

# **Westhill Tennis Club Code of Conduct**

## Introduction

Westhill Tennis Club believe it is important that members, guests, coaches, administrators and parents/guardians should, at all times, show respect and understanding to each other. The club has adopted a code of conduct to be followed by all members, guests, coaches, administrators and parents/guardians, this sets out the behaviour expected by members and visitors to the club.

The aim of the code of conduct is to:

1. Ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect;
2. Inform members about the standards of behaviour and etiquette expected so that the right playing environment is created at the club
3. Outline the complaints procedure so that, where there is a shortfall in behaviour, this can be addressed.

## General Behaviour

Players should conduct themselves in a reasonable manner so not to cause offence or upset to other players. Games should be conducted in a courteous manner and players should treat and respect all opposition, partners and associated people in a way that they themselves would expect to be treated. Tennis is a competitive game, however all matches should be played fairly and in a good spirit.

Players should welcome all new members and players, irrespective of their experience of the game and their level of play. Criticism of other players should be avoided, encouragement is far more constructive.

## Court Etiquette

### 1. Court Access

When play is in progress, players wishing to cross a court in use should:

- Wait until the players change ends, or
- Wait until a game finishes and check with the server if it is all right to cross, or
- Wait until there is a break in the game and agree with the players to cross their court

Ensure you **DO NOT**

- Cross a court whilst a point is in play, cause disruption to a game or interrupt a point
- Interrupt a server whilst they are preparing to serve (both first and second serves)
- Stand in a position that is off-putting to the players, make a noise or distract players

### 2. Line Calls

Lines calls in tennis can sometimes be a problem, so you should follow these principles at all times;

- only call the lines on your side of the net;
- only make calls as you honestly see them;
- you must be sure that the ball is out, otherwise don't make the call;
- call clearly and immediately what you honestly believe to be correct;
- if a player is not absolutely certain or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball was **IN** and must be given in the opponents favour. When a player genuinely doubts an opponent's call, the player may ask: "Are you sure of your call?" If the opponent reaffirms that the ball was out, the call shall be accepted. If the opponent acknowledges uncertainty, the opponent loses the point. There shall be no further delay or discussion;

- in social/friendly club matches if there is some doubt over a line call, consider offering the option to replay the point.

### **3. During Play**

Players should;

- show respect and courtesy to your partner, your opponents and others on or around the courts;
- keep the amount and volume of conversation to a minimum so as to avoid distracting players on other courts;
- If a ball from an adjacent court strays onto yours do not hit it back immediately but do so when the players on that court are ready and if possible hit it to the server's end of that court;
- consider the volume of any dispute that occurs during a match, if necessary take it off court and away from other players on adjacent courts;
- unless absolutely vital, all mobiles phones and other communication devices should be switched off or set to silent mode as these can disrupt play;
- not make or receive phone calls on the court, leave the court to make or receive a call.

### **Player/Member Responsibilities**

Players will not;

- swear or use inappropriate language;
- abusive or aggressive;
- throw or hit racket off the court or against any other court equipment;
- ball abuse will not be tolerated;
- mess around or distract other players;
- bully other members, players or parents;
- use mobile phones in the clubhouse toilets and changing areas.

Players must;

- when representing the club players, behave in a manner that will not in any way harm the reputation of themselves and Westhill Tennis Club.
- players must be in control of where they hit the ball and aware of opponents position on the court.
- treat and respect all equipment, officials, opposition and associated people and in a way that they themselves would be expected to be treated.

### **Parent / Guardian Responsibilities**

Whilst not always a member of the club they are expected to abide by the code of conduct and also the following:

- Support your son / daughter and aid the developmental process both on and off the court.
- Allow the coaching staff to run the programme free from external pressures or influences.
- Behave in a manner that sets a positive example for others.
- Respect all officials, players, coaches and associated people and behave to them in a way that they themselves would be expected to be treated.

## Court Maintenance

Every member has a responsibility to look after the courts, clubhouse and surrounding area, please;

- **DO NOT** chew gum on the courts
- **DO NOT** leave rubbish on courts, including empty cans, old tennis balls, juice bottles etc. Rubbish should be taken home with you at the end of your game.
- **DO NOT** take or ride bicycle's onto the courts.
- **DO NOT** take or place anything onto the courts that might cause damage. E.g. chairs, non-tennis footwear etc

## Complaints and Sanctions

If any member(s) believes that they have experienced a breach of the code of conduct then they should contact the Club Secretary, or Welfare officer if they feel it is a safeguarding issue. A Sub-Group of the Main Committee will then arrange a meeting 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.

In considering the complaint, the Main Committee will take into account any background information they consider relevant including as to 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.

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 with the member(s) concerned.

In the event of any complaint being upheld, the Main Committee may impose any one or more of the following sanctions on a member found to be in breach of this code of conduct as it considers appropriate;

- a warning as to future conduct;
- disqualification from any event or tournament in which the breach has taken place;
- suspension of a member from membership;
- exclusion of a non-member from the club's premises;
- expulsion of a member from the club.

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