

CODE OF CONDUCT

General

The Fernhurst Tennis Club (the “Club”) Code of Conduct applies in addition to the [LTA Code of Conduct](#)¹, to which all LTA venue participants are subject. As a member of the Club you and any guest you bring to the Club must:

- Abide by the Court Rules.
- Respect and support each other, the Club, and visitors to the Club.
- Act in a manner mindful of your own safety and the safety of others on court, in the pavilion and in the grounds.
- Display courteous behaviour that is fair and shows respect towards the other players both during matches and social play.
- At Club social play sessions (e.g., roll-ups) welcome and include new members and visitors.
- Not smoke or vape in the pavilion, on court or in the areas around the courts.
- Keep dogs on leads.
- Respect the premises at all times with regard to damage and litter. Clear up anything you have brought or used on court, in the pavilion and in the grounds.
- Be considerate to the Club’s neighbours, regarding language and general noise at all times.

WhatsApp Group Code of Conduct

Club WhatsApp groups can be set up for club-related informal communication between Club members; participation of which is not obligatory. The following rules are to apply to the groups:

Administrators

- The purpose of the WhatsApp Group must be described in the WhatsApp “Group Description” field by the group’s Administrator.
- Members must not be included in a WhatsApp Group without their prior consent.
- A WhatsApp group Administrator is not a Moderator of content and is not responsible for any comments posted by individual members of the group.
- If there is a breach of any of the rules, the group Administrator has the right to remove the transgressor from the group.

Participants

- Your consent is required to participate in a WhatsApp Group. Note that your telephone number will be visible to all in the group.
- Respect and abide by the designated purpose of the WhatsApp groups to which you belong.
- Be kind to others and show respect. Rude and hateful language will not be tolerated.
- Personal posts or those unrelated to Club activities are not permitted.
- Do not post any comment on religion, community, or political affairs.
- Do not post any photographs of people without their consent.
- Keep in mind that your words can be interpreted in multiple ways, so use short sentences that cannot be misinterpreted.
- Do not post complaints, instead you should contact directly either the Administrator or a member of the Club Management Committee

- When noticing that you are having a dialogue with a single member of the group consider changing the conversation to a direct message between you.
- If you leave the Club or decide to leave the group your name will be removed from any WhatsApp groups.

Safeguarding Code of Conduct

All members of staff, volunteers and members agree to:

- Prioritise the well-being of all children and adults at risk at all times.
- Treat all children and adults at risk fairly and with respect.
- Be a positive role model. Act with integrity, even when no one is looking.
- Help to create a safe and inclusive environment both on and off court.
- Not allow any rough or dangerous behaviour, bullying or the use of bad, abusive, aggressive, discriminatory or otherwise inappropriate language.
- Report all allegations of abuse or poor practice to the club Welfare Officer
- Not use any sanctions that humiliate or harm a child or adult at risk
- Value and celebrate diversity and make all reasonable efforts to meet individual needs.
- Keep clear boundaries between professional and personal life, including on social media.
- Have the relevant consent from parents/carers, children and adults before taking or using photos and videos.
- Refrain from making physical contact with children or adults unless it is necessary as part of an emergency or congratulatory (e.g. handshake / high five)
- Refrain from smoking and consuming alcohol during club activities or coaching sessions
- Ensure roles and responsibilities are clearly outlined and everyone has the required information and training.
- Avoid being alone with a child or adult at risk unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Refrain from transporting children or adults at risk, unless this is required as part of a club activity (e.g. away match) and there is another adult in the vehicle
- Not abuse, neglect, harm or discriminate against anyone; or act in a way that may be interpreted as such.
- Not have a relationship with anyone under 18 for whom they are coaching or responsible for
- Be acutely aware of the power that coaches, and coaching assistants develop over players in the coaching relationship and avoid any intimacy (sexual or otherwise) with players.

All children agree to:

- Be friendly, supportive and welcoming to other children and adults.
- Play fairly and honestly.
- Respect club staff, volunteers and Officials and accept their decisions.
- Behave, respect and listen to your coach.
- Take care of your equipment and Club property
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, culture, religion or sexual identity.
- Not use bad, inappropriate or racist language, including on social media
- Not bully, intimidate or harass anyone, including on social media
- Not smoke, drink alcohol or drugs of any kind on club premises or whilst representing the club at competitions or events
- Talk to the club Welfare Officer about any concerns or worries they have about themselves or others.

All parents and carers agree to:

- Positively reinforce your child and show an interest in their tennis.
- Use appropriate language at all times.
- Be realistic and supportive.
- Never ridicule or admonish a child for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Treat all children, adults, volunteers, coaches, officials and members of staff with respect.
- Behave responsibly at the venue; do not embarrass your child.
- Accept the official's decisions and do not go on court or interfere with matches.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules and teach them that they can only do their best.
- Deliver and collect your child punctually from the venue.
- Ensure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather conditions.
- Ensure that your child understands their part of the Code of Conduct
- Adhere to your venue's safeguarding policy, diversity and inclusion policy, rules and regulations.
- Provide emergency contact details and any relevant information about your child including medical history.

Sanction

Any breach of the Code of Conduct will render a member liable to sanction, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the club, as decided by the Club's management committee.

This policy is reviewed every three years (or earlier if required).

Chair: Peter Rix Date: 24/04/2023

Welfare Officer: Chris Taylor Date: 24/04/2023

Review date: 24/04/2026

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¹ LTA Code of Conduct: <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/governance-and-structure/rules-regulations/>