



Marlborough Tennis Association Inc.

P.O. Box 592, Blenheim 7240 admin@marlboroughtennis.co.nz
www.sporty.co.nz/marlboroughtennis

7 August 2017

To: Marlborough Primary Schools

Dear Tennis Co-ordinator,



INSPIRE TENNIS PRIMARY SCHOOL TENNIS COMPETITION 2017-2018

We would again like to invite your school to take part in our Primary School Tennis Competition this summer. The key points are:

- The competition runs on Saturday mornings from the 21st October 2017. This year there will be **one grading day** on the 21st October then there will be no tennis Anniversary Weekend (28th October). The competition proper will run from 4th November through to the 16th December 2017. The competition will resume after the summer holidays, on 10th February 2018 and will continue until 17th March 2018 (14 weeks total).
- There will be two time slots – one at 8.45am and the other at 10.15am.
- There are five divisions of players. Division One and Three will play at 10:15am and Division Two and Four will play at 8:45am. The KIWI division will run in both time slots so the modified courts can be used on courts 3-5 at the Forrest Winery Marlborough Tennis Centre.
- Teams are made up of a minimum of 4 players and a maximum of 6 players. Generally only 4 players play each week (however, a fifth player may be used if desired). We encourage teams to have reserve players and to rotate the players in the team. Reserves will allow for injury, illness and players being away.
- Players will play a doubles and a singles match each week (unless a 5th player is fielded).
- Students currently in year 8 can still play in the competition in Feb & March while in year 9 and remain with the teams they started with.

We enclose an entry form which will need to be photocopied for the different teams, filled in, and returned to us by **Friday, 22nd September**. Please ensure that each team is given a name. Also, please ensure teams are in by the deadline otherwise it makes it very difficult for us to organise the competition. If you know you are going to be late please email us by the deadline and advise how many teams and in which division they will be entered in.

All the players who take part in the competition will be asked to fill in a registration form (copy attached). Please ensure that the completed player registration forms are returned along with the team entry forms. Schools unable to field full teams but who have players who would like to take part should include the individual forms so we can attempt to form composite teams. **We will invoice your school for the entries once they are received so please don't forward us any of the fees that you collect from the players.**

Please encourage your team managers to supply their email address and cell phone numbers as this really helps good communication. Draws will be posted on the website and in the *Marlborough Express* each week.

Once again we are pleased to be able to offer free coaching to the schools by the Association's professional tennis coach, John Gardiner and his team at Inspire Tennis. Your school should have been contacted by John Gardiner or Reilly Quirk to schedule the session. If you do not yet have coaching arranged and would like to receive some please contact us at the Marlborough Tennis Association admin@marlboroughtennis.co.nz.

If you choose to take part in the competition we will prior to the start of the competition send you (1) the rules to the competition, (2) results sheets, (3) a list of contact names and phone numbers.

PRIMARY SCHOOL TENNIS COMPETITION GRADE GUIDELINES 2017-2018

On the entry form we ask you to grade each team. We appreciate that this is not easy but the following guidelines should assist you and our coaches will also assist. You can either bring the players to the MTC or the coaches can visit your school to help.

Please note that for every team players must be ranked 1 to 6. The strongest player available must be played at number one every week. For schools entering more than one team in a division please ensure that the teams are organised according to ability, for example if two teams are being entered into the same division please do NOT put all the strongest players into one team, and all the weaker ones into another. We want matches to be as even as possible, with players meeting those of a similar ability every week. This makes it fun, competitive and worthwhile for the players. The MTA reserves the right to reorganise teams if it deems teams to be unbalanced.

If your school is entering more than one team in a division please ensure they ranked 1,2, 3 etc. This is particularly important for divisions three and four where the players are less familiar to us and the divisions are often split into two.

FULL COURT - NORMAL RULES - YELLOW BALL	
Division One:	Top players, most of whom will be receiving coaching. Players from schools with few Division One standard players should contact Marlborough Tennis to see if they could be included into a Composite Team.
Division Two:	Players who are reasonably good, it is not a division for beginners. Good progression for players that handled Division Three the previous season.

FULL COURT - MODIFIED SERVING ALLOWED - GREEN BALL (75% compression)	
Division Three:	Players who have played some tennis and are aged 10 and over (those who played in division four last season should probably play in this division this coming season unless they are very weak). Underarm serving is permitted in this division for the second serve.
Division Four:	Children aged 9 and over who have played little or no tennis. Talented 8 year olds who can cope with a full court could also be included. Underarm serving is permitted in this division for both serves.

HALF COURT (always at Marlborough Tennis Centre) - UNDER ARM SERVING - ORANGE BALL (50% compression)	
Kiwi Division:	absolute beginners, younger/smaller children between 5-9 years. Players must serve underarm in this division.

The Balls used in Division 3, 4 and Kiwi are to bring these grades into acceptable ITF formats where the modified ball makes competition easier. These are now standard worldwide in these ages.

Occasionally 10-year-olds have crept into the KIWI division on the basis that they were complete beginners. **Please ensure that this does not happen.** Even if a 10-year-old has never picked up a racket before they will still be more co-ordinated and stronger than a 7-year-old. This is important as we don't want to put off the little ones from continuing with the game.

Reminder that the deadline for entries is Friday 22nd September 2017.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at admin@marlboroughtennis.co.nz

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Wilkey
Administration Officer