



TENNIS ETIQUETTE

taken from Tennis Canada Web site

Enjoyment of the Game

It is important that you understand tennis etiquette, as with any game, knowing the rules and abiding by them enhances the enjoyment of the sport for everyone. Tennis has official regulations that players must abide by. There are also numerous unwritten rules that are equally important for any novice or serious player to know.

Tennis Attire

Appropriate tennis attire must be worn. Proper *non-marking* court shoes should be worn. Shirts must be worn at all times. No bathing suits or cut off shorts are allowed.

Warm-ups

The general rule is 5 minutes for warm-up. Whether you are playing singles or doubles you should warm-up your partner(s). For the most part you shouldn't hit the ball at full pace and it isn't a time to hit winners either. Start by playing at the half court and hitting short, controlled balls to your partner. Then move to the baseline and hit longer balls that should be directed to your partner, followed by volleys and serves. When your opponent comes to the net, for example, don't blast the balls past her or right at her. Make sure your partner can practice their volley. When warming up your serve, agree to either return each other's serves or to catch them and serve them back.

Ball Management

Assist with ball retrieval. When returning a ball to the player who is serving, wait for the player to be ready to receive the ball and hit it gently to them. There is no point in hitting the ball to them when they are not ready to receive it, they will just have to go and collect the ball again, delaying play. Balls should be kept in a pocket, ball clip etc. Do not leave balls lying around the court as they can be a safety hazard.

Keeping Score

The Server should always announce the set score at the beginning of their serve and the game score prior to each serve. State the score loudly and in a clear voice. Stating the score on each point helps everyone remember where you are in the game and lessens the opportunity for disputes over the score.

Disputing the Score

If there is a dispute over the score, the general rule if you cannot remember each point is to go back to the last score that all players can agree on and play on from there.

Close Calls

If you cannot tell if your opponent's shot was in or out, then it's IN. You must be 100% sure that you are making the correct call, otherwise the benefit of the doubt goes in favour of your opponent. Call the shot out in a clear, loud voice and use a hand signal (index finger pointed up from extended arm) to

indicate that the ball was out. The hand signal for an IN ball is hand flat parallel to the court. You should not make calls on your own shots that land on the opponent's side of the court.

In doubles, your partner should call the service line when you are receiving the serve. Your partner is standing closer to the service line and is in a better position to make the call. You should trust that your partner is in a better position to make the call and not overrule your partner's call.

Questioning a bad call

If you think (or even know) your opponent has made a bad call, you can ask once (per point) for clarification and that's it. No matter how flagrant a bad call you can't argue. It is impolite to keep challenging the same call.

Don't play OUT serves

If your opponent hits an obviously out serve, ideally, *don't hit it back*. Hit it into the net or leave it to roll into the fence behind you. If you return the ball, it needs to be collected and this can cause an unnecessary delay for the server and interrupt their serving rhythm.

If the ball is out or it's a fault, call it *immediately* and clearly. If your opponent has served a fault, *do not go after the ball*, wait until your opponent's second serve is over, since an interruption between the first and second serves will disturb your opponent's rhythm.

Sportsmanship; Behaviour & Attitude

If you are playing badly, refrain from shouting or looking dejected in a friendly match, try to have fun and stay positive. Don't talk or shout out in the middle of points, your opponent may think that you are calling a shot out. Avoid grunting, yelling or swearing when playing.

When you have finished playing a game, always thank your opponent(s). In doubles, thank your partner and your opponents. Shake your partner's hand and then your opponents.

Neighbouring balls on the Court

Balls from neighbouring courts can be a safety hazard. If a ball from another court rolls onto your court, call a "LET" loudly and immediately stop play and re-do the point.

You should always wait for the players on the other court to finish play before you return the ball as you do NOT want to interrupt their rally. Carry on playing until such time as they are ready to have the ball returned to them. Do not roll balls behind or onto someone else's court while they are playing a point even if the ball is out of harm's way during a point, it will be a distraction as the player's will notice the movement.

It is improper to retrieve your ball from a court that has a ball in play, or to walk by the rear of the court or near any of the lines. Balls should be returned to the court at the first opportunity.

Court Consideration

Please be considerate of those playing and keep your voices down around the courts. Where possible, use designated pathways to get to the courts, so that you do not interfere with court play. Leave the

courts quickly and quietly when your court time has expired and others are waiting to play. Close gates to courts behind you.

Do not leave any trash & tennis can lids on the court benches, please clean up after yourselves.

Let the Kids Play

Parents should not coach kids, make calls, explain rules or give coaching advice during junior matches.