

BY-LAWS FOR ESRA

EASTERN SUBURBS RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION Inc.

Proposed as at 1st July 2017

1	INTERPRETATION OF BY-LAWS.....	2
2	PENALTIES FOR BREACHES OF THESE BY-LAWS.....	2
3	PROCEDURE FOR PROTESTS ALLEGING BREACHES OF BY-LAWS.....	2
4	PROCEDURE FOR APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS BY THE MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE.....	2
5	COURT BEHAVIOUR.....	3
6	PLAYER REPORTS.....	3
7	POWER TO DEMAND INFORMATION.....	3
8	DUTIES OF HOME TEAMS, FINALS VENUES and FINALS TEAMS.....	3
9	COURT FEES.....	4
10	PENNANT MATCH PROCEDURE.....	4
11	PENNANT RESULTS – Clause Removed	5
12	DISPUTES OVER PLAYING ORDER.....	5
13	ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS.....	5
14	ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FITNESS TO PLAY.....	5
15	MARKERS AND REFEREES.....	5
16	FILL-IN PLAYERS / PLAYING TWICE.....	6
17	SUBSTITUTE PLAYER IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES – included in 16 ..	6
17	ALTERATION TO THE ORDER OF MERIT.....	7
18	POWER TO ORDER REPLAY OR ALTER TIME OF MATCH.....	8
19	STARTING TIME AND PLACE FOR PLAYING MATCHES.....	8
20	VARIATION IN PLACE AND DATE OF PLAY.....	8
21	WALKOVERS.....	9
22	PLAYER CLEARANCES.- Clause Removed	10
23	ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS.....	10
24	RULES RELATING TO DOUBLES	10
25	PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE EVENT OF A TIED MATCH IN A FINAL.....	11
26	REGISTRATION OF (NEW) PLAYERS.....	11
27	CURRENT FINES.....	12
28	PAYMENT OF FINES.....	12
29	PENALTIES FOR LATE RESULTS – Clause Removed	12
30	COLOUR OF PLAYER’S CLOTHING – Clause Removed	12
31	THE BLOOD RULE.....	12
32	TIE AT THE END OF THE SEASON.....	13
33	NON PERMITTED RETURN IN DOUBLES - included in 16	13
34	TEAM ENTRIES.....	13

1 INTERPRETATION OF BY-LAWS.

The **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** for each pennant competition shall be responsible for the interpretation of these **BY-LAWS** for that pennant competition.

In these **BY-LAWS** all references to the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** shall apply only to the pennant competition for which they are responsible.

In these **BY-LAWS** all references to **ESRA** shall apply only to the Pennant or other competitions for which it is responsible.

ESRA is the **Eastern Suburbs Racquetball Association Inc.**

These **BY-LAWS** shall cover all persons registered in **ESRA** organised competitions whether taking part in a match or not.

In these **BY-LAWS** the term “**in writing**” shall be taken to include normal mail, and also email or text message – as long as the author is clearly identified and can be verified.

2 PENALTIES FOR BREACHES OF THESE BY-LAWS.

The **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** or the **ESRA** Committee shall have the power to impose penalties for the breach of any of these **BY-LAWS**. Such penalty shall be by any of the following forms:

- a) Fines;
- b) Disqualification;
- c) Suspension;
- d) The awarding of any rubber or match to the opposing team;
- e) The deduction of points already scored.

3 PROCEDURE FOR PROTESTS ALLEGING BREACHES OF BY-LAWS.

Protests alleging breaches of the **BY-LAWS** must be lodged in writing with the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN** of the pennant competition within seven (7) days of the alleged breach.

It is recommended that **initial contact** be made **with** the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN** **in person or by telephone to the number shown on Fixtures distributed to players and on the ESRA Website**, so that the situation can be discussed first.

4 PROCEDURE FOR APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS BY THE MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE.

Any appeal by a player or team against any interpretation or decision by the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** under these **BY-LAWS** must be lodged in writing with the **SECRETARY** of **ESRA** within seven (7) days from the notification of such decision clearly stating the grounds for the appeal. Once the appeal has been lodged players will be

entitled to continue playing until the appeal has been heard by the Committee or by a Squash & Racquetball Victoria Tribunal.

5 COURT BEHAVIOUR.

It is each player's responsibility to ensure that they display acceptable court behaviour at all times – players should be mindful that this is a mixed competition and that RACQUETBALL is promoted as a family sport. Displays of an offensive nature will not be tolerated. Such behaviour will include, but not be restricted to:

- 1) Making rude, offensive or aggressive gestures toward players, marker or the referee.
- 2) Abusing other players, marker or the referee.
- 3) Making comments of a personal or demeaning nature to players, marker or the referee.
- 4) Making unnecessary or unwanted physical contact with a player, marker or referee.

6 PLAYER REPORTS.

Any complaints or reports on players in pennant competitions conducted under these **BY-LAWS** must be made direct to the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN** for the relevant competition, in writing, within seven (7) days of the alleged offence.

It is recommended that **initial contact** be made **with** the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN** **in person or by telephone to the number shown on Fixtures distributed to players and on the ESRA Website**, so that the situation can be discussed first.

7 POWER TO DEMAND INFORMATION.

The **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** shall have the power at any reasonable time to demand from any person registered with ESRA, information regarding the circumstances under which any match has been played, or regarding any matters relating thereto. Requests for information by the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** must be answered within 7 days unless a reason acceptable to the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** is provided. Failure to provide such information without an acceptable reason shall be deemed a breach of these by-laws.

8 DUTIES OF HOME TEAMS, FINALS VENUES and FINALS TEAMS.

The home team shall provide after match supper for all players **unless either team has registered as a non-supper team at the time of lodgement of entries**. Visiting teams are responsible for their own after match alcoholic drinks. The home team should provide soft drink options.

- **During Finals** both competing teams are expected to provide after match refreshments for their team, and also the referees/markers **regardless of whether the team has registered as a non-supper team or not**.
- Competing teams should ensure they comply with any Liquor licensing requirements of the finals venue. (*eg: certain venues may be listed as fully licensed, and require that the only alcohol consumed on the premises is purchased at the venue.*)

- **Finals Venues** should supply a fridge for storing drinks/suppers for competing teams, food preparation facilities such as a Pie Oven and/or Microwave, and also adequate seating/tables for competing teams and attending officials. These facilities should remain available for a reasonable time after the completion of the match. (*A minimum of 90 minutes*)

The home team (**or Finals Venue**) shall supply the court, an **ESRA** approved scoresheet for the current competition, and at least one ball that complies with the requirements of **ESRA**, and which is acceptable to both captains.

- In the event that a substandard ball is supplied, then EITHER team may request that a substitute ball be used. In this situation, both teams may review a number of used Australian Racquetball balls that they have in their possession, and the “bounciest” of the available balls shall be used.

The home team (**or Finals Venue**) shall be responsible for the **timely submission** of match results. **This may be done by email or by text message. Email address and phone number of the Match & Pennant Chairman are shown on the ESRA scoresheet, fixture and Website. Ideally results should be sent by 12 noon on the day following the match but at the latest 12 noon on the Friday of the week of the match.**

The person emailing the results is required to keep the original scoresheet for 14 days after the results are published in case there are any disputes on scores. If this is not done the **complainant’s protest shall be upheld.**

- It is recommended that both teams independently record the results, in case the score sheet is lost, and the MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN has to query them for the results.
- Home teams can delegate this responsibility to the home centre, but the onus is on the home team.

9 COURT FEES.

Court fees must be paid by each team. In the case of walkovers the team at fault must also pay the opponent’s court fee. If fees are not paid by any team the club of that team will be held responsible. Payments must be made **immediately** after receiving an account for these unpaid court fees.

10 PENNANT MATCH PROCEDURE.

- Each rubber shall be scored on the form designated for that competition, and played in accordance with the RULES OF AUSTRALIAN RACQUETBALL and these BY-LAWS.
- Requirements of these by-laws take precedence over the RULES OF AUSTRALIAN RACQUETBALL where a conflict may exist.
- Each captain must advise the opposing captain of the composition of his or her team before the commencement of the first rubber. Additionally, if any player is expected to be late the captain must notify the opposing team captain, (or centre, or M&P chairperson of the opposing team’s club) well in advance.
- The playing order of the rubbers in all grades shall be decided by the toss of a coin, or similar, controlled by the referee. The team captain winning the toss shall nominate the players for the first rubber and thereafter the

captains alternate the choice for subsequent rubbers. The players for the next rubber must be nominated by the captain responsible before the commencement of the last game in the rubber being played. All players nominated for a match should be in attendance at the specified commencement time unless otherwise agreed by the team captains.

- In all Finals in all grades that include doubles, doubles must be played as the first or second rubber. If the team winning the toss chooses a singles match first, then doubles must be played second with the team having lost the toss then having choice of next singles match.
- For non finals matches, team captains may choose to mutually agree the order of play at the beginning of the night.
- *Amendment to Racquetball Rule 4.1* - Except for Finals matches, the right to serve first defaults to the guest (away) team for all rubbers, including doubles. At the commencement of the second and third games, the winner of the previous game serves first.

11 PENNANT RESULTS.

Clause removed – included in Clause 8 above

12 DISPUTES OVER PLAYING ORDER.

In the event of any dispute over the playing order of a team, the match shall be played under protest and the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** shall determine the matter on receipt of a protest submitted according to these BY-LAWS.

13 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS.

- *Paragraph removed – many centres no longer associated with clubs. ESRA membership defined in latest Rules.*
- No player shall be eligible to play for more than one centre during any Pennant season without the express permission of the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE**.

14 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS – FITNESS TO PLAY.

Eastern Suburbs Racquetball Association Inc. is affiliated with Squash & Racquetball Victoria. All persons competing in ESRA Pennant competitions shall be individually affiliated & registered with S&RV. This affiliation & registration includes a component covering S&RV insurance. Affiliation should be undertaken on-line using the link shown on the home page of the S&RV website (squashvic.com.au).

ESRA takes no responsibility for any illness, injury or the like caused to any player as a result of taking part in the competition. This includes pregnant players who must satisfy themselves that there is no danger in them taking part in the competition. **S&RV** insurance covers players for some injuries and some costs but it is the responsibility of players to ensure that they are adequately covered for injury, illness etc.

15 MARKERS AND REFEREES.

It is the joint responsibility of each team to supply markers and referees for each home and away match. For finals matches the teams not participating will

provide the markers and referees. The MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE will determine the refereeing order and will advise teams as soon as is practical after the last round. Unless otherwise advised the general convention is that for 6 team grades the team finishing 5th will referee the semi final and the team finishing 4th will referee the grand final. For 8 team grades the teams finishing 7th and 8th will referee the semi finals, the team finishing 6th the preliminary final and the team finishing 5th the grand final.

16 FILL-IN PLAYERS / PLAYING TWICE.

- **A team may use a player from another team or any other fill-in player that meets the guidelines provided below. If there is any doubt in regards to suitability of emergency players, please check for approval with the MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE.**
- A player is permitted to play two matches IN SEPARATE TEAMS on the SAME NIGHT or in the SAME ROUND.
- *Paragraph removed*
- *Paragraph removed*
- A player is permitted to play twice in the SAME TEAM IN THE SAME ROUND provided that:
 - In the match in the lower position the opposition player will receive the points he scored, whilst the player playing twice will receive half of the points actually won by that player i.e. a maximum of 22 points.
 - In the match in the higher position, points shall be scored normally.
 - The two matches played by this player must be in their registered position or higher i.e. a player cannot play below their registered position (e.g. a number 2 registered player could not play a second match at number 3).
 - Players must still play in the correct order of merit (e.g. the number 3 registered could not play at number 3 and then play their second match at number 1).
 - All court fees for this team must be paid on the night of the match.
- *Paragraph removed*
- SUBSTITUTE PLAYER IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

Where a match has commenced and a player nominated as per BY-LAW 10 is unable to commence his/her rubber due to sudden illness, accidental disablement or any good and sufficient reason, a substitute player may take his/her place, providing that:

- The opposing captain agrees; (*There would need to exceptional circumstances for the opposing captain not to agree; such refusal could be protested following the procedures for protest in by-law 3.*)
- The proposed substitute is eligible under these BY-LAWS.
- If no substitute player is approved a forfeit shall be given.

Guidelines relating to approval of Fill-in Players / Playing Twice:

ESRA is a small community of Racquetballers who play the game for enjoyment.

It is the desire of the ESRA Committee that we find ways to facilitate ESRA Pennant competition rather than imposing Rules / By-Laws which restrict or result in unnecessary walkovers.

That said there are a number of guidelines which the Match & Pennant Chairman/ Committee shall consider before approving a fill-in player.

- **Wherever possible fill-in players should be from a lower grade and from the same venue.**
- **Wherever possible players within the team should move up and fill-in players be used in lower position(s).**
- **Players registered at No 1 in the immediate grade below shall not play in the grade above without prior approval from the MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE. The team playing order may be considered prior to approval being granted.**
- **Players cannot play in grades below that in which they are registered.**
- **Fill-in players should not strengthen the team.**
- **Teams should investigate rescheduling matches rather than using fill-in players. Refer By-Law 20 below**

17 ALTERATION TO THE ORDER OF MERIT.

- The final order of merit for all teams must be submitted at the **ESRA** pre-season meeting preceding the commencement of the first round. If no notification of change is forwarded by the club by this date the order of merit shall be as submitted on the team entry form unless a change has been made by the **MATCH & PENNANTCHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE.**
- The **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** has the right to alter the order of merit of any player at any time. No alteration to the order of merit will be permitted without the permission of **the MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE.**
- If any team considers that the order of merit needs adjusting, details of the proposed adjustment and the request to alter the order of the team must be submitted to the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN** from the secretary or match and pennant person of the affected team before the following dates:
 - For 6 team grades – by the Monday of the week of round 7. The alterations, if approved, will apply from round 9.
 - For 8 team grades – by the Monday of the week of round 6. The alterations if approved, will apply from round 8.
- The **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN** may, at his discretion, choose to accept proposed team order changes from the captain of the affected team.
- In considering alterations to the order of merit, teams should note that, only in exceptional circumstances, will a player who has achieved more wins than losses playing in a particular position in the team, in matches in

the first half of the **PENNANT SEASON**, be permitted to play in a lower position in the second half of the **PENNANT SEASON**.

- Alterations to the order of merit will only be effective when approved by the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE**. If approved the new order of players will be effective from the dates shown above and will remain effective until the completion of the season including the final series.
- For teams with Alternate players only one player is allowed to play during any one match.

18 POWER TO ORDER REPLAY OR ALTER TIME OF MATCH.

The **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** shall have the power to order any match to be replayed, either wholly or in part, and to alter the time for playing any match.

19 STARTING TIME AND PLACE FOR PLAYING MATCHES.

All matches shall be played at the places approved by the ESRA and shall commence at the time approved by ESRA. Players are reminded that the time listed in the fixture is the designated start time of the first rubber.

ESRA does not encourage teams to claim walkovers and should a team not arrive on time to play every effort should be made to contact the team and check the reasons for their non arrival. If the team is contacted and the reasons are satisfactory teams are urged to try and accommodate any changed circumstances even if it means re-scheduling the match for another night. If the team cannot be contacted or the reasons for non arrival are not acceptable the following rules shall apply. In the event of a walkover or re-scheduling the M&P Chairman must be notified. Teams that are continually late arriving will be penalised at the discretion of the M&P Chairman.

If play has not commenced within **fifteen (15) minutes** of the time set down, the team offended against may claim the rubber by default (*a Walkover for one position*).

Five (5) minutes shall be allowed after each rubber for the succeeding rubber to commence. If play does not commence by the expiration of this time, the team offended against may claim the particular rubber or rubbers also. If a rubber commences after the expiration of this time the result will stand unless the team offended against has advised the team at fault prior to the commencement of the rubber of its intention to claim that rubber. If both teams default in entirety, the match must be cancelled. (*This only applies in circumstances where teams/players have failed to turn up, and does replace the normal 5 minute warm up period between the end of one rubber and start of the next.*)

Rubbers (walkovers) claimed in this fashion must start from the lowest ranked position in the offending team, and work up the team order, so that the remaining players still play in correct order of merit without any intervening walkovers.

Note: For finals Doubles must be played first or second, failure to have two players ready to play at the scheduled time will result in the doubles rubber being defaulted.

20 VARIATION IN PLACE AND DATE OF PLAY.

In a grade in which any team has **FRIDAY** as their home night the opposition may request a change of night from **FRIDAY** provided that the request is

forwarded to the home team at least fourteen (14) days before the date set for the match. The **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN** must be notified of any change in the night of play before the match is played.

Any pennant match listed for the **MONDAY OF A LONG WEEKEND** or a **PUBLIC HOLIDAY** or the **THURSDAY PRECEDING EASTER** may be changed to a different day if requested by either team. A request for a change of day as covered by this **BY-LAW** must be lodged with the opposition team at least seven (7) days in advance of the scheduled match time. If the match is rescheduled it must be played prior to the next round and advice given to the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN** at the time of rescheduling. If a new time cannot be mutually agreed upon the match must be played at a time determined by the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE**.

In all other cases no alteration shall be made to the places and dates set down in the fixture for **HOME & AWAY MATCHES** without advice given to the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN**. **Wherever possible rescheduled matches should be played within seven (7) days before or after the original scheduled date.** 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 of whether a team is in default or not shall be decided by the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE**.

In **FINALS MATCHES** the only reason for variation shall be that the designated centre becomes unavailable or that special circumstances on the night (SUCH AS POWER RESTRICTIONS) prevent a final proceeding as arranged. In such cases the new venue or the new time shall be decided by **the MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN**.

21 WALKOVERS.

- If a team gives a walkover in a 3 player GRADE the remaining players must play in the correct order of merit, e.g. play at 1 and 2 and walkover at no 3.
- If the competition has grades with more than 3 players, walkovers must be given from the lowest ranked position first, and work up.
- For all GRADES, no points will be scored for that rubber by the team giving the walkover; the opposing team shall score the maximum points.
- In the event of a walkover, the team defaulting shall pay the fee of their player who does not play and the fee of the player from the other team receiving the walkover.
- If any team receives a match walkover from any other team it shall be awarded maximum points.
- In the event of a default occurring in any match which has commenced, the team not defaulting shall be awarded all uncompleted points.
- 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 maximum points for all rubbers contested by players at the lower positions in the two teams. The **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** may waive this ruling if the circumstances causing the walkover are deemed to be of an extreme or sound nature.
- If any team gives a match walkover, the team's club shall be fined for each match walkover up to two. In the event of a third match walkover, the

team may be withdrawn from the pennant competition and the team may be liable for a further fine.

22 PLAYER CLEARANCES.

Clause removed

23 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS. *(1st paragraph deleted)*

To qualify to play in any finals match:

- A player must have played in at least **one third** of the total matches played by the team for which they have been nominated.
- The **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** shall have discretion to allow players to take part in finals if they have not qualified due to: injury whilst playing, personal circumstances, etc.

A player must play in his/her nominated team in a finals match unless special permission is received from the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** to play in another team.

If any team needs a replacement player in a finals match application must be made in advance to the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN/COMMITTEE** who shall have the power to request a written application for a replacement player – this application shall detail the reason for the unavailability of qualified players. Approval for a replacement player will be in accordance with the following guidelines:

- The replacement player must be from a team in a lower grade.
- The replacement player cannot be a number 1 registered player in the grade below.
- The replacement player must have played sufficient matches in his/her registered team to qualify for the finals.
- The replacement must not, in the opinion of **the MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN**, strengthen this team.
- The replacement player cannot play for any other team in the same finals round.

Only if there is no player meeting these requirements available can application be made for any other player to be used and then approval will be at the discretion of the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN**.

Providing these guidelines are adhered to there is no right of appeal against the decision of the **MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN** in this matter. If a replacement player is used without permission that player will receive zero points and the opponent 45 points.

24 RULES RELATING TO DOUBLES.

- ESRA allows for one extra player, registered in the participating team, to take part in doubles matches during the season, and during the finals. (Normal player qualification rules apply for participation in finals matches.) This player's name is to be clearly listed, in full, in the space provided for listing the doubles teams on the ESRA scoresheet, along with details of the other players. These matches count towards a player's matches required to participate in finals.
- In all finals in all GRADES that include doubles, doubles must be played as the first or second rubber. If the team winning the toss chooses a singles

match first then doubles must be played second with the team having lost the toss then having choice of next singles match.

- Rules of Australian Racquetball Rule 9.3.1(c) shall not apply to ESRA matches. (*ie: The Ball MAY pass out of sight of the person playing the ball, but the player is still NOT permitted to play a turning shot in doubles.*)
- The current ESRA interpretation of banned turning shots in Doubles includes the following: (In an effort to keep doubles as safe as possible)
 - True turning shots where the player has followed the ball around off the back wall or out of one of the back corners.
 - “Trick shots” including the following:
 - Behind your back shots.
 - Between your legs shots
- No player shall serve more than 1.5 Games in any Doubles match.
- In games where a player is to serve 0.5 games, the change of service happens when either team first gets to 8 points.
- The player serving at the end of a doubles game just completed is not permitted to serve at the beginning of the next game.
- It is permitted to play a shot into the back wall, as long as this doesn't involve a “turning” shot – described above.

25 PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE EVENT OF A TIED MATCH IN A FINAL.

- The singles matches played on that night shall be replayed in the reverse order in which they were played. (Most recent match players stay on court, then the players from the previous match etc.)

There shall be a three (3) minute warm-up between rubbers.

Each rubber shall consist of one game of seven (7) points – i.e. there are only 7 points to be contested – the winner shall be 7/0, 6./1, 5/2 or 4/3.

The points for these 3 rubbers shall be totalled and the team with the highest total shall be the winning team.

26 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS & NEW PLAYERS.

- To comply with ESRA's Rules and with the requirements of Community Affairs Victoria we are bound to maintain a Register of Members. To meet our obligations Team Entry data must contain the full names of all players.
- Registration of new players is required prior to the new player playing his / her first match. However, player details may be entered on the official result sheet on the night of the player's first match. Details required include the player's full name, address, email address, home and / or mobile phone number(s). Failure to supply these details as indicated may incur a loss of points penalty.
- The onus is on clubs / venues to enter players in the correct grade and in the correct order of merit. The registration of a new player cannot be used as the opportunity to strengthen a team in comparison to the strength of the team when it was graded. **After three (3) rounds, or sooner if appropriate**, the performance of these players will be considered by the

MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN and the registration of the player will be approved or the player will be regraded as necessary.

27 CURRENT FINES.

The following fines will be incurred: *(These values may be adjusted without notice, at the discretion of the ESRA committee, prior to the commencement of any season.)*

- Withdrawal of team after grading - \$50.
- Non-attendance of markers and referees at finals - \$50 for each up to two (2).
- Team walkovers - \$20.

28 PAYMENT OF FINES.

Payment of fines imposed by the **ESRA** shall be made within thirty (30) days from the notice of the fine.

If payment is not received within the specified time, all points earned by all teams from the member club whilst the fine remains unpaid shall be forfeited and may not be reinstated irrespective of the outcome of any appeal which may have been lodged.

An appeal against any fine must be lodged with **ESRA** and such appeal must be made within fourteen (14) days of the date of notice of the fine. The lodgement of an appeal does not alter the due date for payment.

29 PENALTIES FOR RESULT SHEET ERRORS.

Clause removed

30 COLOUR OF PLAYER'S CLOTHING.

Clause Removed

31 THE BLOOD RULE.

- If the referee detects a player who is bleeding or has blood on his clothing or equipment the referee shall immediately stop play and order the player from the court.
- If the referee considers a player is bleeding as the result of a **DELIBERATELY DANGEROUS ACTION BY THE OPPONENT THE REFEREE SHALL AWARD THE MATCH** to the bleeding player.
- If a player is bleeding for any reason other than a deliberate action by the opponent, the referee shall allow the bleeding player sufficient time (up to 10 minutes) to stop the bleeding, clean away the blood and, if possible, cover the wound. At the end of this reasonable time the referee shall order the match to resume.
- If the bleeding player is unable to resume and the referee considers the player is bleeding as a result of:
 - **THE BLEEDING PLAYER'S OWN DANGEROUS ACTION** the referee shall award the match to the opponent;
- OR
- **THE OPPONENT'S ACCIDENTAL DANGEROUS ACTION** the referee shall award the match to the bleeding player.
- There shall be a maximum of 2 interruptions under this by-law for each rubber. If there should be further reason under this rule for the referee to

intervene in a rubber he shall immediately award the match using the criteria set out above.

- If the referee detects blood on any court surface he shall immediately stop play and order the blood be cleaned from the court surface or that the surface be wiped with a suitable antiseptic.
- The REFEREE SHALL BE THE SOLE JUDGE of whether play should be stopped under this rule and whether bleeding has stopped so that play can be resumed.

32 TIE AT THE END OF A SEASON

- In the event of teams having a tied total points at the end of the season the following should be compared in progressive order until a difference can be determined.
 - Points against (total for season) (Least is best)
 - Points scored against team tied with (Highest is best)
 - Win/loss against team tied with. (Highest is Best)
 - Play off on Monday following last game.

33 NON-PERMITTED RETURN in Doubles.

Clause removed – included in Clause 24 above

34 TEAM ENTRIES *(words removed para 1)*

Team entries must be communicated to the MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN by the time nominated at the end of the previous season. Entries should include all relevant details of the players nominated and grades applied for. Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the MATCH & PENNANT CHAIRMAN.

ESRA retains the right to refuse entry of any team into the competition or to refuse registration of any player nominated by any team.