

Code of Conduct

Court Etiquette

We are all keen to enjoy our sport so we start with a fundamental rule, to make the playing experience more enjoyable for all and that is 'Keep it clean!'. The 'it' being:

- the courts,
- your language (at the Club and on related social media and messaging platforms) and
- your play.

Leave the courts free of litter and don't let the frustrations of the game make you an unpleasant person to play with. Where you play on the clay courts please sweep them after playing a game (that may mean finishing before the end of your session).

Social Doubles Play

In each four, you should play one set with a tiebreak at 6-6, but if people are waiting, play a tiebreak at 5-5 then come off court. Where you are playing in a club session, after your set, please be prepared to play with other members at the session. *We have an unwritten rule if people are waiting to play first to 4 games (as fast four).*

Court Etiquette

The following is an extract from British Tennis website on court etiquette which reflects our approach.

Please do not walk behind players whilst a game, a rally or coaching is in progress, this is to avoid distracting other members and most importantly to avoid any potential accidents on court.

If you are trying to cross a court please wait until you are invited to and it is safe to do so.

If a stray ball comes onto your court don't knock it back immediately, wait until the owners are ready and then hit it to the server's end, so that they are not going to tread on it.

During play and particularly between games, keep the amount and volume of conversation down to a minimum necessary to play and enjoy your own games. Too much chatter can be disturbing to those playing nearby and, in between games, can hold up play for people waiting.

Line calls can be a problem and we recommend the use of what the Americans call the 'honour system'.

Only call the lines on your side of the net.

Call clearly and firmly what you see and what you honestly believe to be correct.

If you are not absolutely certain or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball was IN and must be given in the opponents favour.

If occasionally you have serious doubts as to your opponent's eye-sight, ask politely if they are certain as to the accuracy of their call. If they say that they are, get on with the next point.

If you feel your opponents regularly have difficulties making correct calls, start looking for different opponents!

If in social friendly matches there is some doubt over a line call, offer to play the point again rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting.

Do not criticise your partner or opponent, be positive and offer encouragement instead.

Overall, use your best judgement and we all want to be competitive but don't let your emotions get on top of you!

Respect and Behaviour

All Club members, Club officials and coaches must show tolerance, courtesy, good manners, fairness, honesty and integrity in their dealings with Club members, officials and coaches, Club members' guests, playing and social visitors.

Equality

The Club is opposed to discrimination in any form. All Club members have a responsibility to make everyone feel welcome and to ensure that membership of the club is a positive experience.

Safety and Responsibility

All Club members will act responsibly and look to protect and ensure the safety of everyone at the Club at all times and particularly to consider the well-being and care of junior players and visitors.

Fair Play

All Club members will respect the rules of the tennis and address disputes with dignity and appropriate language.

Club Reputation

All Club members should endeavour to protect and further the Club's good reputation at all times. When representing the Club, all players and officials will observe the principles in this Code of Conduct. This also includes where posting messages on social media or messaging programmes. This code of conduct also applies to communications on message groups which include Club members for the purpose of arranging games.

Resolving Disputes & breaches of this Code

The Club Manager and any member of the Tennis Committee may refer the conduct of any member to the Tennis Committee. A club member may refer a matter to the Club Manager or direct to the Tennis Committee.

1. Where a member refers a matter to the Club Manager, the Club Manager may determine the course of action to be followed.
2. Where necessary and appropriate the Club Manager may refer the matter to the Tennis Committee.
3. Where reference is made to the Tennis Committee, the first time the matter is referred to the Committee, it shall have the power with the agreement of the Club manager, to censure

the tennis member and may suspend the member rights to play (or arrange play) in any way at or for the Club, for up to four weeks.

4. If the member is referred for a second or subsequent time to the Tennis Committee in relation to a dispute or a breach of the code of conduct (whether or not the matter is the same or different), the Tennis Committee shall have the power with the agreement of the Club manager to suspend the member for a longer period or to expel the member in question from the Club. This will be communicated to the board of WPSC.
5. All disciplinary action pursuant to this code shall be subject to a right of appeal to an Appeals Committee. This Appeals Committee shall comprise of three individuals appointed by the Tennis Committee. The majority verdict of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding.