



# Expectations and Etiquette

Beckford Tennis Club is responsible for setting the standards and values it expects all members to apply.

## Standards of behaviour and etiquette

It is expected that all members will treat other members, visitors, coaches and officials with respect. There must be no inappropriate actions, behavior, comments or physical contact that may cause offence i.e. mental or physical anxiety or hurt to an individual.

Inappropriate actions include:

- Racquet throwing
- Swearing
- Being abusive or aggressive
- Intimidating behavior
- Causing harm or danger to other players through your play.

Tennis etiquette covers those actions and behaviours that are traditionally considered acceptable on and around the tennis court.

## Respect and courtesy

- Opponents, partners and others on or near the courts should always be shown respect and consideration.
- Criticism of partners' or opponents' play should be avoided. Encouragement is far more constructive.
- Members must not walk behind players whilst a game or rally is in progress.

## Walking onto or behind courts

- Members should wait for players to finish a game, or minimally a point, before walking onto a court where play is taking place.
- When crossing a court to reach another court or to leave the courts, players should wait until a game is finished and then cross as quickly as possible.
- If a stray ball comes onto a court, before returning it, players must wait until the owners are ready and then hit it to the server's end.

## **Line calls**

- Only call the lines on your side of the net.
- Call clearly, immediately and firmly. Call what you see and what you honestly believe to be correct.
- If a player is not absolutely certain or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball is IN and must be given in the opponent's favour. When a player genuinely doubts an opponent's call, the player may ask: 'Are you sure of your call?' If the opponent reaffirms that the ball was out, the call shall be accepted. If the opponent acknowledges uncertainty, the opponent loses the point. There shall be no further delay or discussion. Ultimately those players on the side of any disputed call have the final say.
- However, if in social friendly Matches there is some doubt over a line call, it is polite to offer to play the point again rather than cause aggravation and time wasting.

## **Mobile phones**

- Unless absolutely vital, all mobile phones and other communication devices should be switched off or set to silent mode as these can disrupt play.

## **Rubbish collection**

- Empty cans, old tennis balls or other items of rubbish should be removed from the courts when play has finished.
- Rubbish should be disposed of in the bins in the clubhouse or at the entrance to the village hall.