

Purley Bury Tennis Club – CODE OF CONDUCT AND POLICY ON COURT ETIQUETTE

INTRODUCTION

This code of conduct and policy on court etiquette sets out what the Club regards as good practice for all members to follow, and is available so that every member is clear as to what is expected of them in order to create the right playing environment in which everyone can enjoy their tennis.

Both the code of conduct and the policy on court etiquette reflect the friendly and co-operative spirit which members at the Club have enjoyed for many years, as well as advice from British Tennis. The Management Board of the Club is confident that this ethos will continue and sees this as important in maintaining the Club's reputation.

The Code of Conduct sets out minimum standards of behaviour, which all members are expected to follow, and seeks to avoid any serious issues arising. The policy on court etiquette then sits alongside the code of conduct and sets out a range of actions and behaviours which are considered acceptable or unacceptable on and around the tennis court.

Should a breach of the code of conduct or a serious breach of the policy on court etiquette occur, the Club's complaints and sanctions process is set out in a separate document.

AIMS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND POLICY ON COURT ETIQUETTE

The aims of this code of conduct and policy on court etiquette are to:

1. Ensure that all members are treated fairly and with respect;
2. Advise all members of the standards of behaviour and court etiquette which they are expected to meet so that an environment is created within which members can enjoy their tennis and the club can continue to flourish;
3. Provide a complaints and sanctions process so that any issues can be addressed.

RULES OF TENNIS

An understanding of the rules of tennis underpins this area. The rules of tennis are published by the International Tennis Federation and can be found here <https://www.itftennis.com/media/7221/2024-rules-of-tennis-english.pdf>

CODE OF CONDUCT - STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

All members are expected to treat all other members and all other players respectfully. The Club will not accept any behaviour which may cause any physical or mental harm to any other member or player.

Unacceptable actions include:

- Being abusive or showing aggression towards another member or player;

- Swearing, racist, sexist or homophobic remarks.
- Racket throwing, deliberately hitting the court surface or the net with your racket.
- Intimidating another member or player;
- Creating a danger to another member or player, such as hitting a ball either into the rear of the court or back towards the opponent's court with force when it is not in play.
- Calling into doubt the integrity of another member or player such as by repeatedly querying line calls.

POLICY ON COURT ETIQUETTE

Tennis etiquette covers different areas from those addressed within the rules of the game. Etiquette covers a range of actions and behaviours which are considered acceptable on and around the tennis court.

The Purley Bury Tennis Club policy on etiquette covers these areas:

Showing respect and being courteous

- Welcome new members and players to the Club irrespective of their experience of the game and their level of play;
- Show respect and courtesy to your partner, your opponents and others on or around the courts;
- Do not walk behind courts when a point is in progress to avoid causing a distraction;
- During play and particularly between games keep the amount and volume of conversation to a minimum so as to avoid distracting players on other courts;
- If a ball from an adjacent court strays onto yours do not hit it back immediately but do so when the players on that court are ready and then hit it to the server's end of that court;
- Courtesy to your opponents should include leaving the court together at the end of the match.

Respect towards court surfaces, nets and surfaces.

- Do not run into the fences at the back of the courts, just to try to return a point. This causes considerable damage to the fence and the integrity of the fence posts.
- Do not hit court surfaces or the net cord out of frustration with your racquet.
- Do not lean or jump over the net. This can break the net cord and is extremely dangerous.

Do not walk onto another court during a game

- Only players actively involved in a match on court may enter the courts;
- Before crossing a court to get to yours, wait for the conclusion of the point or if the match is a competitive one wait until the end of game, or until you are invited to cross, and do so as quickly as possible;
- Close the gate behind you, as you would on your own court;
- Be aware if you are already playing on court that others may wish to cross your court in order to access their own court and facilitate that where possible;

Line calls

- Only call the lines on your side of the net;
- Call clearly on the basis of what you honestly believe to be correct;
- If you are not certain, or did not see the ball clearly, the benefit of the doubt must be given in favour of the opponent;
- If occasionally you have serious doubt over an opponent's line call, ask your opponent politely if they are certain as to the accuracy of their call, and if they are, move on and play the next point;
- If there is still doubt over a line call, consider offering to replay the point.

Keeping score

- The server should announce the score before each point;
- If the server forgets or does so inaudibly, the receiver should request the server to make an audible announcement of the score.

Mobile phones

- Mobile phone calls should not be made or received on court: leave the court to make or receive a call;
- Mobile phones taken onto court should be switched off, or put on silent or vibrate mode, so as to avoid creating a distraction.

Clothing and footwear

- Players should wear recognised sports clothing suitable for tennis. Jeans and replica shirts from other sports etc are not acceptable;
- Tennis footwear suitable for use on tarmac courts is essential for the safety of players and to avoid damage to the courts.