



WOMBOURNE TENNIS CLUB



Members Code of Conduct

Wombourne Tennis Club (WTC) has adopted a code of conduct to be followed by all members of the club. These are seen as good practice for a club such as ours and sets out the behaviour expected by all members and visitors to the club.

The policy is to establish the standards and values of the Club and to project an image which will bring credit to Wombourne Tennis Club.

The aim of this policy 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 for individuals and the club is created;
3. outline the complaints procedure so that, where there is a shortfall in behaviour, this can be addressed.

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.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR AND ETIQUETTE

WTC is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout the club at every level. Tennis should be enjoyed by everyone who wants to play the game. This policy is fully supported by the WTC Committee.

All members must treat other members, visitors, coaches and officials with respect. There must be no inappropriate actions, behaviour, comments or physical contact, which may cause offence i.e. mental or physical anxiety or hurt to an individual.

Inappropriate actions include:

- Racquet throwing;
- Swearing;
- Being abusive or aggressive;
- Intimidating behaviour;
- Questioning another person's integrity over line calls or other actions;
- Causing danger or harm to other players through your play.

Tennis etiquette covers those actions and behaviours which are traditionally considered acceptable on and around the tennis court.

CLUB RULES

We kindly ask that all members follow our club rules and conduct the appropriate etiquette when using the courts

- Clubhouse keys will be issued to and are for the sole use of adult members and others approved by the committee. These give you access to the ball cupboard and the lighting box. Please lock the hut & toilet if you are the last group to leave the area.
- All juniors under the age of 12 must be supervised at all times for their safety and protection.
- No food or chewing gum is to be taken on court. Drinks can be taken but only in plastic drinks containers.
- Any adult member may use the floodlit court. At any time, once the lights have been switched off, they cannot be switched on again for 15 minutes or the bulbs will be damaged. Please make sure that the lights are switched off by 10:00PM.
- The courts are secured by a combination lock to ensure that access is only available to members. The combination code is made available to new members and communicated out to all existing members at the beginning of each year when it is changed. Please ensure that the combination lock is secured if you are the last person to leave the courts.

COURT ETIQUETTE

- Appropriate clothing must be worn for playing tennis include correct tennis shoes.
- Ensure tennis shoes are not used to walk into the venue as this could result in mud and dirt transferring onto the court surface which can impact the quality of play and cause court degradation. Tennis shoes should be put on and removed only at the club.
- Please do not play singles if there are people waiting for a court.
- In the event of people waiting when you are playing doubles, please only play eight games and then include those people who are waiting.

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- In regard to court use, please be mindful of weather conditions when playing. The court surface may become slippery when damp or wet.
- Please note that players use the courts and facilities at their own risk. Wombourne Tennis Club cannot accept responsibility for injuries incurred on these courts or in the proximity to the courts at any time or under any circumstances.
- Playing during inclement weather conditions or wearing incorrect footwear is entirely undertaken at the player's own risk.

RESPECT AND COURTESY

- Opponents, partners, and others on or near the courts should always be shown respect and consideration.
- Criticism of partners' or opponents' play should be avoided. Encouragement is far more constructive.
- Members must not walk behind players whilst a game or a rally is in progress.

WALKING ONTO OR BEHIND COURTS

- Members should wait for players to finish a game, or minimally a point, before walking onto a court where play is taking place.
- When crossing a court to reach another court or leave the courts, players should wait until a game is finished and then cross as quickly as possible.
- If a stray ball comes onto a court, before returning it, players must wait until the owners are ready and then hit it to the server's end.

LINE CALLS

- Lines calls can sometimes be a problem.
- Only call the lines on your side of the net.
- Call clearly, immediately and firmly what you see and 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. Ultimately those players on the side of any disputed call have the final say.
- However, if in social friendly matches there is some doubt over a line call, it is polite to offer to play the point again rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting.

MOBILE PHONES

- Unless absolutely vital, all mobiles phones and other communication devices should be switched off or set to silent mode as these can disrupt play.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

- Empty cans, old tennis balls or other items of rubbish should be removed from the court when play has finished.
- Rubbish should be disposed of in the bins outside or inside the Clubhouse.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS

Junior Members have access to the tennis courts (subject to court booking availability) up until 6pm weekdays, and at any time at weekends.

Junior members under 12 must be supervised at all times by an adult whilst on Club premises.

GENERAL RULES

WTC is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all our members. The club believes it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club with Dan Nicholson (Club Coach) or Adrian Jeavons, WTC Safeguarding Officer.

As a member of WTC you are expected to abide by the following club rules:

- All members must respect opponents and fellow club members; WTC has a reputation for being a friendly club please help us to keep it that way!
- All members have a duty to make new members/visitors feel welcome.
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach/team leader if they are going to be late.
- Members must wear suitable attire for training and events.
- Members must not smoke, consume alcohol or take drugs of any kind whilst representing the club at competitions or other events.
- Members should treat all equipment with respect.
- Members should respect the clubs property and equipment.
- Members must inform the club coach of any injuries or illness they may have before warm-up begins.
- Members should not eat, chew gum or use bad language on the courts
- Junior members should remain with coaches at the end of their session until collected by their parent or guardian

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

WTC recognises that parents and guardians have a major role to play in their children's enjoyment of tennis and would like you to follow these guidelines:

- Encourage your child to learn the rules of tennis and participate within them.
- Discourage challenging/arguing with the coaches/officials.
- Publicly accept the umpires/ coaches decisions.
- Help your child to recognize good performance, find positive feedback even in defeat.
- Set a good example of recognizing good sportsmanship and applauding the good performances of everyone.
- Never force your child to take part.
- Always ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the activity and has plenty to drink.

- Keep the club informed if your child is unable to attend sessions or matches.
- Keep the club informed of any changes in your child's health.
- Share any concerns or complaints about any aspect of the club through the Safeguarding Officer, or the Club Chairman.
- Never punish or belittle a child for poor performance or making mistakes.
- Always collect your child promptly at the end of a session.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their tennis.
- Please ensure that all your children respect the club's equipment and property.
- It is the parent's responsibility to notify the Club/County Office or Coach of any changes to circumstances. This includes: - medical (including injuries), photo consent and personal circumstances etc.
- Parent / Guardian to ensure that all appropriate fees are paid when due.

CLUB COACHES

- Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each person and treat them equally within the context of the sport.
- Coaches must place the wellbeing and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of the performance.
- Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
- Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
- Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and, where appropriate, the parents) exactly what is expected of them and what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
- Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. FAIR Play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
- Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Coaches must maintain their LTA Coach accreditation.
- Coaches will not tolerate inappropriate language, racket and / or ball abuse.

RESOLVING DISPUTES

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

- Between the parties involved.
- By reference to the Club Secretary, Club Safeguarding 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.

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

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

The Committee may exclude the Member from the Club's premises until the meeting considering 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.

SOCIAL TENNIS

Will be doubles if numbers permit. If people are waiting, games should be restricted to a total of 8. If more players than courts, persons having played the longest will be expected to sit out. If floodlights are required for these sessions they are provided free of charge, balls are also provided for these sessions.

FLOODLIGHTS

Floodlights are provided free of charge but must be switched off by 10pm each evening.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership subscriptions run for a calendar year, and are renewable by 31st January for each new year.

New members (Juniors and Seniors) will be entitled to attend two trial sessions prior to formally being required to apply and join the Club.