

What does the team manager do?

The team manager is a parent of the team captain and assists the captain with the following duties. We encourage team captains (i.e. the older experienced captains) to take as much responsibility as possible and some are able to do this without parental help.

- Prepare the playing and duty roster at the start of the season.
- Ensure verbal contact with parents of all team members prior to the start of the season just in case email/sms contact hasn't been received.
- Team members who become unavailable for a rostered match are asked to advise the team manager well in advance so they can find a replacement player.
- Where necessary the team manager should consult the Club Junior Convenor (Dom) if they are having difficulty finding an emergency player.
- Send weekly reminders to the team about the roster.

The team captain signs the score card each week. When the team captain is rostered out, the child of the duty parent signs the score card.

When playing away please ensure someone takes a photo of the results sheet just in case the "Home" team fails to enter the results or in case of a dispute or result entry error.

In the case of washouts, the junior convenor contacts team managers, then team managers notify their teams.

What are the start and finish times?

Players should be warmed up and ready to start Saturday junior matches by 8.30am. We encourage punctuality and ask players to arrive at the relevant venue by 8:20am for the Saturday morning competition and by 8:50am for the Sunday morning competition.

Official ERT Match Start Times:
Saturdays – 8:30am
Sundays – 9:00am

Saturday junior matches must finish by 12.30pm, with any game in progress to be completed. At some Saturday Venues you might be playing until the 12.30pm cut-off – but generally Saturday matches are completed by ~11:30am.

Sundays is a much smaller competition and most matches are also finished by 11:30am with a cut-off of 1:00pm.

How are teams selected & graded?

Junior teams are graded on ability, not age, (except Junior Development Competition which is a modified format for new players under 12 years).

Convenors select teams on the basis of players' competition experience, statistics and commitment, and the mix of players registered for the season.

Team continuity, friendship groups and player requests made at the time of registration, where possible are also considered.

However, sometimes we cannot accommodate all requests and teams can have a variety of standards within the same group – simply because there are no suitable alternatives in a particular timeslot etc.

In addition, the Eastern Region Tennis Association does the final team gradings (not the Blackburn Tennis Club).

Substantial grading shifts can occur every season based on a variety of factors. e.g. this coming season there has been a rise in two categories of the Saturday competition but a decline in three other categories in terms of total teams entered with the association.

ERT also apply a zoning policy for ~ the bottom half of some Saturday formats to avoid teams having too far to travel.

Will my child have to play every week?

Blackburn Tennis Club attempts to enter rotating teams where possible to ensure that teams are able to field a full team each week and avoid the possibility of forfeits when players become unavailable due to illness, injury or other commitments etc.

Where possible – if you already know that your child will be unavailable for certain weeks you should advise the Team Manager asap so they can arrange their initial team roster to suit.

What commitment is expected from parents?

One parent from each team is rostered for duty each week. For home matches the duty parent stays at the clubhouse until the match is completed (or shares duty with another parent) and assists with venue supervision, court preparation, cleaning etc.

For away matches the duty parent stays at the venue for the entire match and drives the team home.

What should Junior Players Wear?

All juniors are expected to wear their ***Blackburn Tennis Club Polo Shirt*** for all matches. Appropriate tennis shoes for the court surface (i.e. herringbone pattern sole) should be worn and hats or caps are recommended.

What happens if it rains?

Club Convenors notify each other of complete washouts by phone, and ERT asks Club Convenors to be at the clubhouse at 7.45am on likely washout days (8.15am for Sunday).

When a washout is declared for any of our teams, I will phone the team captains/managers, who then notify their rostered players. Please do not contact opposing Clubs directly as this slows down the communication process.

Behaviour Expectations – (Parents & Players)

Players and parents are expected to support the principles of sportsmanship, fair play and positive encouragement of players at all times.

The Club reserves the right to suspend or expel any player or member for failing to abide by the rules, regulations, by-laws and codes of behaviour of the Club and/or Eastern Region Tennis.

Players should not use abusive language or throw racquets. All players are expected to assist with the preparation of courts.

In Conclusion

The Club Officials and ERT Officials are all volunteers that willingly give up their time and expertise to provide your children with the opportunity to play competition tennis. If you have the opportunity to meet them, show them the respect they deserve for doing what is sometimes a very difficult job.