

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. Audible Obscenity

- (a) A player must not use obscene language.
- (b) An audible obscenity is the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane (whether in English or any other language) and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by an opponent, an official and/or spectators.

2. Visible Obscenity

- (a) A player must not make obscene gestures of any kind.
- (b) A visible obscenity is the making of signs by a player with their hands, a racquet, tennis balls or any other equipment, that are commonly understood to have an obscene meaning.

3. Ball Abuse

- (a) A player shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the precincts of the site except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including the warm-up).
- (b) Ball abuse includes:
 - (i) the intentional or reckless hitting of a ball out of the enclosure of the court;
 - (ii) hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court; and/or
 - (iii) hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences.

4. Abuse of Racquets or Equipment

- (a) A player must not commit an act of abuse of racquets or equipment.
- (b) An abuse of racquets or equipment includes:
 - (i) violently or with anger or frustration hitting, kicking or throwing a racquet or other equipment;
 - (ii) the intentional and violent hitting of the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixture; and/or
 - (iii) the intentional or reckless throwing of a racquet in a dangerous or potentially dangerous manner, whether on or off court.

5. Verbal Abuse

- (a) A player must not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the venue.
- (b) Verbal abuse includes a statement about an official, opponent, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

6. Physical Abuse

- (a) A player shall not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person.
- (b) Physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of another person.

7. Coaching

- (a) A player must not receive coaching during a match (including the warm-up).
- (b) Communications of any kind, audible or visible, between a player and their entourage may be construed as coaching.
- (c) Coaching is permitted when a match has been suspended (e.g. for a rain delay).

8. Best Efforts

- (a) A player must always compete to the best of their ability and use their best efforts during a match.

9. Time Violation / Delay of Game

- (a) A match shall commence after the expiration of the warm-up period. Thereafter, play shall be continuous and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match as provided for in the ITF Rules of Tennis.
- (b) A player breaches this rule if they:
 - (i) leave the court area during a match without an appropriate reason;
 - (ii) fail to recommence play after any permitted injury time;
 - (iii) refuse to play; and/or
 - (iv) do not return to the court to recommence play within any permitted or prescribed times.

10. Unsportsmanlike Conduct / General Misconduct

- (a) This provision prohibits the following:
 - (i) any conduct which may reasonably be regarded unacceptable or unsporting;
 - (ii) failing to give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others;
 - (iii) blatant, and/or repeated incorrect line calling on purpose;
 - (iv) any conduct which has the effect or potential to prejudice or be detrimental to the reputation of a participant, the competition, a club, the Association or the sport of tennis generally;
 - (v) any conduct which has the effect or potential to bring a participant, the competition, a club, the Association or the sport of tennis into disrepute;
 - (vi) conduct that does not meet the standards of acceptable behaviour outlined on page 1 of this Code of Conduct.
 - (vii) any conduct that is clearly abusive or intimidating toward another person.
- (b) This provision is not limited to conduct occurring at a venue, and may encompass other conduct that is related to the NSNTA weekly competitions.

11. Alcohol and smoking/vaping during matches

- (a) A player must comply with all alcohol and smoking/vaping policies applicable to the match venue,
- (b) A player must not:
 - (i) consume alcohol or smoke/vape on the court during a set;
 - (ii) consume alcohol between sets;
 - (iii) smoke/vape within a venue while matches are in progress.
- (c) If permitted at the venue, a player may consume alcohol once they have completed all their sets and may smoke/vape between sets outside the venue (e.g. in the car park).

SPECTATORS

12. Interference

- (a) Any person spectating a match or attending a venue must not engage in any of the following:
 - (i) intimidating, threatening or abusive behaviour toward players, coaches, parents, other spectators or persons at the venue, officials and/or other staff or volunteers;
 - (ii) causing a disruption to a competition or a match in progress;
 - (iii) making or causing to be made disrespectful or inappropriate comments (in English or any other language) or gestures towards officials, players, coaches, parents, spectators and other persons on-site or involved in the competition;
 - (iv) providing inappropriate instructions, comments or direction to a player including both the spectator's own player or the opponent, of any type (note: this may also be considered as "Coaching" in accordance with section 7 above)

- (b) A player is deemed to be responsible for the behaviour and conduct of their entourage and support team who attend a match in which they are participating (i.e. team member, parent, family member, coach, trainer or friend).
- (c) 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. team member, parent, family member, coach, trainer or friend) the player must attempt to address and eliminate any spectator interference by discussing the relevant offences or behaviour with the offending person. This discussion may include a warning to the interfering spectator that any further interference by the spectator may result in the match being suspended until the issue is resolved and that play can continue without further disruption or interference.
- (d) A player may be found to have breached the Code of Conduct where it has been determined that a match has been disrupted or interfered with by the actions of a spectator who is part of their entourage.

13. Failure to comply with direction of venue supervisor

Where a match is disrupted or interfered with by the action of a spectator, it should be brought to the attention of the host club team captain or a host club official. The host club representative shall first warn the player (if the spectator is part of a player's entourage) 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 representative 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 involved —

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

The Committee may also impose a penalty on a spectator who disrupts or interferes with the proper conduct of a match if the spectator is a player in the NSNTA competition.

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.