



## Court Etiquette and Code of Conduct

### Housekeeping

We are all keen to enjoy our sport of tennis so we have just one ground rule to make the playing experience more enjoyable for all and that is 'Keep it clean!'. With the 'it' being:

- ✓ the courts, your language and your play.

Leave the courts free of litter, use the bins provided, collect in tennis balls, (they can be a hazard for other players), and don't let the frustrations of the game make you an unpleasant person to play with!

### Social Play

If there are no time constraints, or there is no guidance from a coach, and if playing doubles, we ask that you play one set with a tiebreak at 6-6, however, if people are waiting, players should play a tiebreak at 5-5 then and then come off court.

Tennis Buddies will provide the tennis balls for the social sessions. At the end of the last match, please return all balls to the appointed representative. In between matches the balls should be left in tubes at the net post.

Floodlighting if needed is provided free of charge, however if you are the last on court, please turn off the floodlights. Instructions can be found on the noticeboard.

### Court Etiquette

Tennis Buddies follow the guidance from British Tennis with regards to court etiquette which reflects our approach:

- Please do not walk behind players whilst a point is being played, a rally or coaching is in progress, this is to avoid distracting other members & guests and most importantly to avoid any potential accidents on court.
- If you are trying to cross a court please wait until you are invited to and it is safe to do so.
- If a stray ball comes onto your court don't knock it back immediately, wait until the owners are ready and then hit it to the server's end.
- During play and particularly between games, keep the amount and volume of conversation down to a minimum necessary to play and enjoy your own games. Too much chatter can be disturbing to those playing nearby and can hold up play for people waiting.
- Line calls can be a problem and we recommend the use of what the Americans call the 'honour system'.
- Only call the lines on your side of the net.
- Call clearly and firmly what you see and what you 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 given in the opponent's favour.
- If occasionally you have serious doubts as to your opponent's eye-sight, ask politely if they are certain as to the accuracy of their call. If they say that they are, get on with the next point.
- If you feel your opponent's regularly have difficulties making correct calls, start looking for different opponents!
- If in social friendly matches there is some doubt over a line call, offer to play the point again rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting.
- Do not criticise your partner or opponent, be positive and offer encouragement instead.



- Overall, use your best judgement and we all want to be competitive but don't let your emotions get the better of you!

### **Respect and Behaviour**

All members, and officials must show tolerance, courtesy, good manners, fairness, honesty and integrity in their dealings with fellow members, officials, any members' guests, playing and social visitors. Members are encouraged to share this policy with their guests.

### **Equality**

Tennis Buddies is opposed to discrimination in any form. All members and visitors have a responsibility to make everyone feel welcome and to ensure that membership is a positive experience. For further information, please refer to the Equality & Inclusion Policy.

### **Safety and Responsibility**

All members and visitors will act responsibly and look to protect and ensure the safety of everyone at all times and particularly to consider the well-being and care of junior players and visitors. For further information, please refer to the Health & Safety Statement of Intent.

### **Fair Play**

All members and visitors will respect the rules of the sports of tennis and address disputes with dignity and appropriate language.

### **Tennis Buddies Reputation**

All members should endeavour to protect and further the good reputation at all times. When representing Tennis Buddies, all players and officials will observe the principles in this simple Code of Conduct.

### **Resolving Differences**

All members and visitors will endeavour to resolve differences in the following order:

- Between the parties involved;
- By reference to the appropriate Owner, Coach, or the Child Welfare Officer who will determine the course of action to be followed;
- By reference to the appropriate Director;

The relevant Coach shall have the power to censure any of their section members or suspend any of their section or junior members' playing or membership rights and may suspend such rights for up to four weeks. Suspension beyond four weeks or recommendations as to expulsion must be approved by the Board of Directors.

All disciplinary action pursuant to this code shall be subject to a right of appeal to an Appeals Committee. This Appeals Committee shall comprise of three individuals appointed by the Board of Directors, comprising of one independent member, the welfare officer and a nominated Director. The majority verdict of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding.