

Tennis Shropshire: Code of Conduct

We have been asked to outline a few of the basic guidelines re conduct during a tennis match. We could produce a 6 page document but think less is more in this case. Rules for each competition are clearly laid out. Any queries should be sent to the relevant competition organiser in the first instance and then to the County Office on 01743 246868.

We receive very few comments re behaviour/conduct, and generally, the manner in which matches are played is excellent. However we feel that perhaps just a few notes may help those who are new to the game and may be finding the protocol a little confusing.

Prior to a match:

- Good idea to confirm the match a day before.
- Postponement is not an option - unless the weather is appalling of course. Rearrangement of dates may be made immediately after the initial fixture meeting but after that the agreed dates should be honoured.

Before the match:

- The knock up should be an opportunity to warm up before play starts and not a chance to beat seven bells out of the person on the other side of the net! There should be the opportunity for each player to have a go at a variety of shots as wished.
- When playing away at a club please ensure that suitable tennis clothing and shoes are worn so that no offence is given.
- Some courts have to stop play at a set time when using floodlights so a prompt start is often essential.

During the match:

- Play should be continuous and played to the timing of the server. If someone has to leave the court then opponents should be told the reason and return should be as quick as possible.
- Please help your partners and opponents by ensuring the balls are with the server before each point and loose balls should be cleared from the court.
- If a ball rolls across the court, or something blows on to the court a "let" should be called immediately and not at the end of the rally.
- Players call a ball out only on their side of the net. If you are concerned re the call then query it, but ultimately the call is with the players on the side of the net the ball lands - occasionally you may agree to play a point again.

- A ball that just clips the outside of the line is "in".
- A player, standing outside the court, who catches a ball before it bounces forfeits the point.
- If players lose the score they should talk through the points and start play again at the point where they agree on the score.
- Even if foot faults worry you they can not be called from the other side of the net! You may feel it appropriate to mention it at the end of the match, or you may not!
- Personal comments should be avoided at all times as they may be construed as gamesmanship or intimidation.
- Shaking hands at the end of the match is compulsory - it confirms the match is over and the score should then be agreed.

After the match:

- Please complete the score cards after agreeing the score. Filling these in for a new captain can be confusing at first but there will usually be someone playing who has done it all before. Please send the cards off a.s.a.p. and not keep them all until the end of the season.
- Results can be checked on the LTA website:
[www.lta.org.uk](http://www.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Shropshire/)<http://www.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Shropshire/>
- It is hoped that refreshments will always be offered to opponents - sometimes at the club and sometimes elsewhere. If you know in advance that you will be unable to stay after the match please let the opponents know as some people take a lot of time preparing refreshments after a long day at work.

If you are at all concerned about the behaviour of anyone during a match, either on the court or from the sideline please mention it to your captain. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure good conduct but if you need support over an issue please do not hesitate to contact the County office or the organiser of the relevant competition.

We can only act on information received so please talk to us.