



SOUTHERN TABLE TENNIS INCORPORATED

WILFRED TAYLOR RESERVE, STATES ROAD, MORPHETT VALE 5162
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Newsletter January 2023

Summer Competition 2023



We have 79 positions filled for the summer season and it is great to see that we have 9 new players. Wednesday nights appears to be the popular night with the stadium filled with what we consider to be the maximum capacity of 49 players. We have plenty of room for more players on Thursday nights and it will be the aim of our club to build competition numbers over the next few seasons. One of the ways of doing this is encouraging our Tuesday night junior players to progress into our main competitions. The biggest stumbling block for juniors is the late finish of competition nights. This season we will be starting div 4 at 7.15pm and encouraging that junior players are able to play their last match on the scoresheet earlier in the night.

TTSA Winter Pennant

Over the last couple of years Southern Table Tennis has entered a division 1 team into the TTSA Winter Pennant and they have been very competitive. This competition normally starts in May and concludes in September, is played on Monday or Tuesday nights and involves travelling to all the other metropolitan clubs. There are divisions for players of all standards and this year we are hoping to enter a few more teams. The organising process for pennant competition starts very early as clubs try to secure players. If you are at all interested in representing Southern Table Tennis in this year's pennant please contact Marcel on 0417 870 181.



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Junior Programs – Proposed new Saturday morning competition



Our Tuesday night junior program was very successful last year with over 30 children attending during term 4. We have also run a January school holiday program which has attracted 12 juniors including 6 who had not played at our club before. We believe the time has come to offer a Saturday morning competition aimed at juniors and their families (yes we will be encouraging parents/carers etc to take part). We are proposing to run this competition during school term 2 of this year. We will be putting out further details about this competition as term 2 gets nearer. The Tuesday night junior program commences again in the first week of school term 1. A big thanks to Maurice QUINN for all the great work he does in driving our junior program.

Serving

People serving incorrectly is a contentious issue in table tennis and has recently received a lot of attention at the international level. Umpires have been much quicker to call illegal serves and there have been tournaments where they have had technology which has measured the height and angle of a throw and players have been able to challenge an illegal serve call.

At our club it has been noticeable that a lot of people are not complying with some of the simpler elements of a correct service. The most obvious is not throwing the ball up the required 16cm and basically hitting the ball from their hand. The ball must also be visible to your opponent from the moment you start your service motion until you strike



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the ball. The ball should also remain behind the end line of the table or an extension of the end line during the whole of the service action.

It is hard to change bad habits and I know that I personally found it difficult to change one of the mistakes I had ingrained over 30 years of playing (ball was not being thrown from the palm of my hand). The onus is on players to ensure they are serving correctly. If you are serving incorrectly please take the time to learn to adjust your technique so as to be fair to other players. To check out the guys from PingSkills explaining the service rules watch the youtube link below.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9ELscafqVs>

TTSA Tournaments

Each year there are a large number of tournaments which players can enter and there are a number of Southern players who take part. Some of the country tournaments have become very popular with people using them as a great excuse to travel and have an enjoyable weekend somewhere different.

Southern Table Tennis are running a TTSA sanctioned junior tournament on Sunday the 12th February and a Seniors tournament on the 21st May. Please consider entering these tournaments. You may even pick up some state ranking points.

Apart from the TTSA tournaments we will again be looking to run several Rapid Fire tournaments as well as bringing back a Southern Players tournament. Details about these will be posted once dates are confirmed.

The link to the TTSA calendar is below.

[Events - Table Tennis South Australia \(tabletennissa.org.au\)](http://tabletennissa.org.au)



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TTA – Table Tennis Australia



Table Tennis Australia has recently been more active than I can ever remember them being during my time in table tennis. This high level of activity is being reflected in some of the results that were achieved by both players and clubs in 2022. I encourage you all to read the summary put out by former Southern player and TTA CEO Scott Houston highlighting those achievements.

<https://www.tabletennis.org.au/.../ceos-message-2022-review/>

The highlights for me included

- Best ever results at Commonwealth games, World Para Championships, World Youth Championships and ITTF-Oceania Championships
- Winning 125 medals at international tournaments
- 5 players finished the year in the top 100 world rankings (able bodied)
- 5 players finished the year in the top 10 world rankings (para)
- During the year Nicholas Lum was ranked world number 1 in able bodied boys under 17
- 150,000 players were identified as having played at clubs or in club events
- 10,000 registered players

Newsletter produced by Marcel STORKEN



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