

Beach Tennis Competition – Rules and Information



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In this competition the emphasis is on enjoyment, social atmosphere. While competitiveness is not discouraged, it should be remembered that novice players need some encouragement and the "win at all costs" philosophy is not appropriate. The normal rules of Beach Tennis shall apply except to the extent that they are negated or modified by these rules. Matches will be self umpired, and thus honesty and good sportsmanship is expected from every player. Call the ball as you see it, and in a timely fashion.

Number of Players

- Doubles Competition will consist of **3 player teams**.
- Singles Competition will consist of **2 player teams**.
- Teams should organise their own reserve players.
- Teams **can borrow players** from other teams if a reserve cannot be found.

The Playing Area

- The court will be marked out to be **16m x 8m**, and divided in the middle by the net which will be **1.7m high**. For Singles a line will be placed lengthwise down the court to form the **5m wide** Singles court.

Format of Play

- Players in each team should be ranked in order of ability.
- Doubles Competition will consist of **3 sets** of Doubles with each individual team member playing with both partners; i.e. 1&2 v 1&2, 2&3 v 2&3, 1&3 v 1&3.
- Singles Competition will consist of **2 sets** of Singles against your opposite number and **1 set** of Doubles with your partner.
- Regular tennis scoring is used, with sudden death at Deuce (no-add scoring).
- Each set is **first to 6 games** with a tie-breaker played at 5 all.

General Beach Tennis Rules

- Serve is hit in from **behind the baseline**, over or underarm. When playing mixed doubles, male players must serve underarm.
- There are **no services faults**. If you miss your serve, you lose the point.
- All players except the server must be **inside the court** when the ball is served.
- The server **may take a run** up before hitting the serve and can jump into the court to hit it; however, they must leave the ground outside the court and must hit the ball before landing.
- If the ball clips the net on the serve, there is **no "let"**, play continues.
- Players can stand in any position on the court. There are **NO determined positions**.
- The server can serve **from any position** behind the baseline (as long as they are between the sidelines), **to either side** of the oppositions court, on any point.
- In general play if the **ball touches the line it is 'in'**.
- Players cannot hit the ball off the sand, it **must be volleyed** (hit on the full).
- If you **touch the net** at any time whilst the ball is in play, you lose the point.
- You **cannot reach over the net to play a shot**. It must cross onto your side of the court.
- Players should use AFBT/IFBT approved **Beach Tennis equipment**. Racquets must adhere to regulation lengths and widths. Paddle bats or tennis racquets are not permitted.
- The ball can **only be hit once** before returning over the net. If a player accidentally hits the ball twice within a single swinging motion, then this is deemed to be one shot and play should continue.

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Discrepancies & Disciplinary Actions

- Both teams should keep track of the score at all times, **calling it audibly after every point**. If however there is a discrepancy over what the score is at any stage of the match and the correct score cannot be established or agreed upon, the score will revert back to the **last agreeable score**.
- This competition is social and friendly. Any **aggressive play, abusive/offensive language or bickering will not be tolerated**. Please report any such incident immediately to a Camden Beach Sports competition organiser.
- Competition organisers will not act on hearsay, however will **supervise matches** in the event of problems with players or teams.
- Any deliberate act of aggression or offensive behaviour may result in a **warning or immediate point penalty** depending on organiser's discretion.
- Continuation of untoward behaviour will result in **game penalties or default loss of the set and/or match**.
- Severe cases of intolerable behaviour will result in **suspension from the competition and/or a complete ban**, with no refund of registration or match fees already payed.
- **Kicking or throwing of sand** will not be tolerated. Anyone caught doing this deliberately will be dealt with accordingly.

Finals

- Players can only play for **1 team** across the finals series.
- To be eligible to play in the Grand Final a player must be a registered Beach Sports member and have played at least **3 matches** for the team in the final.
- Finals matches **will be umpired**.

Meet Friends, Have Fun, Keep Fit!!