

# DEDHAM TENNIS CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

## Introduction

Behaviour at club sessions, social play and matches is generally excellent, but the committee felt that a few notes may be of help to those who are new to the game or club and who may be unsure over some matters of protocol. What follows are general guidelines for playing tennis at the club and/or for the club; they are mostly common sense.

They do not take into account the particular rules and regulations of competitions in which the club, or individual members, may participate, although most of what follows applies in those circumstances also. It is most important that those playing in matches against other clubs, or in competitions, maintain the highest standards of behaviour, both on and off court, as they are representing the club.

## 1. Before the game

- a. Please ensure that you are wearing suitable tennis clothing and shoes.
- b. The knock up should be an opportunity to warm up before play starts, not taken as a chance to give the run around to the person on the other side of the net. There should be the opportunity for each player to practise a variety of shots, as wished.

## 2. During a game

- a. Play should be continuous and played to the timing of the server. If someone has to leave the court, opponents should be told why and return should be as quick as possible.
- b. Please help your partners and opponents by ensuring that the balls are with the server before each point and by clearing loose balls from the court.
- c. If a ball rolls across the court, or something blows on to the court a "let" should be called immediately – not at the end of the rally.
- d. Players call a ball out only on their side of the net and they should do so without delay. If you are concerned about the call you could query it. Ultimately, however, the call is with the players on the side of the net on which the ball lands. Occasionally you may agree to play a point again.
- e. A ball that just clips the outside of the line is "in".
- f. If players lose track of the score they should talk through the points and start play again at the point at which they agree the score.
- g. Even if foot faults worry you, they may not be called from the other side of the net. You may, however, feel it appropriate to mention it at the end of the match.

- h. Shaking hands (under Covid, touching rackets) at the end of the match is very important; not only is it good manners, but it also confirms that the match is over and the score agreed.

### **3. After Play**

- a. The last person on court should ensure that the courts are securely locked at the end of play. Similarly, the last person to leave the clubhouse should ensure that it too is locked.

If there are people on the courts when you leave, check that they have the capacity to lock up the courts and the club house, as they may not have a key with them.

- b. If you have used any cups, mugs etc from the clubhouse, ensure that you have washed them up and put them away, and generally, that you leave the club house in the same state as you found it.

### **4. General behaviour**

- a. Personal comments should be avoided at all times, as they may be construed as gamesmanship or intimidation.
- b. Players must not use an audible obscenity and/or make any obscene gesture of any kind.
- c. Players must not at any time verbally or physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person.
- d. Players must not violently, dangerously or in anger, hit, kick or throw a tennis ball, racket or other equipment.
- e. Players must at all times conduct themselves in a sporting manner with due regard to the authority of officials and to the rights of opponents, spectators.

### **5. Lastly**

If you are concerned about the behaviour of anyone during play, either on the court or spectating, please mention it to a committee member, so that appropriate action can be taken. This could extend to requiring a member to leave the club in the event of repeated misbehaviour or gross misconduct.