

Duffield Squash and Tennis Club

Tennis Court Use, Playing and Match Etiquette

In addition to following to the [LTA Code of Conduct](#), **all members and parents** involved with the tennis section should:

1.

- a. Wear suitable kit for all play.
- b. Keep to agreed timings for training, play and competitions, or inform their coach or team captain if they are going to be late.
- c. Signal politely to the players on court if you are waiting for a booked court, but allow them time to finish their present game before claiming it.
- d. Players should not use their mobile phone on court.
- e. Pay any fees for coaching or events promptly.
- f. Smoking and drugs are not permitted.
- g. Only use the floodlights in accordance with planning permission conditions. Do not use only "borrowed light" from a neighbouring court.
- h. At social tennis sessions, play a tiebreak at 4-4 if others are waiting.
- i. Members bringing their children to the courts are responsible for their behaviour.
- j. Spectators should not offer advice, make adverse comments or call out during games, and should speak quietly if phone use is essential.

2. On court for both social and match play:

- a. Serve when the opponent is ready.
- b. The server should call the score after each point.
- c. If a train is passing, do not serve until it has passed.
- d. Each side should call their own lines, the call is the opponents' if the ball is at their end.
- e. The server should call the score before serving the next point – loud and clear!
- f. Always have two balls ready to serve. If you can't keep the second, in doubles ask your partner to hold it.
- g. Don't return serves that are out.
- h. Make sure the server has sufficient tennis balls, but don't send balls to hem when they are clearly ready to serve.
- i. Call clearly, but don't call anything if a ball is in! And do call balls that are
- j. well out, because the line/ball may be obscured by another player.
- k. If there is some agreed doubt about a call, play the point again.
- l. If a ball goes onto another court, wait for a pause in play before asking for it to be returned or fetching it. Return balls to other courts politely.

- m. Always interrupt play to clear stray balls which could be a hazard.
- n. Always go round the net, not over it.
- o. Do not walk behind players if they are playing a point. Where there are dedicated gates, please use these.
- p. Do not make a noise e.g. groan or 'oh no!' when you hit a ball you think will be out, etc, as this is distracting.

3. In addition in matches:

- a. Always introduce yourselves at the start of a match, and shake hands at the end.
- b. Away team players stay on the same court, while home pairs always move courts.
- c. Take time to communicate with your partner, before and during the match.
- d. There is no need to apologise to your partner for poor shots – you need only apologise if you haven't been trying!
- e. Enjoy your tennis – encourage your partner (and yourself) and create a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for visitors. Have fun!

4. Parents and carers should:

- a. Show an interest in their child's tennis, but never force their child to take part.
- b. Ensure their child understands what is expected of them and the importance of fair play.
- c. Encourage their child to learn the rules of tennis and play within them.
- d. Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials, and accept judgments made by officials.
- e. Help their child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- f. Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding good performance by any player.
- g. Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- h. Use correct and proper language at all times.
- i. Respect the coaches' decisions on the level of tennis appropriate for their child.
- j. Not communicate with their child or interfere with the on-court helpers and referees during a match.
- k. Be patient. Steady progression is unusual in children; peaks and plateaux are common.
- l. Deliver and collect their child punctually.

5 Feb 2025