



Code of Conduct and On-Court Etiquette for Adult Members

Introduction

Sutton Churches Tennis Club (SCTC) is an LTA registered club that is wholly committed to promoting the well-being of all its members and visitors, ensuring a positive and enjoyable experience for all. To ensure that the club remains a respected and welcoming club, the committee believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents of Juniors associated with the club should at all times show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others.

To uphold the club ethos all members should follow the Code of Conduct and On-Court Etiquette, and when necessary, erring visitors should be asked to conform privately. Members are encouraged to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club with the Club Secretary.

Should a member or a regular visitor repeatedly deliberately, or significantly breach the Code of Conduct or the On-Court Etiquette rules, then the committee will follow the complaints and sanctions procedure within the rules.

As a member of SCTC you are expected to abide by the following codes:

SCTC Ethos

Community, companionship, competition.

- Providing affordable tennis for all in a friendly and sociable atmosphere
- Equally welcoming to everyone regardless of playing standard or experience
- Volunteering and the community spirit are integral to how we operate
- Prioritising the communal over the individual
- Fun and enjoyment are paramount whether the tennis be casual, social, or competitive.

Rules of Tennis

- All players should maintain an up-to-date knowledge of the rules of tennis. The rules are published by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) here: <https://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/>

The Code of Conduct

All adult members should:

- Familiarise themselves with the club rules and policies and adhere to them. These can be found in Document Downloads on the club website.

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all, including but not limited to their protected characteristics; understand that people have different motivations for taking part.
- Respect the valuable contribution made by coaches and club volunteers.
- Refrain from using foul, abusive or aggressive language or actions towards others. This includes harassing, intimidating or bullying members, visitors, coaches or officials.
- Refrain from abusing or deliberately damaging equipment.
- Exhibit attitudes and behaviour that contribute to, rather than detract from, the relaxed and friendly atmosphere that the club seeks to promote, as summarised in the Club Ethos.
- Act in a manner that does not compromise the health, safety and well-being of themselves and those around them.
- Make every effort to keep any timings/arrangement regarding matches or coaching.
- Pay all agreed costs promptly and within the agreed time-frame. This includes membership fees, coaching fees, competition and league entry fees, and any other agreed costs.
- Not smoke cigarettes or e-cigarettes on the Club premises and must not consume recreational drugs on the premises of SCTC, or when representing the club.
- Be welcoming and inclusive to new members and visitors and as required inform them of the facilities and sessions (including the social tennis rules).

On-Court Etiquette

The intention of the On-Court Etiquette rules section is to ensure that actions and behaviour on and around the courts are considerate to all participants.

Be Respectful

- Members should refrain from speech or actions that may be considered a distraction or disturbance to players on court.
- Do not walk behind another court when a point is in play. Wait until the point is over.
- Should a ball from an adjacent court come on to your court during a point, offer a let. Return the ball as soon as appropriate without disturbing the neighbouring game.
- Return balls to the server after each point.
- Do not leave balls scattered across the court between points. Keep free balls off the playing area. After a match or session set, please return the balls to the green hutch on the fence by the net post, and retrieve any lost balls from outside the stop netting where possible.
- Always show sporting behaviour, greeting the other players at the end of the match.

Line Calls

- Only call lines on your side of the net.
- Ensure your call is heard by those on your court.
- Make your call as honestly as possible. If there is any doubt, then the ball should be called good and must be given in favour of your opponent(s).
- Do not repeatedly query line calls from your opposition.

Attire

- All players should wear appropriate footwear and clothing when playing tennis. Failure to wear the correct footwear could result in injury or damage to the court. Footwear should have non-marking soles, and proper tennis shoes are recommended. Inappropriate clothing can cause you to fall.
- Clothing with offensive wording or imagery should not be worn at the club.

Keeping Score

- All players should endeavour to keep the score and it is best practice to announce the score after each point.
- Once the game is complete, there should be no queries made into the scoring of that game.

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