



H&S Code of Conduct Policy 2026 (previously called Standards & Etiquette Policy October 2025)

Hutton and Shenfield LTC Code of Conduct

This policy outlines the standards of behaviour, conduct, and court etiquette expected of all members of Hutton and Shenfield Lawn Tennis Club. It aligns with good practice guidance from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and is fully supported by the Club Committee. The aim is to ensure a respectful, safe, and enjoyable playing environment for all members.

1. Scope

This policy applies to all members, visitors, and anyone participating in tennis activities at Hutton and Shenfield LTC.

2. Standards of Behaviour

All members must treat others with dignity and respect. Behaviour must be responsible, fair, and considerate at all times. The following actions are deemed inappropriate and will not be tolerated:

- Throwing racquets or other equipment
- Swearing or using offensive language
- Abusive, aggressive, or intimidating behaviour
- Questioning another player's integrity, including over line calls
- Engaging in play that creates unnecessary risk or danger to others

Members are expected to take responsibility for their actions and conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the values of the Club (See H&S main website under heading Club Values and Policies).

3. Court Etiquette

3.1 Conduct on and around the Courts

- Members must wear recognised sports clothing and appropriate tennis footwear. Clothing such as jeans and non-sports shoes is not suitable and may damage court surfaces or increase injury risk.
- Players must show courtesy to opponents, partners, and others on neighbouring courts at all times.
- Keep voices low to avoid disturbing adjacent matches.

- Do not criticise partners or opponents; maintain a positive and encouraging approach.
- Disputes must be handled calmly and respectfully.

3.2 Moving Around Courts

- Do not walk behind a court while a rally is in progress.
- Only enter or cross a court once a point (and ideally a game) has finished and players indicate it is safe.
- Cross behind courts promptly and avoid unnecessary delays or conversation.
- Do not retrieve balls by entering an active court; wait until play has stopped and politely request assistance.

3.3 Ball Management

- Balls should be kept in hand, in a pocket, or placed neatly against the fence behind the centre mark.
- When an opponent must retrieve a ball, use the opportunity to collect balls on your own side.
- The nearest player should return a ball to the server when required.
- Stray balls should be returned only when players on the other court are ready, and always to the server's end.

3.4 Line Calls

- Players call lines only on their own side of the net.
- Calls must be made clearly, promptly, and honestly.
- If a ball is not clearly seen, it must be called **IN**.
- If a disagreement arises, players may politely confirm whether an opponent is certain of their call; if so, the point should continue without further dispute.
- In friendly or social play, replaying the point is encouraged if uncertainty persists.

3.5 Communication and Noise

- Keep conversation during play and between games to a necessary minimum. Excessive social chatter may disturb other matches.

3.6 Body Language

- Members should demonstrate calm, positive, and constructive body language, even when performance is below expectations.

- Negative gestures or visible frustration should be avoided to maintain a respectful playing atmosphere.
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4. Use of Facilities

4.1 Gate Management

- Members must close the gate when entering or leaving to prevent balls escaping and to maintain safety.

4.2 Personal Belongings and Waste

- Members must remove all personal items, empty cans, old balls, and other waste.
- Rubbish should be placed in designated bins or taken home if bins are not available.

4.3 Mobile Phones

- Mobile phones and similar devices should be switched off or silenced to prevent disruption.

4.4 Closing Up

- If no other players are expected, members must lock the courts, turn off lights, and ensure balls are collected before leaving.

The Committee confirms that this policy has been formally reviewed and remains current as of April 2026.

Version: 1.0

Last Review Date: April 2026

Next Review Date: April 2028