

GREYTHORN PARK TENNIS CLUB

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMPETITION PLAY

1. INTRODUCTION

Participation in competition tennis (singles, doubles, etc.) against other clubs is an integral and enjoyable part of Club activities. Competing to the best of your abilities should be enjoyable, create a healthy incentive to improve your skills, represent your Club and contribute to your team's success.

This Club Code of Conduct complements the Tennis Australia (TA) guidance material¹ by providing more specific emphasis on areas the Club considers particularly relevant to our local circumstances.

The Club's Management Committee will actively promote awareness of the Code amongst members through information and education activities to encourage compliance.

Minor breaches are to be expected from time to time and need not be cause for significant concern. However, the nature of breaches will vary in seriousness and sometimes even minor breaches, when combined with the wrong attitude, can result in more major incidents or conflicts that have the potential to cause upset and/or reflect poorly on the Club.

It is the Committee's hope that this Code can help to avoid such situations and ensure that we maximise the benefits for our members of participation in competition play.

2. PURPOSE

To promote enjoyment of competition tennis within the spirit of fair play and good sportsmanship.

3. VALUES

GPTC values players who:

- are well informed about the rules of tennis²
- show respect for opposition players and spectators
- are positive role models for other players and the community
- enhance our Club's reputation for fairness and sportsmanship

¹ "Code of Behaviour: Tournaments and Competitions"; "Procedures for Matches Played without a Chair Umpire"

² Refer to "ITF Rules of Tennis (2021)"

4. REQUIRED CONDUCT

Adherence to the following conduct is required of all players representing GPTC in competition play:

General

Players must ALWAYS:

- compete to the best of their abilities and use their best efforts at all times
- dress appropriately, including footwear that is safe and not damaging to the court surface
- apologise immediately and audibly if they hit an opposition player with the ball during a rally
- halt play and offer immediate first aid or other assistance if a player is injured or significantly inconvenienced during a match

Players must NEVER:

- direct any form of verbal or physical abuse or any other type of intimidatory behaviour towards their opponent(s)
- use audible verbal obscenities or visible obscene gestures of any kind during the course of a match
 - engage in abuse of balls, racquets or other equipment during the course of a match
- play in a dangerous or reckless manner that has the potential to injure an opposition player
- enlist the aid of spectators, including other team members, parents or coaches, in making line calls or attempting to determine the score or other on-court matters

Scoring

- The server should always call out the game score before starting a game and the point score before serving for each point, loud enough for his/her opponent(s) to hear
- If players cannot agree on the score, they should calmly discuss the points/games that are disputed and replay those for which the outcome cannot be resolved

Line calls, lets, not up, etc.

- Players are responsible for all line calls on their side of the net

- All 'out' or 'fault' calls must be made immediately after the ball has bounced and must

be loud enough for the opponent to hear (if the call is not made immediately, the ball remains in play)

- If a player incorrectly calls a ball 'out' and then realises that the ball was good, the point must be awarded to the opponent
- If there is any doubt about a line call, a player must give the benefit of the doubt to his/her opponent(s)
- On clay courts or other surfaces that leave a mark:
 - a ball mark can only be checked for a point-ending shot, or the shot which has caused play to be stopped
 - if a player calls the ball 'out', he/she should, in normal circumstances, be able to identify/show the correct mark
 - players are not allowed to go to their opponent's side of the net to check a mark unless invited by their opponent(s)
 - if a player erases the mark before the call is resolved, he/she is conceding the point
- A 'service let', 'not up', 'net' or 'foul shot' may be called by either player/team immediately and loudly; where the call is disputed, a 'let' or 'play two' should be played by agreement

Interruptions to play

- If player concentration is genuinely interrupted during a point by a ball or player from another court coming onto the court or immediate surrounds, the player who first experiences the interruption must immediately halt play and request that the point be replayed (N.B. The point may be replayed from the start - 'play two' – or as a 'let', by agreement)

5. GOOD ETIQUETTE

The following behaviours reflect our values and players are strongly recommended to adhere to them to enhance everyone's enjoyment of the game:

- To decide who will serve first, players should toss a coin or spin a racquet; the player who wins the toss may choose to serve, receive from a nominated end, or ask their opponent to make the choice
- The receiver should play to the reasonable pace of the server
- The receiver should not return the first service if it is an obvious fault – let it go by or ground it
- Receivers should return balls directly and without delay to the server at the completion of each point

- Players should not yell out or scream regularly and loudly, whether in relation to winning and/or losing a point, or engage in constant or overt celebration, or celebration directed at an opponent
- Players should not stall, sulk, complain or practice any other forms of gamesmanship
- To retrieve a ball from another court or to return a ball to another court, players should always wait until an interval between points on the other court
- Players should not walk behind a court where a match is in progress until a point is over
- Players are always expected to shake hands (or, in COVID times, touch racquets) with their opponent(s) at the completion of a match

6. BREACHES OF THE CODE

Complaints about breaches of this Code of Conduct should be directed the GPTC Management Committee.

Once the Management Committee becomes aware of a breach or repeated breaches, it may adopt one of more of the following actions:

- **Discussion with the member** - A Committee member may be assigned to raise the problematic conduct with the member to ensure they are aware of how it breaches the Code and to provide them with the opportunity to respond, reflect and if necessary self correct.
- **Verbal warning** - If the breach of the Code is particularly serious or if it is a repeated behaviour, an official of the Committee may issue a formal verbal warning to the member to not repeat the conduct.
- **Written warning** - If a formal verbal warning has been issued but not complied with, the Committee may issue a formal written warning to the member to comply with the Code by not repeating the conduct. In some circumstances it may be appropriate to direct that the member make a formal apology to a third party affected by the behaviour.
- **Suspension** - If some or all of the above measures have been implemented without success, the Committee may determine that the member should be suspended from competition play for one or more weeks, as considered proportionate to the nature and seriousness of the breach(es). In the most extreme of cases, the Management Committee may ban a member from competition play indefinitely.

Prior to implementing any formal actions or sanctions, the Committee will ensure that the views of the player who is the subject of the alleged breach(es) are heard and fairly taken into account.

The Committee may also consider offering to arrange other interventions, such as mediation or counselling, where it believes this may assist in resolving complaints about breaches of the Code.