



## *Blaydon Tennis Club*

### **Etiquette Policy**

Blaydon Tennis Club's Etiquette Policy is based on LTA best practice. Tennis etiquette is different from the rules of the game.

#### **1. When playing please wear recognised sports clothing and most importantly tennis shoes.**

- Sports clothing - because it enhances the image of the club and allows for free movement during play.
- Tennis shoes - because other shoes mark the courts, and do not grip the courts as well or provide the foot support required during play leading to an increased risk of an accident and avoidable injury.

#### **2. Show respect and courtesy.**

- To your opponent(s), partner and others on or near the courts.  
Keep your voice down and confined to your court as much as possible so as not to disrupt players on adjacent courts.
- Do not criticise your partner or opponents, be positive and offer encouragement instead.

#### **3. Do not walk onto a court or behind a court while a game or rally is in progress.**

This is, in part, for your own safety. You could be hit by a racket or ball or collide with a player. It is also to avoid distracting players.

- Wait for the players to finish a point before walking onto their court.
- If you are trying to cross to another court please wait until you are invited to and it is safe to do so.
- When you decide to cross behind a court, do so as quickly as possible and don't stop to chat or wait for others on the way.
- If a stray ball comes onto your court don't knock it back immediately, wait until the owners are ready and then hit the ball to the server's end where possible.

#### **4. Talking.**

- During play and particularly between games, keep the amount and volume of talking to a minimum necessary to play and enjoy your own game.
- Most play is social, friendly matches but please be especially aware when League matches are being played nearby.

#### **5. Line Calls.**

Line calls can be a problem and the majority of experienced players use the "honour system":

- Only call the lines on your side of the court.
- Call clearly and firmly what you see and honestly believe to be correct.
- If you are not absolutely certain or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball is "IN" or the point can be replayed.



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

### **6. Body Language.**

- Tennis can be a frustrating sport if you are not getting your serves in or hitting your shots, but try to remain upbeat and cheerful. Where possible, try to stay calm, relaxed, focused and in a positive frame of mind or take a break if needed.

### **7. Do not retrieve your ball from another court.**

- It is common courtesy not to disrupt players on court during a match. If your ball rolls onto an adjacent court, wait for them to finish the point and kindly ask for your ball back. Under no circumstances should you enter their court in the middle of a game to retrieve the ball yourself.

### **8. Mobile Phones.**

- All mobile phones and other communication devices should be switched off or placed on silent as these can disrupt play.
- If you are required to leave your phone or other communication device turned on, ask the permission of those you are sharing a court with before doing so. If it's not given, respect the fact and turn it off or leave them to play.

### **9. Close the gate behind you.**

- Whether you're coming onto the courts or leaving, it is common courtesy to close the gate behind you. This will keep the balls inside the confines of the gate and they won't roll away.