

Hutton and Shenfield LTC

STANDARDS and ETIQUETTE

This policy sets out good practice developed by the LTA around standards and values expected at Tennis Clubs around the country. The policy sets out a code of conduct for all tennis members to follow and what is expected to create the right playing environment.

This policy is fully supported by Hutton and Shenfield Tennis Committee.

STANDARDS

All members must treat other members with dignity with respect. Dignity is about respectful, responsible, fair behaviour. 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.
- Questioning another person's integrity over line calls or other actions.
- Causing danger to other players through your play.

ETIQUETTE

Tennis etiquette is different from the rules of the game. It covers a broad range of actions and behaviours which are traditionally considered acceptable on and around the tennis court. These are some actions and behaviours that Hutton and Shenfield recommend to members.

When playing please wear recognised sports clothing (not jeans etc) and most importantly use tennis shoes as other shoes can damage the courts and may not grip as well and can potentially cause accidents if you were to fall or slip.

Show respect and courtesy

- To your opponent(s), your partner, and others on or near the courts. Keep your voice down and confined to your court as much as possible so as not to disrupt players on adjacent courts.
- If you get into a loud dispute with your opponent, take it off the court and away from other players.
- Do not criticise your partner or opponent and be positive and offer encouragement instead.
- Please do not walk behind players whilst a game or a rally is in progress.
- Do not walk onto a court during a game. Wait for the players to finish the game, or minimally the point, before walking onto their court.
- It is very distracting to have someone disrupt a game in progress, so if you must cross another court do so after the game is finished and go around the court not through the middle.
- If you are trying to cross a court please wait until you are invited to and it is safe to do so.
- When you are crossing courts it is normal to do so at the rear of the court and not at the net.
- When you decide to cross behind other courts do so as quickly as possible and don't stop for a chat on the way.
- If a stray ball comes onto your court don't knock it back immediately, wait until the owners are ready and then hit it to the servers end.

Talking

- During play and particularly between games, keep the amount and volume of conversation down to a minimum necessary to play and enjoy your own games. Too much social chatter or debate can be disturbing to those on adjacent courts who came to play tennis.

Line calls

- Lines calls can be a problem and the majority of experienced players use the 'honour system'.
- Only call the lines on your side of the net.
- Call clearly and firmly what you see and what you honestly believe to be correct.
- If you are not absolutely certain or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball was IN and must be given in the opponents favour.
- If occasionally you have serious doubts as to your opponents eye-sight, ask politely if they are certain as to the accuracy of their call. If they say they are get on with the next point.
- If in social friendly matches there is some doubt over a line call, offer to play the point again rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting.

Ball management

- Balls should be kept either in hand, in a pocket or ball clip, or against the fence directly behind the centre mark.
- Any time your opponent has to walk a significant distance to get a ball, look around your side to see whether you can use that time to collect a ball that's similarly far away.
- If the server needs a ball, the player closest to a ball should get it and send it to the server.

Keeping score.

- The server should announce the score at the start of each game and at the start of the second point and each subsequent point in each game.
- If the receiver cannot hear the server's announcement of the score, he must ask the server to speak louder. You can't wait until the server believes he has won the game to try to reconstruct the scoring point by point.

Body Language

- Tennis can be a frustrating game if you are not getting your serves in or not hitting your shots, but try to remain upbeat and happy. Your opponent and/or doubles partner doesn't want to be playing tennis with someone who is miserable so cheer up! You are more likely to play better tennis if you are calm, relaxed, focussed, and in a positive frame of mind.

Close the gate behind you

- Whether you're coming onto the courts, or leaving, it is common courtesy to close the gate behind you. This will keep the balls inside the confines of the gate and they won't roll outside.

Do not retrieve your ball from the other court

- As with the above, it is common courtesy not to disrupt players on court during a match. If your ball rolls onto an adjacent court, wait for them to finish the game and kindly ask for “a little help” to get their attention. Under no circumstances should you run over onto their court in the middle of a game to retrieve the ball yourself.

Mobile phones

- All mobile phones and other communication devices should be switched off as these can disrupt play.

Pick up after yourself

- Don't leave empty cans or old tennis balls out on the court when you leave.
- Dispose of any rubbish you have in bins on or near the court – if there aren't any, take it with you

Close up when finished

- Lock the courts, turn off the lights and pick up the balls if you have finished playing and no one else is expected on the court

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