

Tennis Seniors Association of South Australia Inc - TSSA



Trading Names: Tennis Seniors SA or South Park Tennis Seniors Centre
ABN: 48 070 901 457
Location: (located in the Adelaide Park Lands)
opposite 118 Greenhill Rd. UNLEY SA 5061
Postal Address: attn TSSA Secretary,
2/33A Old Tapleys Hill Rd, GLENELG NORTH SA 5045
Email: secretarytenniseniorssa@gmail.com
Website: <https://play.tennis.com.au/TennisSeniorsSA>

Person/s with Lead Responsibility: TSSA Chairperson & Secretary
Reviewed, updated, and approved by TSSA Committee:
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TSSA's TENNIS ETIQUETTE & RULES for Non-Umpired Matches

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION:

TSSA Committee has overall control of all competitions, social play/open court sessions and tournaments/carnivals it conducts.

TSSA Committee appoints committee member/s to act as **TSSA Competitions/TSSA Social Play Manager/s** whose responsibilities include the appointment of, and provision of support for **TSSA Competition Coordinators** and **TSSA Social Play/Open Court Coordinators**. These Manager/s are also appointed as **TSSA Member Protection Information Officer/s** to deal with any complaints that may arise adhering to the Complaints Procedure as outlined in Part IV of [Tennis Australia's \(TA's\) Member Protection Policy](#).

All matches in TSSA conducted competitions MUST be played in accordance with [TA's Code of Behaviour: Tournaments and Weekly Competitions](#), with players obligated to ensure that match and tournament violations as outlined in Appendix 1 do not occur.

All Players are required to comply with ***TSSA's Tennis Etiquette & Rules for Non-Umpired Matches** and TA's General Code of Conduct as outlined in TA's Member Protection Policy **Attachment A – General Code of Conduct**. *(copy included in this document)*

**Based upon relevant sections contained in Tennis Australia's [Member Protection Policy](#) and other resources contained on [Tennis Australia's website](#) and [Tennis SA's website](#), with modifications to suit TSSA's context.*

TENNIS ETIQUETTE

1. Players are always expected to clink racquets or elbow bump with their opponent(s) at the completion of a match. *(will revert to shaking hands post COVID-19)*
2. Do not enlist the aid of spectators in making line calls or attempting to determine the score or other on-court matters.
3. Wait until a point is over before walking behind a court where a match is in progress.
4. To retrieve a ball from another court or to return a ball to another court, wait until the players have completed a point.
5. Do not stall, complain, be bad-tempered or practise gamesmanship.
6. In doubles, when returning service, the partner of the receiver should generally call the service line for the receiver. The receiver should generally call the centre and side service lines. The call needs to be loud enough to stop their opponents/partner continuing to play the point.
7. Loud comments, whether in relation to winning and/or losing a point is likely to cause interference to play on nearby courts, is considered unsportsmanlike conduct.
8. Constant overt celebration directed at an opponent may be considered intimidation, and therefore unsportsmanlike conduct.
9. If a player is unhappy with their opponent's actions or decisions, the player should refer to their **Team Captain** who will consult with their counterpart and if still unresolved, consult with their **Competition's Coordinator** and the **TSSA Competitions Manager** for further action, if required.
10. If a player involved in a TSSA Social Play/Open Court session is unhappy with their opponent's actions or decisions and cannot resolve the issue one-to-one, then the player should refer the issue to their **Social Play/Open Court Coordinator** who will endeavour to support them in resolving the issue, and if still unresolved, will request the player to put the issue in writing, for further investigation by the **TSSA Social Play Manager**.

RULES for NON-UMPIRED MATCHES

All Players should be aware of the following basic principles when playing a match without a Chair Umpire: -

<p>1. If in doubt, a player must give the benefit of any doubt to their opponent, particularly regarding line calls</p>
<p>2. Each player is responsible for all calls on their side of the net and must also help their opponent/s make calls if their opponent/s request it, provided however any player can call a “foul shot” (e.g. ball bounces twice before being hit - “not-up”; ball has not reached the net when hit; or player’s racquet hits the net) and that these calls occur in a timely manner.</p>
<p>3. Any “out”, “let” or “fault” call must be made immediately (i.e. made before either an opponent has hit the return, or the return has gone out of play); otherwise the ball continues in play. “Calls” must be verbal and clearly audible to the opponents/s, followed by a signal, if necessary. A service “Let” may be called by any of the participating players.</p>
<p>4. If a player incorrectly calls a ball “out” and then realises that the ball was “good”, the point should be replayed, unless that point was a winning shot. However, if that same player has previously during the match incorrectly called a ball “out” and then realised the ball was “good”, that player who again called the ball “out” but realises the ball was “good”, will then lose the point.</p>
<p>5. Players are prohibited from checking the mark of the ball on their opponents’ side of the court, unless invited by their opponents. Ball mark inspections are only permitted on clay courts. On clay courts if a player incorrectly calls a ball “out” and then realises that the ball was “good”, the player (and doubles partner where applicable) who called “out” loses the point.</p>
<p>6. The receiver must play to the reasonable pace of the server, noting that there is a normal standard time of 20 seconds between points. Both players must ensure they restrict their warm-up time, and minimise time between points and at change of ends.</p>
<p>7. To avoid controversy over the score, the server should announce the game score before starting a game and the point score prior to serving for each point and must be loud enough for the opponent/s to hear.</p>
<p>8. If players cannot agree on the score, they should calmly discuss the points/games that are disputed. All points or games which the players agree on stand and only those in dispute should be replayed i.e. two players cannot agree on whether the score is 40–30 or 30–40 and disagree only on who won the first point in the game. The game shall continue from 30–30, since both players agree that they have won two points each.</p> <p>When the game score is in dispute the same principles applies i.e. two players cannot agree on 4–3 or 3–4 and disagree only on who won the second game. The match shall continue from 3-3, since both players agree that they won three games each. The player who received in the last game that was played will serve in the next game.</p> <p>Where there is a score dispute, all participating players must make a reasonable effort to remember the actual score i.e. points/games played.</p>
<p>9. If a player hinders their opponent/s this can be ruled involuntary or deliberate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">When a player has created an involuntary hindrance (e.g. ball falling out of pocket, hat falling off, etc.) the first time a “let” should be called and the player should be advised that any such hindrance thereafter, at the sole discretion of their opponent/s, may be ruled deliberate.Any hindrance caused by a player that is ruled deliberate will result in the loss of a point.

RULES for NON-UMPIRED MATCHES *(continued)*

All Players should be aware of the following basic principles when playing a match without a Chair Umpire: -

<p>10. Where a ball interrupts play, either by rolling/bouncing onto the court, and/or creating a visible interruption behind the court, a “let” should be played.</p>
<p>11. Where a ball is lying on the court at the commencement of the point (1st or 2nd serve) it will be deemed to be part of the court during the rally. Movement of this ball during the rally does not constitute hindrance.</p>
<p>12. Players are entitled to request their opponent/s to remove the ball from the court prior to the commencement of the point.</p>
<p>13. All balls on a player/s side of the net are the responsibility of those player/s to pick up and return directly to the server, after the point is completed.</p>
<p>14. The receiver should not return the first service if it is an obvious fault – let it go by or ground it.</p>
<p>15. If at the completion of a match, the players involved realise that the scoring format used was incorrect (for example, no tie-break has been played at six-six or 8-8, or the wrong type of tie-break has been played), the score based upon the incorrect format shall stand provided all players have left the court enclosure. If the mistake is realised before the players have left the enclosure, the correct scoring format should be used to finalise the match. If this is not possible (i.e. the match has progressed beyond the point where the correct scoring format can be implemented), then the score based on the incorrect format stands.</p>

Tennis Australia's MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

Attachment A -General Code of Conduct

As an Australian Tennis Organisation affiliated with Tennis Australia, members of TSSA are required to comply with Tennis Australia's Member Protection Policy. Each member is required to meet the following requirements as outlined in *Attachment A – General Code of Conduct* in regard to their conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by Tennis Australia and TSSA and in any role they hold within Tennis Australia or TSSA.

<p>1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.</p>
<p>2. Be fair, considerate, and honest in all dealing with others. Each player is responsible for all calls on their side of the net and must also help their opponent/s make calls if their opponent/s request it, provided however any player can call a “foul shot” (e.g. ball bounces twice before being hit - “not-up”; ball has not reached the net when hit; or player’s racquet hits the net) and that these calls occur in a timely manner.</p>
<p>3. Be professional in, and accept responsibility for, your actions.</p>
<p>4. Make a commitment to providing quality service.</p>
<p>5. Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to, Tennis Australia’s standards, rules, regulations, and policies.</p>
<p>6. Operate within the rules of the sport including national and international guidelines which govern Tennis Australia and Australian Tennis Organisations.</p>
<p>7. Do not use your involvement with Tennis Australia or an Australian Tennis Organisation to promote your own beliefs, behaviours or practices where these are inconsistent with those of Tennis Australia and the Australian Tennis Organisations.</p>
<p>8. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.</p>
<p>9. Avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons under 18 years of age, wherever possible.</p>
<p>10. Refrain from any form of harassment of others.</p>
<p>11. Refrain from any behaviour that may bring Tennis Australia, and Australian Tennis Organisations into disrepute.</p>
<p>12. Provide a safe environment for the conduct of the activity.</p>
<p>13. Show concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured.</p>
<p>14. Be a positive role model.</p>