

Court Etiquette and Code of Conduct

We are all keen to enjoy our sport so we have just a simple Ground Rule to make the playing experience more enjoyable for all and that is 'Keep it clean!'. The 'it' being:

- the courts,
- your language and
- your play.

Leave the courts free of litter, collect in tennis balls for other players to use and don't let the frustrations of the game make you an unpleasant person to play with.

Social Play

Will be doubles if numbers permit, you play a timed game, usually 30mins but if people are waiting time may be adjusted. If more players than courts, persons having played the longest will be expected to sit out. At change of time the winners will move up one court and split, losers will stay and split except for court one where the winners will go to the bottom court and split. If floodlights are required for these sessions they are provided free of charge, balls are also provided for these sessions.

Court Etiquette

The following is an extract from British Tennis website on court etiquette which reflects our approach.

Please do not walk behind players whilst a game, a rally or coaching is in progress, this is to avoid distracting other members 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, in between games, 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 opponents 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 opponents 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 on top of you!

Thanks for reading and enjoy playing

Respect and Behaviour

All Club members and Club officials must show tolerance, courtesy, good manners, fairness, honesty and integrity in their dealings with Club members, officials, Club members' guests, playing and social visitors. (*See Code of Conduct for Players, Parents & coaches below*).

Equality

The Club is opposed to discrimination in any form. All Club members have a responsibility to make everyone feel welcome and to ensure that membership of the club is a positive experience.

Safety and Responsibility

All Club members will act responsibly and look to protect and ensure the safety of everyone at the Club at all times and particularly to consider the well-being and care of junior players and visitors.

Fair Play

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

Club Reputation

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

Resolving Difference.

All club members will endeavour to resolve differences in the following order.

Between the parties involved.

By reference to the Club Secretary, Club Child Welfare Officer who will determine the course of action to be followed.

By reference to the Club Committee.

The Committee shall have the power to censure any of the members or suspend 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 Club General Committee.

Removal of a Club, Officer or Committee Member shall require an EGM of the Club

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 General Committee. The majority verdict of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding.

Suspension

The Committee may suspend a member for such period as they consider necessary, if they consider that it would be in the interests of the Game or the Club to do so.

Expulsion

The Management Committee shall have power to refuse membership or expel a Member if it in its sole discretion determines that it would be in the interests of the Game or of the Club to do so.

A Member shall not be expelled unless he is given [14] days' written notice of the meeting of the Management Committee at which his expulsion shall be considered and written details of the complaint made against him.

The Member shall be given an opportunity to appear before the Management Committee to answer complaints made against him. The member must not be expelled unless at least [two-thirds] of the Management Committee then present vote in favour of his expulsion.

The Management Committee may exclude the Member from the Club's premises until the meeting considering his expulsion has been held. For the avoidance of doubt, the member shall be entitled to attend that meeting for the purpose of making his representations.

The Member may appeal against the Management Committee's decision by notifying the Management Committee who shall put the matter to the Club's members in general meeting and decided by a majority vote of members present and voting at such meeting.

Wadebridge Tennis Club Code of Conduct

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 adults 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 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

All members of staff and volunteers 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 behavior, bullying or the use of bad or 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
- Not to have a relationship with anyone over 18 whilst continuing to coach or be responsible for them