

# NORTH SUBURBAN NIGHT TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC.

(Reg. No. A0015517W)



## Code of Conduct

(based on the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour: Tournaments and Weekly Competitions)

(<http://www.tennis.com.au/doc/code-of-behaviour>)

### Purpose of the Code

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to preserve the image and integrity of tennis within the North Suburban Night Tennis Association (NSNTA) and to promote sportsmanlike conduct in its weekly competitions. This Code of Conduct also provides a framework for dealing with breaches of the Code of Conduct in a consistent manner.

### Scope of the Code

The Code of Conduct applies to all NSNTA weekly competitions.

Incidents involving harassment, discrimination, abuse (not verbal abuse within this Code of Conduct) and vilification (all of which are defined within the Tennis Australia Member Protection Policy) may be dealt with pursuant to the Tennis Australia Member Protection Policy and not these guidelines.

### Players Code of Conduct

As a player, you should:

- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Cooperate with your team mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours.
- Always respect the use of the facilities and equipment provided.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### Spectators Code of Conduct

As a spectator, you should:

- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams.
- Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions.
- Show appreciation for volunteers, officials and administrators.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

## Code of Conduct violations

The following violations amount to breaches of the Code of Conduct.

### **PLAYERS**

#### **1. Physical abuse**

A player must not physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator, or other person within the competition venue. For the purposes of this rule physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of an official, opponent, spectator or other person. In certain circumstances the matter may also be referred to the police for further investigation and subsequent possible action.

#### **2. Verbal abuse**

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

#### **3. Audible obscenity**

Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the precincts of the competition venue. 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.

#### **4. Unsportsmanlike conduct**

A player shall not during any 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 Code of Conduct, 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.

Without limiting the foregoing any conduct that is disrespectful or offensive to a players opponent/s, or to officials, spectators or players on other courts is deemed to be Unsportsmanlike Conduct under this section. This may include failure to return the ball appropriately to the server, inappropriate or unsportsmanlike comments or gestures, sledging, intimidating, threatening or abusive acts or omissions (whether verbal, in writing or otherwise), overt celebrations consistently directed at opponents, excessive noise disrupting the competition venue, or any other unsportsmanlike acts or omissions that are inconsistent with commonly understood tennis etiquette.

#### **5. Unreasonable delays**

A player must not unreasonably delay 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 other than a legitimate medical condition. Failure to return to the court within the specified injury period will result in the player forfeiting the set.

#### **6. Visible obscenity**

A player must not make offensive or obscene gestures during any match or within the 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.

**7. Abuse of racquets or equipment**

A player shall not violently or with anger, hit, kick or throw a racquet or other equipment, or in any way unreasonably interfere with any court fixtures and equipment. 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, umpire's chair or other fixture during or after a match out of anger or frustration.

**8. Abuse of balls**

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the competition venue except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including warm-up). 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.

**9. Best efforts / failure to complete a match**

A player shall use his/her best efforts to win a match when competing in a competition. A player must complete a match in progress unless he/she is reasonably unable to do so.

**10. Coaching**

A player must not receive any type of coaching from any person, other than their on-court partner, while a match is in progress. Communication of any kind, audible or visible between a player and any person other than their partner may be construed as coaching. Coaching shall be permitted where there is an off-court break between sets or during interruptions to play caused by bad weather where players leave the court. Coaching is not permitted during a toilet break.

**SPECTATORS**

**11. Interference**

A spectator must not disrupt or interfere with the proper conduct of a match. For the purposes of this rule, interference includes physical abuse, verbal abuse, audible obscenities, visible obscenities, coaching, intimidation, excessive cheering or any unsportsmanlike conduct, whether directed towards a player, another spectator or an official.

**12. Failure to comply with direction of venue supervisor**

Where a match is disrupted or interfered with by the action of a spectator who is part of a player's entourage (i.e. parent, family member, coach or friend) the host club official shall first warn the player and the interfering spectator, including advising that any further interference by the spectator may result in the spectator being required to leave the venue. Should further interference occur, the host club official may direct the spectator to leave the venue and may report the circumstances that led to the person being directed to leave as a breach of the Code of Conduct. Failure to leave the venue when directed to do so, also constitutes a breach of the Code of Conduct.

## Breaches of the Code of Conduct

Minor Code of Conduct violations should be resolved between representatives of the two clubs concerned.

If the matter cannot be resolved by the two clubs, or if the breach is serious, it must be reported in writing by a Club Secretary to the Association Secretary. The report must clearly identify any players or spectators alleged to have breached the Code together with date, time and place and specific details of the breach. The report must include all relevant information, and may attach witness accounts.

The Secretary of the Club of the player/spectator against whom the complaint has been made will be notified as soon as practicable that a report of a breach of the Code of Conduct has been made.

Acknowledgement of receipt of the complaint will also be made in writing to the Secretary of the Club making the complaint as soon as practicable.

## Investigation and determination of breaches of the Code of Conduct

The Match and Permit Committee shall consider all alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct reported to the Association Secretary and determine whether a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred.

The Secretary of the Club of the player/spectator against whom the complaint has been made must respond in writing to the complaint within seven (7) days. If the Club Secretary fails to respond within the required timeframe, the Match and Permit Committee may proceed to determine the matter based on the information contained in the original complaint.

At the discretion of the Match and Permit Committee, further information may be sought by and considered by the Committee, including speaking to the parties involved.

## Penalties

Where, in the opinion of the Match and Permit Committee, a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred, the Committee shall impose the following penalties on the player/s and/or spectator/s involved —

- (a) for the first breach, a formal warning;
- (b) for the second breach, a one match suspension;
- (c) for the third breach, a suspension of up to five matches; and
- (d) for the fourth breach, the player shall be expelled from the Association.

**In the event of a serious incident or an incident involving multiple breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Committee may suspend a player without first issuing a warning.**

There shall be no right of appeal. The Committee's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

The decision of the Match and Permit Committee will be sent in writing to the player/s and/or spectator/s through the Club Secretary.