

O'Halloran Hill Tennis Club

Information for Junior Players – February 2019

The Association:

The O'Halloran Hill Tennis Club is a member of the Southern Districts Tennis Association which includes Kesmond, Colonel Light West, Hope Ward, Denman, Kingswood, Goodwood, Walford, Mercedes, Blackwood, Bellevue Heights, Coromandel Valley, Flagstaff Hill, Happy Valley, Reade Park, Reynella, McLaren Vale, Morphett Vale, Willunga, Hackham, Noarlunga and Port Noarlunga.

The Club:

The club was formed in 1980 and has an elected committee - Neil Davidson (President), Andrew Johns (Vice President), Andrew Olds (Secretary), Vicki Nash (Treasurer) and general committee members Rebecca Baldwin, Scott Thompson and Jamie Moroney.

Teams and Times:

Matches are played Friday night for the Premier and Division 1 grades, Saturdays at 8.30am for the higher grades and at 10.45am for the lowest grades. On Saturdays the cut-off times of 10.45am and 12.45pm are strictly observed and no new games (not sets) should commence after these times.

For home matches, players should report no later than 15 minutes before the match start time.

One team per session is nominated as the *Roster Team* and are responsible for setting up (8.30am) and for canteen duty (8.30am and 10.45 am sessions).

ALL parents are requested to do their part when their child's team is rostered. Please support your team manager for these tasks.

For away matches players go straight to courts and should arrive at their venue no later than 15 minutes prior to the match.

In each team folder there is an unavailability sheet for you to advise in advance if your child cannot play a particular match.

If required please call Jamie (0477 488 477) to advise of any unavailability's.

OHTC junior teams are loaded onto our website <http://www.ohtc.org.au/> every Monday morning and refreshed as changes are made during the week. The last update is at 4pm Friday and after that players will be phoned if required.

Match draws and venues:

For match information please go to our website www.ohtc.org.au

Here you will find teams, match venues, a link (to Tennis SA) for you to access match and player results and the season programme.

On the junior page is also the court venues for your matches and the Association match rules.

Match results, individual statistics and premierships tables can also be found on the same website.

Information regarding Draws, Venue addresses and Match Rules can also be found on the Southern Districts Tennis Association home page at: <http://www.sdta.org.au/>

Team managers should save these websites on their mobile phones ready for use on a Saturday.

Balls, Folders & Match information:

The nominated manager on your roster is the match day organiser at courts. This person is responsible for completing the scoresheet and swapping it with the opposing team's organiser before matches commence.

It is vital to play the team the way that our club coordinators have named it because the Association has strict order of merit conditions to be maintained which preserve the integrity of the competition. Playing the team in any other order may result in forfeits and lost premierships points.

The manager must also look after the match balls (home matches only) and ensure that all balls are returned with their folder at the end of their match.

Managers should meet and greet the opposition, ensure folders are completed, get matches on court and keep the matches moving so as to finish on time. However Managers are NOT the only people who should score/umpire. They should co-opt others to help. At the end of the match, Managers should ensure that the score sheet is completed - added up correctly and that both teams sign off appropriately. Managers are responsible for ensuring team score folders are returned to OHTC.

In SDTA we have a club rule that parents CANNOT umpire or score their child's matches.

Only Divisions 1-4 have new balls. At OHTC, other grades use previous week's new balls, with the exception that Green Ball grade use a special (75%) low compression ball and Orange Ball grade an even lower compression ball.

8.30am matches play tie-breaks at 6-all; these are not played at 10.45am.

Transport to matches is the responsibility of the parents. The club accepts NO responsibility for arranging transporting or supervision of players to and from matches or practice.

Selection/Order of Merit:

The club selects teams based on order of merit – that is player results. This is an Association requirement. If a player wins two matches in a row and the player above loses two matches in a row then they swap order of merit. This occurs between grades up to the mid season break (around round 9) but only within teams after this point. It cannot occur during finals. Forfeits do not count as a win and sometimes with byes, reserve turns and illness such changes may take a number of weeks to take effect.

While the rules allow for any doubles combination possible (ie the number 1 player could play in the second double), our club has a policy that doubles shall be played in the same order as for singles. This helps to prevent discrimination between players who *only like to play with their favourite partner*.

Please note that while the club coach is consulted by our junior coordinators regarding selection and player order of merit, they do not set the playing order.

As the coach coaches many players in our club it is unfair for us to ask them to rate players against other players in our club. In short – please do not ask the coaches about selection! Please ask our team coordinator Jamie Moronoey, results recorder Vicki Nash, or Club President Neil Davidson.

Reserves:

Although each Saturday a team requires at least 4 players, many of our teams have 5 players with a rotating reserve. This person does not need to show up on match day but should still come to practice during the preceding week and be available even at the last minute to be called upon to play.

Finals:

The club has a policy of playing ALL team members in finals matches. The 5th ranked plays a double only and the 4th ranked plays a single only.

This is REGARDLESS of whether the perception is that the team is weaker or not for selecting the team this way. This is an iron clad rule in our club and NO swapping is permitted or requested.

Canteen and other duties:

As explained above, the roster team responsibilities include canteen duty.

Generally this occurs once or twice per season. You might make toasted sandwiches, sell pies/pasties or drinks or lollies. You will also operate the cash till. In the early timeslot it will also include getting out the bins, opening toilets and gates etc.

On wet days, parents are requested to help sweep courts – we should always set the example and not ask visiting parents to sweep while we “watch”!

Tournaments:

In Summer season both the Association (late November) and the Club (February) run successful tournaments. We encourage our players to participate in these – especially the Club tournament which also has parent/player events.

Practice:

The club engages the services of a professional coach through the Helen Rice Tennis School all year about. All players are expected to practice on the nominated practice night.

Practice sessions are for one hour duration. Half hour is with the coach, while the other half hour is hitting with other team members.

We ask parents to become involved in the training sessions (especially any time that players are not under the direct supervision of the club coach) by keeping players focussed. The practice costs are included within the competition fees paid by each player.

Good behaviour is an expectation at practice sessions as well as at matches.

If practices are *rained* or *heated* out we will advise those teams affected by SMS and also through our Facebook page. Please “like us” on Facebook as this is an easy way to get information about weather cancellations.

Private coaching is available through the Helen Rice Tennis School on a user pays basis. Sessions include private and group sessions. Details can be found on our website or by calling Helen direct on 0428 988 873 or by emailing Helen at helenrice@internode.on.net

Uniform:

Most sports clothing is acceptable. Shorts/skirts are preferred. Denim and tracksuit pants are not acceptable. We also have a club shirt and encourage our players to wear these. They cost \$25 each and can be ordered through Vicki Nash.

Fees:

There are two parts to the fees payable by all players.

The first is a club *membership fee* which is an annual charge. As the membership year runs from July to June, new winter players pay only 50% in their first winter season. If they were a member of another club during the preceding summer season we will waive their first competition fee.

The second fee is a competition fee for that particular season. This covers competition and training costs including team nomination fees, balls and equipment, lights for training (especially winter), club coach and competition administration fees.

All players become honorary members of Tennis Australia including player accident insurance coverage.

All players are invoiced to their email address for fees and due dates are shown on the invoices. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or direct bank deposit (preferred).

The club is flexible as regards payment arrangements but late fees apply if no action is undertaken.

Club Social/Development Activities:

The club runs events across the year. All members and families are invited to attend these events. In lieu of larger fundraising campaigns, the club invoices players a fundraising levy. Some minor fundraising is still conducted.

The club advertises events through its Facebook page, via email and SMS. Managers are asked to encourage players and families to attend.

The club has a trophy presentation night at the end of summer season. The Association also makes a presentation to all grand finalists after their match.

Senior Tennis/Night Tennis:

The club offers other tennis opportunities including senior competition tennis (Saturday afternoons); and social mixed doubles on Thursday mornings and Tuesday nights.

Neil Davidson
OHTC President
0434 602 017