominated when either player of the rubber in progress has won 2 games. All eight players nominated for the match should be present at the commencement time unless otherwise agreed by team captains.

## **20. DISPUTE OVER PLAYING ORDER**

In the event of a dispute over the playing order of a team, the match shall be played under protest, and the Pennant Committee shall determine the matter on receipt of a protest submitted according to these By-Laws.

## **21. NIGHT OF PLAY**

Masters Pennant matches are to be played on Thursday nights.

- (a) Where Clubs cannot meet this requirement, we shall consider Friday night as the only alternative and this request must be forwarded with their team entries.
- (b) Requests for matches to be played other than on the designated night must be approved by the Pennant Committee. (Match to be played within 2 weeks of original date set down.)
- (c) In the event that the match is not played, the court costs are the responsibility of the team, or both teams, defaulting, and must be paid to the court/centre without delay. Further premiership points may not be allocated until such debt is settled, and points not so allocated will not necessarily be re-instated. Dispute must be submitted to the Pennant Director.

## **22. STARTING TIME AND PLACE FOR PLAYING MATCHES**

All matches shall be played at the places approved by the Association and shall commence at the time stated in the current fixture. If play is not commenced within 15 minutes of the time laid down, the team offended against may claim the rubber by default. Fifteen minutes grace shall be allowed after each rubber for the succeeding rubber to start. If play does not commence at the expiration of such grace, the team offended against may claim the particular rubber or rubbers also. However, if a rubber is played after the expiration of the 15 minute period of grace, the team offended against must advise the team at fault of its intention to claim that rubber prior to the playing thereof, otherwise the result of the playing of the rubber shall stand. If both teams default in entirety, the match shall be cancelled.

## **23. VARIATION IN PLACE AND DATE OF PLAY**

No alteration shall be made in places and dates set down unless with previous consent of the Pennant Committee. Should a match not be played as so arranged, then the team in default shall be deemed to have been defeated, provided however, that the question as to whether the team is in default or not shall be decided by the Pennant Committee.

## **24. POWER TO ORDER REPLAY OR ALTER TIME OF MATCH**

The Pennant Committee has the power to order any match to be replayed, either wholly or in part, and to alter the time for playing any match.

## **25. MARKING AND REFEREEING**

Marking and refereeing of pennant matches shall be carried out by the members of each team or by accredited referees unless otherwise agreed by the team captains, or as directed by the Pennant Committee. A person from each team, nominated by their respective team captain, shall officiate at each rubber, the roles of marking and refereeing being altered for each consecutive rubber. If the captains fail to agree, the roles of marking and refereeing of the first rubber shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

## **26. INJURIES – CONTINUITY OF PLAY**

In the event of injury to a player, the provisions of Rule 16 of the Squash Rules of the World Singles Game (2001) shall generally apply.

## **27. SUBSTITUTE PLAYER IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

Where a match has commenced, and a team member nominated as per By-law 19 is unable to commence their rubber, due to sudden illness, accidental disablement or any good and sufficient reason, a substitute player may take his/her place, providing that:

- (a) The opposing captain agrees
- (b) Proposed substitute is eligible under these By-laws. If no substitute player is approved a forfeit shall be given.

## **28. MATCH AND INDIVIDUAL WALKOVERS**

- (a) If any team receives a match walkover from any other team, it shall be awarded all rubbers, games and points.
- (b) In the event of a default occurring in any match which has commenced, the team not defaulting shall be awarded all uncompleted rubbers, games and points.
- (c) In the event of a walkover of an individual rubber being given before a match commences, the players in the team giving the walkover must move to the higher positions, thus giving the walkover at the No. 4 position.
- (d) In the event of a walkover of an individual rubber being given in a match which has already commenced, the team not defaulting shall also be awarded all rubbers, games and points competed for by the players at lower positions in the two teams. The Pennant Committee may waive this ruling if the circumstances causing the walkover are deemed to be of an extreme or sound nature.
- (e) In the event of a forfeit as per By-Law 27(b), all results from completed matches will stand.
- (f) Each team which forfeits or grants a walkover will pay for each rubber forfeited or lost by walkover, an amount equal to 25% of the cost of hiring the court for a complete pennant match. The collection of such fees is the responsibility of the court owner.

## **29. POSTPONED OR ABANDONED MATCHES**

In the event of a match being postponed after play has commenced all rubbers already decided shall stand. If a match is abandoned due to circumstances that make play impossible, such as an electrical blackout, those rubbers already decided shall stand if a match result has been achieved. The winning team will also gain two additional premiership points. However, if no match result has been achieved, premiership points awarded on the night will be shared, with three points awarded to each team.

### **30. PROCEDURE FOR CONVENYANCE OF CORRECT RESULT**

- (a) The home team shall be responsible for sending the match results to the Results Officer.
- (b) The match result must be recorded on the official result sheet for the competition and must be a correct and complete record.
- (c) Both teams must ensure that team names & numbers, full names of players, order of merit numbers, Grade & Round numbers are recorded on the Result sheet.
- (d) Such Result sheet shall be signed and certified correct by a member of each team and must be sent to the Results Officer no later than 9am on the morning following the match.

### **31. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY IN FINALS**

- (a) To be eligible to play in the finals series of a Grade, a player must have played at least 6 matches in a 15 week season **in the original nominated team**, assuming no byes occur. Under special circumstances, however, the Pennant Committee may sanction the playing of players who have not qualified under this By-Law, in any match of the finals series.
- (b) If players are unavailable for finals, their positions must be filled by the remaining available eligible players of the team. Teams may then seek prior approval from the Pennant Committee for a reserve player to fill the subsequent vacancy. Reserves will be expected to be provided from teams in lower grades and they must play in the correct Club order of merit. Reserve players must be eligible to play in finals, as per By-Law 31(a). In the situation where there is no lower graded team in the Club then special circumstances may apply. The inclusion of players under this By-Law will not be permitted to strengthen the team.
- (c) No player however may play in the same final match in two grades.

### **32. PREMIERSHIP POINTS**

- (a) For all matches played during the competition one (1) point shall be awarded for each game won and two (2) points shall be awarded for a team win. To decide the overall winner on the night, rubbers shall be counted first, then the games and, if necessary, points.
- (b) In the case of all rubbers, games & points being equal, the result will be deemed a draw with equal points awarded.
- (c) In a grade where 8 teams (including 7 & Bye), have played an 18 week season (three rounds), rounds 6, 7 & 12 will be allocated 'double points' to create a virtual balanced draw.
- (d) The pennant premiers at the conclusion of the home/away matches shall be decided by a finals system as nominated by the VMSA prior to the commencement to the season.

### **33. PROCEDURE IF TEAMS HAVE EQUAL POINTS**

In the event of two or more teams being equal on premiership points at the conclusion of the home/away matches, the final order of such teams shall be determined by comparing the rubbers won to rubbers lost for each team and if they be equal, the proportion of games won and lost shall be compared. If teams are still equal then points won and lost shall be compared. Any match walkovers, together with the corresponding match other teams involved in the calculation played against this team which had given the match walkover, shall be excluded from the calculation.

### **34. DRAW IN FINALS SERIES**

In the event of a draw (i.e. equal rubbers, games and points) in a semi-final, preliminary final or grand final, the same players who played the final rubber will play one deciding game after a 15 minute break. The team that wins this deciding game is the winner of the match.

### **35. MATCH PROCEDURE IN FINAL SERIES**

- (a) Captains must advise their opposing captains of the composition of their teams before commencement of any match.
- (b) Each rubber shall be the best of 5 games played according to the rules of Squash and these By-Laws.
- (c) The playing order is to be decided by the tossing of a coin. The team captain winning the toss shall nominate the players for the first Rubber and thereafter captains alternate choice of subsequent rubbers. Subsequent rubbers must be nominated when either player of the rubber in progress has won 2 games. All eight players nominated for the match should be present at the commencement time unless otherwise agreed by team captains.

### **36. REFEREEING/MARKING DUTIES IN FINALS SERIES**

(a) Except as provided for in By-Law 35(b) and subject to the decision by the Pennant Committee on the finals system to be played (as per By-Law 32):

- i) In a grade where 6 teams have played the season the team finishing 6<sup>th</sup> shall control both the 1<sup>st</sup> Semi Final (3v4) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final (1v2), the team finishing 5<sup>th</sup> shall control the Preliminary Final (winner 1<sup>st</sup> Semi final v loser 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi final) and the losing team of the 1<sup>st</sup> Semi final shall control the Grand Final (winner 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi final v winner Preliminary Final).
- ii) In a grade where there are 5 teams and a Bye, the team finishing 5<sup>th</sup> shall control both the 1<sup>st</sup> Semi Final (3v4) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final (1v2), the VMSA Committee shall provide both referees and markers for the Preliminary Final (winner 1<sup>st</sup> Semi Final v loser 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final) and the losing team of the 1<sup>st</sup> Semi Final shall control the Grand Final (winner 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final v winner Preliminary Final).
- iii) In a grade where 4 teams have played the season, as all 4 teams will play in the final series the players will mark and referee their own matches in the 1<sup>st</sup> Semi Finals (3 v4) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final (1v2) and the Preliminary Final (winner 1<sup>st</sup> Semi Final v loser 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final). The VMSA Committee shall provide referees and markers for the Grand Final.

(b) In the event of a team being scheduled to referee and mark a team from its own Club, the Pennant Committee reserves the right to rearrange the order as set down in By-Law 35(a). Where possible such notification shall be indicated on the results of Round 15, however, the Pennant Committee may find it necessary to make changes after that date and shall notify the captains of the teams concerned.

### **37. PENNANT DELEGATE MEETINGS**

The VMSA Committee may call pennant meetings when considered necessary. A representative from all Clubs with teams nominated to play Masters Pennant must attend. Non-attendance will be penalised as per By-Law 4.