



## **Code of Conduct and On-Court Etiquette for Adult Members**

### **Introduction**

Poppleton Lawn Tennis Club (PLTC) is an LTA registered club that is wholly committed to promoting the well-being of all its members and visitors, ensuring a positive and enjoyable experience for all. To ensure that the club remains a respected and welcoming club, the committee believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents of Juniors associated with the club should at all times show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others.

To uphold the club ethos all members their guests and visitors should follow the Code of Conduct and On-Court Etiquette.

Members are encouraged to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club with the Club Secretary.

Should a member or a regular visitor repeatedly deliberately, or significantly breach the Code of Conduct or the On-Court Etiquette rules, then the committee will follow the complaints and sanctions procedure within the rules.

As a member of PLTC you are expected to abide by the following codes:

As a member of PLTC you are expected to abide by the following codes:

### **PLTC Ethos**

#### **Community, companionship, competition.**

- Providing tennis for all in a friendly and sociable atmosphere
- Equally welcoming to everyone regardless of playing standard or experience
- Volunteering and the community spirit are integral to how we operate
- Prioritising the communal over the individual
- Fun and enjoyment are paramount whether the tennis be casual, social, or

competitive.

## **Rules of Tennis**

- All players should maintain an up-to-date knowledge of the rules of tennis. The rules are published by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) here: <https://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/>

## **The Code of Conduct**

### **All adult members should:**

- Familiarise themselves with the club rules and policies and adhere to them. These can be found in Document Downloads on the club website.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all, including but not limited to their protected characteristics; understand that people have different motivations for taking part.
- Respect the valuable contribution made by coaches and club volunteers.
- Refrain from using foul, abusive or aggressive language or actions towards others. This includes harassing, intimidating or bullying members, visitors, coaches or officials.
- Refrain from abusing or deliberately damaging equipment.
- Exhibit attitudes and behaviour that contribute to, rather than detract from, the relaxed and friendly atmosphere that the club seeks to promote, as summarised in the Club Ethos.
- Act in a manner that does not compromise the health, safety and well-being of themselves and those around them.
- Make every effort to keep any timings/arrangement regarding matches or coaching.
- Pay all agreed costs promptly and within the agreed time-frame. This includes membership fees, coaching fees, competition and league entry fees, and any other agreed costs.
- Not smoke cigarettes or e-cigarettes on the Club premises and must not consume recreational drugs on the premises of SCTC, or when representing the club.
- Be welcoming and inclusive to new members and visitors and as required inform them of the facilities and sessions (including the social tennis rules)

## Parents and Guardians code of conduct

As a parent/guardian of a player/participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of the Poppleton Tennis Club you are expected to:

- Encourage your child to learn the rules of tennis and play within them
- Remember that your child or children participate in sport for their own enjoyment, not yours
- Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing
- Never punish or ridicule at your child and other children for making a mistake or losing a competition
- Show appreciation for good performance and skilful plays by all players (including opposing players)
- Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with or in the vicinity of persons under the age of 18 years, as your words and actions are an example
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise
- Do not physically or verbally abuse or harass anyone associated with the sport (player, coach, umpire and so on)
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Be a positive role model. Use correct and proper language at all times
- Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of, this code of behaviour
- Allow your child to play in the Mini Tennis colour stage that is appropriate to them. This will ensure they enjoy playing the game, develop skills and gain confidence
- DO NOT coach your child individually or enter the courts while your child is taking part in an individual or group coaching session.

## Court etiquette Policy

Poppleton Tennis Club's Etiquette Policy is based on LTA best practice.

Tennis etiquette is different from the rules of the game.

It covers a broad range of actions and behaviours that Poppleton Tennis Club wishes to promote.

1. When playing please wear appropriate sports footwear.
  - 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.
  - Be kind and welcoming to all members and visitors, remember you are a representative of our club.

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.
  - Where possible, 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.

#### 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.

#### 5. Line Calls.

Line calls can be a problem and the majority of 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 was "IN" and must be called in your opponent's favour.

5. Player maintenance of the clay courts (PLEASE SEE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON THE COURT, IN THE CONSERVATORY AND ON THE PLTC WEBSITE).

- Stop play 5 mins before the end of your session
- Remove any surface debris you find and place it the bin provided.
- Brush each half of the court and surrounds in an inward spiral pattern starting at the fence near the baseline.
- Report any defects to a committee member or coach.
- Please leave the court as you would like to find it.

#### **Failure to maintain the courts.**

- The surface will be damaged if play takes place when the carpet fibres are exposed. This will significantly reduce its playing life.
- Exposed parts of the court surface also become slippery and potentially dangerous to play on, especially in dry weather.
- After use maintenance is a condition when booking an artificial clay court. **Members should expect to be reminded of this if it is not carried out.**

### **Leaving the courts**

- **Please wipe your feet at the shoe station provided. This helps prevent loss of sand from players walking off court with sand in the treads of their shoes.**

## **Complaints Process and Sanctions**

1. If any member(s) believes that they have experienced either a breach of the code of conduct or a serious breach of the policy on court etiquette then they should contact the Club Secretary, or Welfare Officer if they feel it is a safeguarding issue. All complaints, processes and outcomes will be handled with appropriate confidentiality (refer to the clubs Safeguarding and/or Anti-Bullying policies).
2. A Sub-Group of the Main Committee (about 3 people as appropriate) will then arrange a meeting or conversation with that member(s) to discuss the issue. The Sub-Group may also arrange a meeting with the person or people who are the subject of the complaint;
3. The Sub-Group will present their findings to the Main Committee. In considering the complaint, the Main Committee will take into account any background information they consider relevant including the personal circumstances of the person who is the subject of the complaint, together with any external advice or guidance available to them which may be appropriate;
4. After the Main Committee has deliberated and decided on a course of action with regards to the complaint the Sub-Group will arrange a feedback meeting or conversation with the complainant;
5. In the event of any complaint being upheld, the Main Committee will make a decision in line with Rules and Constitution of PLTC and may impose any one or more of the following sanctions on a member found to be in significant or repeated breach of this code of conduct, or in serious breach of the on-court etiquette rules, as it considers appropriate in all the circumstances, namely:
  - a warning as to future conduct;
  - suspension of a member from membership;
  - exclusion of a non-member from the club's premises;
  - expulsion of a member from the club. (Any member expelled from the club will not automatically be entitled to a refund of their subs; this will be at the discretion of the committee).

If the matter is a safeguarding issue, then the appropriate line of action will be taken in accordance with the club's safeguarding policy and procedures.

6. If the member who is subject to the complaint is unhappy with the course of action/ decision they will be offered the opportunity to meet with the main committee to discuss their reason. The main committee will consider their rationale /information in light of their decision. They will share their final decision with the member in writing. The decision of the main committee is final.