



## Tennis Australia Parent / Guardian Code of Conduct

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As a parent / guardian of a participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of *Tennis Australia*, a *Member Association*, an *Affiliated Organisation*, a *Member Affiliated Organisation*, a *Regional Association* or an *Affiliated Club* you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event

- 1 Treating your child the same irrespective of them winning or losing.
- 2 Remembering that your child plays tennis for their enjoyment not yours.
- 3 Trying to have fun when you are around your children at competitions. Well-directed humour can be a great de-stressor.
- 4 Looking relaxed, calm and positive on the sidelines.
- 5 Making friends with other parents at competitions.
- 6 Getting involved in appropriate ways if your child or the coach behaves in unacceptable ways during competitions.
- 7 Letting the coach do the coaching.
- 8 Understanding that children will benefit from a break sometimes and that involvement in other sports is okay.
- 9 Being there when the child performs poorly. Be an understanding listener rather than a critic, judge and/or fixer.
- 10 Being prepared to give your child some space so that he/she can grow and develop as an independent person.
- 11 Letting your child know that your love for them is not associated with their sporting performances.
- 12 Communicating with your child and asking them how they are really feeling about their sport and about competing in particular.
- 13 Occasionally letting your child compete without you being there and hovering over them.
- 14 Emphasising the good things your child did in preparing for and during the match/tournament.



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15 Try to avoid:

- Saying, “we’re playing today”. Instead say, “you’re playing today”. Give your child credit for accepting the responsibility of performing.
- Getting too pushy or believe that you are indispensable. Let the coach do the coaching.
- Living through your child’s performances.
- Turning away when your child performs.
- Turning away when your child’s behaviour is unsportsmanlike.
- Telling your child what he/she did wrong after a tough match.
- Making enemies with your child’s opponents or family during a match/tournament.
- Making your child feel guilty by reminding them about all the time, money and sacrifices you are making for his or her sport.
- Thinking of your child’s sporting performances as an investment for which you expect a return.
- Badgering, harassing or use sarcasm to motivate your child.
- Comparing your child’s performances with those of other children.
- Forcing your child to go to training. If they are sick of training find out why and discuss it with them.

We at the GGTC being affiliated with Tennis Australia endorse and promote the above guidelines and parent/guardian Code of Conduct at our club.

Your anticipated co-operation is expected and appreciated.

GGTC Committee 2016