



Code of Behaviour

Child friendly version

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR: COMPETITIVE PLAY



What is the Code of Behaviour and when does it apply?

Tennis Australia and all its clubs want to make sure everyone in tennis feels safe, welcome and included, while having fun. The Code of Behaviour helps to achieve this and is a guide to how everyone should behave at tennis tournaments and competitions in Australia.

The Code applies whether you're playing, coaching, watching, officiating or helping out during any competitive tennis event in Australia, both on and off the court, during, before and after any match.

Expected behaviour during competitive play

To keep tennis fun and fair, everyone should uphold the spirit of tennis, which requires you to:

- 🎾 Treat everyone with respect and kindness.
- 🎾 Be honest, humble and play fairly.
- 🎾 Always try your best and value good sportsmanship over winning.
- 🎾 Take responsibility for your own actions.
- 🎾 Respect your opposition players, spectators, officials, and volunteers.

- 🎾 Follow the rules and ask if you're unsure about anything.
- 🎾 Help create a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone.
- 🎾 Listen to officials – they're there to make sure everything runs smoothly.

If you can do all of these things, it will guarantee that both you and those around you will have fun!

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What you must not do during competitive play

The following behaviours are things you cannot do:

- 🎾 **Audible Obscenity** – Don't use swear words or bad language.
- 🎾 **Visible Obscenity** – Don't make rude or offensive gestures.
- 🎾 **Ball Abuse** – Don't hit or throw balls angrily or dangerously, either on or off the court.
- 🎾 **Abuse of Racquets or Equipment** – Don't smash, throw, or damage your racquet or other equipment.
- 🎾 **Verbal Abuse** – Don't insult, threaten, or say mean things to anyone.
- 🎾 **Physical Abuse** – Don't punch, hit, push, touch or hurt anyone in a way on purpose, without their consent.
- 🎾 **Coaching** – During a match (including the warm-up), players can't receive tips or advice from anyone.
- 🎾 **Best Efforts** – Always try your hardest during matches.
- 🎾 **Dress and Equipment** – Wear appropriate tennis clothes and shoes.
- 🎾 **Time Violation/Delay of Game** – Start matches on time and keep play moving without unnecessary delays.
- 🎾 **Leaving the Court** – Don't leave the court during a match unless an official gives you permission.
- 🎾 **Unsportsmanlike Conduct** – Play fairly, follow the rules, be honest with your line balls, and uphold the spirit of tennis, even when you're losing.
- 🎾 **Late Withdrawal/Failure to Complete** – Sign up for tournaments only if you can play and complete them.
- 🎾 **Playing Two Tournaments** – Don't sign up to two tournaments at the same time unless you have special permission.
- 🎾 **Punctuality ('No Show')** – Be ready to play within 15 minutes of your match being called.

Sideline behaviour

We know that kids most enjoy playing tennis when you do not have spectators on the sideline behaving poorly, putting too much pressure on you or are being discouraging. Parents/guardians and spectators are expected to support players in a positive way and never:

- 🎾 Threaten, intimidate, or disrupt anyone at the venue.
- 🎾 Make rude or disrespectful comments or gestures.
- 🎾 Coach players during a match.
- 🎾 Behave in ways that makes the game less fun, safe or comfortable for others.



If this happens to you, we encourage you to speak to an official or someone you feel comfortable talking to and report the bad sideline behaviour.

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What happens if you break the rules?

As a player, if you do not follow the rules, you may be in breach of the Code of Behaviour. This is called a Code Violation, and for every time you receive a Code Violation you may receive a disciplinary point, which goes on your behaviour record. An official might give you a Code Violation if they see you do something wrong, or your behaviour may be reported, and you may then receive disciplinary points afterwards.

It is important to know that:

- ⌚ More than 4 disciplinary points in 12 months will result in you being suspended from playing.
- ⌚ The more points you get, the longer you might be suspended.
- ⌚ For serious incidents, your behaviour may be sent to a Disciplinary Review Panel which might decide on further actions.

Our goal is to keep you on the court, having fun and playing fair. Stick to the rules, play with respect, and enjoy tennis!



If you have questions, ask an official or contact Tennis Australia's Integrity team: integrity@tennis.com.au

Disclaimer: This fact sheet does not replace the Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play. The Policy applies and overrules this fact sheet in any instances.