



CODE OF CONDUCT

1. APPLICATION

- 1.1 This document applies to all tournaments and weekly competitions held at Southbank Tennis Club and will be applied in conjunction with the discipline regulations contained in Code of Behaviour – Tournaments, or Code of Behaviour – Weekly Competitions. The definitions that appear in the Code of Behaviour regulations apply equally to this document.

The nominated referee may apply any of the code violations in 2 below for situations that occur off court depending on the number of occasions they offend and specific severity

Penalties may include –

- Code Violation 1st Offence
- Code Violation 2nd Offence
- Code Violation default

This may also include incidences of conduct unbecoming in 3 below.

Court monitors are not fully accredited officials and will refer any code violations that they observe to either the court supervisor or nominated referee for further action.

2. STANDARD CODE OF BEHAVIOUR VIOLATIONS

The following violations amount to breaches of the Code of Behaviour:

2.1 Commencement of play ('no show')

A player is not ready to commence play within 15 minutes of his/her match being called. The referee shall designate the official timepiece. This can also be deemed a 'no show'.

2.2 Physical abuse

- (a) A player physically abuses any official, opponent, spectator, or other person within the club precinct. For the purposes of this rule physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of an official, opponent, and spectator or other person.
- (b) In certain circumstances the matter may also be referred to the police for further investigation and subsequent possible action.



2.3 Verbal abuse

Players shall not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse any official, opponent, sponsor, spectator, or other person within the precincts of the tournament/competition site. For the purpose of this rule, verbal abuse is defined as a statement about an official, opponent, sponsor, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting, racially or otherwise abusive

2.4 Audible obscenity

Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the precincts of the tournament/competition site. For the purposes of this rule audible obscenity is defined as the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the court officials or spectators.

2.5 Unsportsmanlike conduct

- (a) A player shall not during any tournament/competition engage in conduct that damages the image and integrity of tennis. Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others. For the purposes of this policy, unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any misconduct by a player, prior to, during or subsequent to a match that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport, including, but not limited to blatant cheating, but does not specifically fall within other violation categories.
- (b) Without limiting the foregoing any conduct that is disrespectful or offensive to a player's opponent/s, or to officials, tournament directors or competition managers, spectators or players on other courts is deemed to be Unsportsmanlike Conduct under this section 2. This may include failure to return the ball appropriately to the server, inappropriate or unsportsmanlike comments or gestures (on court or on-site at a Tournament or within the precinct), sledging, intimidating, threatening or abusive acts or omissions (whether verbal, in writing or otherwise}, overt celebrations consistently directed at opponents, excessive disruptive noise, or any other unsportsmanlike acts or omissions that are inconsistent with commonly understood tennis etiquette.

2.6 Line Calling

Where a player has a point awarded to their opponent due to an incorrect line call by that player (in accordance with Rules for Matches Played without a Chair Umpire) a Code Violation may be applied at the discretion of the relevant official in addition to the loss of the point. Any of the line calling situations described above that attract a Code Violation will be deemed to be Unsportsmanlike Conduct under this section 2.



2.7 Unreasonable delays

A player unreasonably delays a match. A player shall commence the match after the expiration of the established warm-up period. Thereafter, play shall be continuous as provided in the Rules of Tennis and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause. When a violation is a result of a medical condition, refusal to play or not returning to the court within the allocated time a code violation (delay of game) penalty shall be assessed in accordance with the code schedule. Other delays may be dealt with as a time violation.

2.8 Visible obscenity

A player makes offensive or obscene gestures during any match or within the club precinct. For the purposes of this rule, visible obscenity is defined as the making of signs by a player with his hands, body and/or racquet/balls that commonly have an obscene meaning.

2.9 Abuse of racquets or equipment

A player violently or with anger, hits, kicks or throws a racquet or other equipment, or in any way unreasonably interferes with any court fixtures and equipment within the precinct. For the purposes of this rule abuse of racquets or equipment is defined as intentionally and violently throwing, destroying or damaging racquets or equipment or intentionally and violently hitting the net, court or other fixture during or after a match out of anger or frustration.

2.10 Abuse of balls

- (a) Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the precinct except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including warmup).
- (b) For the purposes of this rule abuse of balls is defined as intentionally hitting a ball out of the enclosure of the court, hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences.

2.11 Leaving the court

A player leaves the court area during a match (including the warm-up) without seeking permission from opposition players.

2.12 Best efforts

- (a) A player shall use his/her best efforts to win a match when competing in a tournament/competition.
- (b) For the purposes of this rule, the referee shall have the authority to penalise a player in accordance with the Code of Behaviour.



2.13 Coaching

A player receives any type of coaching from any person while a match is in progress, except where special provision is made for a tournament/competition. Communication of any kind, audible or visible between a player and any other person may be construed as coaching. Coaching is not permitted at the end of or during a set and players are still on court, or during a toilet break.

2.14 Failure to complete a match

A player must complete a match in progress unless he/she is reasonably unable to do so. A violation of this section may subject a player to immediate default.

2.15 Spectator Interference

- (a) A player is deemed to be responsible for the behaviour and conduct of their entourage and support team who attend their matches or attend a tournament in which they are participating (i.e. parent, family member, coach, trainer or friend).
- (b) Where a match is disrupted or interfered with by the action/s of a spectator who is part of a player's entourage (i.e. parent, family member, coach, trainer or friend) the relevant official may at first instance attempt to address and eliminate any spectator interference at tournaments/competitions by discussing the relevant offences or behaviour with the offending person and/or applicable player. This discussion may include a warning to the player and the interfering spectator that any further interference by the spectator may result in:
 - (i) the match being suspended until the official determines that the issue is resolved and that play can continue without further disruption or interference;
 - (ii) a Code Violation being issued in accordance with the provisions below; and/or the relevant association at a later date refusing the player's entry into future tournaments/competitions pursuant to the procedure set out below.
- (c) However, notwithstanding the above, where matches are disrupted or interfered with by the actions of a spectator who is part of a player's entourage (i.e. parent, family member, coach or friend) the official may also decide in their discretion to, and without having first issued a warning, to impose Code Violation(s) on the relevant player(s) whose entourage that spectator forms part of, in accordance with the standard Code Violation process.
- (d) Disruption/Interference is defined as including the following:



- (i) intimidation threatening or abuse of opponents;
 - (ii) making or causing to be made disrespectful or inappropriate comments or gestures towards officials, players, nominated tournament referees, club captains, junior coordinators, managers, coaches, other parents and other persons on-site;
 - (iii) providing inappropriate instructions, comments or direction to a player including both the spectator's own player or the opponent of any type (although this may also be considered as "Coaching" in accordance with section 2.13 above); and
 - (iv) any other inappropriate or Unsportsmanlike Conduct (as defined in section 2 above) of any type as determined by the applicable official.
- (e) The nominate referee may also choose to suspend the match until the relevant disruption or interference, or the situation giving rise to that disruption or interference has improved or dissipated sufficiently so as to allow for the match to continue without disruption or interference.

2.16

In addition to and without limiting the above, the President, Club Captain or Executive Committee of the Club will provide a report regarding the disruption and/or interference to the GDTA or other appropriate body. In such circumstances, the relevant association may elect to take further action against the player in accordance with this Code of Behaviour, such further action which may include any of the following:

- (a) providing written advice to the applicable player regarding the spectator interference in question which outlines possible future consequences of repeat occurrences;
- (b) advice to the applicable player and/or spectator in writing of the inappropriate behaviour, and requiring the player and/or spectator to participate in a meeting with the relevant body to discuss the issue. The object of the meeting will be to educate and counsel the interfering spectator and to act as a final warning. The spectator may be required to give a written undertaking not to attend future matches for a specified period in the case of interference at future tournaments/competitions; and
- (c) referring the matter to a Tribunal constituted under this Code of Behaviour, in which case the Tribunal may determine whether the player will have future tournament/competition entries refused. The Tribunal may consider all relevant issues, including the severity of the specific interference and/ or disruption, and/or if there has been any failure to comply with previous directions regarding spectator interference or undertakings given by the spectator.



2.17

The relevant association may encourage mediation between the parties in an attempt to have the issue resolved. If a resolution is reached at mediation no further action may be taken under this Code of Behaviour (except by agreement between the parties). This does not prevent action being taken under State or Federal legislation or criminal or civil law.

2.18

Without limiting any of the above, where a spectator engages in conduct that brings the sport of tennis or a tournament into ridicule or disrepute, or that may be considered "conduct unbecoming" as that term is used in section 3 below (except that the word "spectator" shall be deemed to be read in place of the word "player") whilst that spectator is on-site at a tournament or competition:

- (a) a Code Violation may be immediately issued by the relevant official to the player whose entourage that spectator forms part of;
- (b) the nominated referee, official, club captain, tournament director or competition club captains or junior coordinator will prepare and forward to the Executive Committee a report regarding the spectator's behaviour for further action; and
- (c) a player may be suspended from all remaining tournament matches at the discretion of the applicable association.

2.19

Conduct that may be considered as bringing the sport of tennis or a tournament into ridicule or disrepute, or that may be considered "conduct unbecoming" may be conduct during a match or otherwise which may or may not directly interfere with a match i.e. verbal abuse directed at an official or any other on-site person (including the spectator's own player).

3. NON-STANDARD CODE OF BEHAVIOUR VIOLATIONS

3.1 Dress and equipment

A player does not dress and present himself/herself for play in approved tennis attire (per Tennis Australia Dress Regulations). Clean and customarily acceptable attire shall be worn at all times during match play. A player must be given the opportunity to change his/her clothing in order to comply with the dress regulations particularly before a match starts. At the discretion of the relevant official a maximum period of 10 minutes may be allowed in order for a player to change attire. A direction to improve the player's dress before the next tournament/competition day may also be given by the relevant official. Players should not be defaulted from matches due to clothing breaches except in exceptional circumstances but failure to meet dress regulation requests may be reported to Tennis Australia or the relevant member association via an on-site code violation after the completion of the match.