

JOINING A NGAIO JUNIOR TENNIS INTERCLUB TEAM



If you have completed the Ngaio Club Sunday coaching last season or had some previous coaching elsewhere you may wish to consider playing in a club team (known as interclub) for the upcoming season. This involves playing both doubles and single games each weekend against other clubs. The enrolments for club teams usual occur in August/September, with the competition running in Term 4 and Term 1. For those not familiar with club teams/interclub here are some details.

How old do I have to be to play in a club team/interclub?

There is no minimum age requirement (but all junior players must be 17 years or younger as at 1 October). For those players wanting to play interclub for the first time you will play in a Novice grade. As a guide to determine if you are ready to join a club team ideally you need to be able:

- To hit the ball over the net and return 3-4 hits from the other player.
- Have an attempt at serving, however you are able to bounce and hit the ball on the second attempt to commence the points.
- To understand the basic rules of tennis, e.g. scoring, when to serve, when to change ends. However, many players do not know these when starting out and parents are able to assist with scoring in the novice grade.

How many players in a team?

There are 4 players who play each weekend, however ideally 5 players are allocated to a team and 1 player is rostered off each weekend.

How do you get allocated to a team?

The NTC junior committee will select players for each team. If you have friends that you want to be in the same team, let us know and we will do our best to put them in the same team. The committee may request players to come down prior to being allocated in a team to ascertain if you are ready to play in a club team/interclub.

When are the games?

Matches are usually played on either Saturday (Girls Novice grade only) or Sunday morning (all other grades). The pre-Xmas round usually runs from mid-October to mid-December, with the post-Xmas round usually from early-February to late-March (dates will vary slightly each year).

How long are the games?

Generally each team is allocated 2 hours and 2 courts to complete their games. The games are held at different Clubs each week around the Wellington region (e.g. Khandallah, Karori), but also often at the Renouf Centre (Brooklyn), and the public courts at Hataitai. Our home courts are the Ngaio courts. Each player will play 1 game of singles and 1 game of doubles.

Who manages the team?

Once a team is selected we request a parent volunteer to be the manager. This person is in charge of bringing the balls and score sheets, ensuring there are enough players each week, ensuring everyone knows the venue and time for the match and liaising with the opposition team, particularly if there is bad weather and games need to be rescheduled. The manager of the winning team is required to upload the results onto the Tennis Central website.

Is there any coaching / practice?

Each week the team will be allocated a 45-60-minute coaching session. Team practices operate Monday – Thursday afternoons, (during the hours of 3.30-6pm). Team practice times are allocated based on the time slot that suits the majority of players in a team, if one member cannot make the practice due to other commitments, then if practical they can practice with another team. The club currently employs Evolve Tennis Coaching to run these coaching sessions and the cost is covered by the interclub fee.

More information

For more information of Interclub match formats, etc, please visit the Tennis Central website – www.tenniscentral.kiwi or contact one of the NTC Junior Committee members.