

Code of Behaviour National Policy

This Code of Behaviour applies to all players, coaches, parents/guardians and spectators participating in or attending a Tournament in Australia.

Tennis Australia, its Member Associations and Affiliates are committed to providing every member of the Australian tennis community a welcoming, safe and inclusive tennis environment that promotes the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of all participants.

Participants are the custodians of the sport of tennis, and responsible for upholding the spirit of tennis.

The full Code of Behaviour is available [here](#).

Expected values and behaviours

The values and behaviours outlined in this Code of Behaviour represent the spirit in which tennis is to be played and watched in Australia. It is essential that everyone demonstrates the following values and behaviours at all times:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others
- Act with honesty, integrity, humility and professionalism
- Compete to the best of your ability at all times
- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Read, understand and comply with all of tennis' standards, rules, regulations, policies and by-laws. If you have queries, ask someone
- Respect opposition players and other spectators
- Respect the law and act in accordance with it
- Act as positive role models for other tennis participants and the community generally
- Promote the sport in a positive light
- Respect the role of all Officials and administrators whose job it is to ensure that Tournaments and Competitions are conducted fairly and according to the rules
- Respect the role of any employee or volunteer who assists in the administration and/or delivery of the sport of tennis.

Code Violations

The following is a list of prohibited conduct which at Australian Tournaments and Competitions will result in a Code Violation:

Audible Obscenity

Do not use obscene language while on court or at the Venue

Visible Obscenity

Do not make obscene gestures of any kind while on court or at the Venue

Ball Abuse

Do 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). This includes:

- The intentional or reckless hitting of a ball out of the enclosure of the court
- Hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court
- Hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences.

Abuse of Racquets or Equipment

Do not commit an act of abuse of racquets or equipment. This includes:

- Violently or with anger hitting, kicking or throwing a racquet or other equipment
- The intentional and violent hitting of the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixture
- The intentional or reckless throwing of a racquet in a dangerous or potentially dangerous manner, whether on or off court.

Verbal Abuse

Do not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse an Official, opponent, spectator or any other person within the Venue.

Verbal abuse includes a statement about an Official, opponent, sponsor, spectator or any other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

Physical Abuse

Do not at any time physically abuse an Official, opponent, spectator or any other person. Physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of another person.

Coaching

A player must not receive coaching during a match (including the warm-up).

Coaching is allowed during off-court breaks between sets or interruptions to play caused by bad weather/light when players leave the court.

Coaching is not allowed while a court is being serviced at the end of or during a set and players are still on court, or during a toilet break.

Communications of any kind, audible or visible, between a player and their associated persons (including coaches, parents / guardians, relatives etc) may constitute coaching.

Best Efforts

A player when competing must always compete to the best of their ability and use their best efforts during a match.

Dress and Equipment

Every player shall dress and present themselves for play in a professional manner, with clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire worn.

A player must be given the opportunity to change their clothing in order to comply with the dress regulations. At the discretion of the relevant Official, a maximum period of 10 minutes may be allowed in order for a player to change attire. A direction to improve a player's dress before the next tournament/competition day may also be given by the relevant Official. Players should not be defaulted from matches due to clothing breaches except in exceptional circumstances. Failure to meet dress regulation requests may be reported to the Disciplinary Review Panel.

Delay of Game

A match begins at the end of the warm-up period. Play should then be continuous as per the ITF Rules of Tennis (Rule 29) and a player should not unreasonably delay a match.

A Code Violation (Delay of Game) may be incurred when a match is delayed due to a player:

- Having a medical condition and the player failing to recommence play after any permitted medical time out associated with the medical condition
- Refusing to play
- Not returning to the court to recommence play within any permitted or prescribed times.

Leaving the Court

A player must not leave the court area during a match (including the warm-up) without the permission of an Official.

In addition to receiving a Code Violation, the player may be defaulted and subjected to the penalties for Failure to Complete Match.

Spectator Misconduct

A person watching a match or attending a Venue must not engage in any of the following behaviours:

- Intimidating, threatening or abusive behaviour toward players, coaches, parents, other spectators or persons at the Venue, Officials and/or Event staff or volunteers
- Causing a disruption to an Event or a match in progress
- Making or causing to be made disrespectful or inappropriate comments or gestures towards Officials, players, coaches, parents, spectators and other persons on-site or involved in the Event;
- Providing inappropriate instructions, comments or direction to a player including both the spectator's own player or the opponent, of any type. This may also be considered as "Coaching"
- Any other inappropriate behaviour as determined by an Official or the Disciplinary Review Panel.

General Misconduct (including unsportsmanlike conduct)

General Misconduct means:

- Conduct which is regarded as unacceptable or unsportsmanlike by TA
- Failing to give due regard to the authority of Officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others
- Conduct which has the effect or potential to prejudice or be detrimental to the reputation of a participant, the Event, Organisation or the sport of tennis generally
- Conduct which has the effect or potential to bring a participant, the Event, an Organisation or the sport of tennis into disrepute
- Conduct that does not meet the standards of acceptable behaviour as outlined in this Code of Behaviour
- Conduct that is clearly abusive or intimidating toward another person
- The giving, making, issuing, authorising or endorsing any public statement having, or designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of an event or the officiating and administration of the event.

General Misconduct is not limited to conduct occurring at a Venue, and may encompass other conduct that is covered by this Code of Behaviour.

Late Withdrawal

A player must not withdraw from a Tournament after the withdrawal deadline.

Any withdrawal by a player after the withdrawal deadline will be deemed a Late Withdrawal violation, regardless of the reason for a withdrawal (medical, personal or otherwise).

Failure to Complete Match or Tournament

A player must complete a match or tournament in progress.

A player that fails to complete a match or tournament in progress will be deemed a Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violation, regardless of the reason for the failure to complete the match (medical, personal or otherwise).

Multiple Late Withdrawal or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violations during a calendar year

A player is permitted four (4) Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violations in total in a calendar year (1 January – 31 December) without incurring Disciplinary Points.

Any subsequent Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament will result in a Code Violation against the player and the incursion of Disciplinary Points.

Playing two tournaments (Concurrency)

A player is prohibited from playing two Tournaments at the same time, unless permission has been granted by and received from the TA Professional Events and Officiating Team and/or TA Game Development Team in accordance with the Regulations.

A breach of this section may subject a player to an Immediate Default.

Commencement of play ('No Show')

A player must be ready to commence play within 15 minutes of their match being called.

Penalties

Code Violations (during a match)

While a match is in progress, Code Violations by players or their Entourage are penalised according to the following Penalty Schedule:

Match offence	Immediate penalty (during match)	Disciplinary points
First violation	Official issues Code Violation - Warning	One (1) disciplinary point
Second violation	Official issues Code Violation - Point Penalty (point awarded to opponent)	One (1) disciplinary point
Third violation	Official issues Code Violation - Game Penalty (game awarded to opponent)	One (1) disciplinary point ^^^
Any subsequent violation	Official issues Code Violation - Game Penalty (game awarded to opponent) OR Referee issue Code Violation - Match Default (player disqualified and match awarded to opponent)	
Serious Code Violation	Referee issue Code Violation - Immediate Match Default	Three (3) disciplinary points ^^^

^^^ The maximum number of disciplinary points that can be issued against a player during a match is three (3). Once three (3) disciplinary points have been issued during one single match, whether the player has been defaulted or not, the matter is to be referred to the DRP for further consideration.

Disciplinary Points

Disciplinary points are awarded to a player when a Code Violation is issued.

They are awarded on the day on which the incident occurred and are tallied on a 12 month rolling basis, with penalties attaching to the accumulation of disciplinary points as follows:

Disciplinary points accumulated in a 12 month rolling period	Outcome	Notes
1st point accumulated	Notification of Code Violation being issued	N/A
2nd point accumulated	Notification of Code Violation being issued	N/A
3rd point accumulated	Reprimand	N/A
4th point accumulated	1 month suspension	1 month suspension to be served
5th point accumulated	1 month suspension	Cumulative suspension to be served is 2 months*
6th point accumulated	2 month suspension	Cumulative suspension to be served is 4 months*
7 or more points accumulated	Referral to DRP for consideration.	DRP can impose a maximum six-month suspension. DRP to refer matter to a tribunal if further suspension is sought

Disciplinary Points for Code Violations

Code violation	Disciplinary points
Significant code violation leading to immediate Match Default	Three (3) disciplinary points
Commencement of Play (No Show)	Two (2) disciplinary points
Playing Two Tournaments (Concurrency)	Two (2) disciplinary points
All other code violations	One (1) disciplinary point

Further disciplinary points and additional penalties

Behavioural incidents can be referred to the Tennis Australia Disciplinary Review Panel and/or a Tribunal. The DRP and/or the Tribunal may impose further disciplinary points (in addition to the disciplinary points referred to above) and other additional penalties where it is found that the Code Violation involved aggravating circumstances.

If referred to the DRP: the maximum number of further disciplinary points is five (5).

If referred to a Tribunal: no maximum number of disciplinary points but maximum suspension is a period of two (2) years.

The DRP and/or a Tribunal may also impose any one or more of the following additional penalties on a player:

- Ordering a person to attend a behaviour modification program, and where ordered to do so, the person will present proof of having attended such a program before the player can re-commence playing
- A monetary fine for Code Violations committed at Tournaments or Competitions with prize money
- Remove Australian Ranking points
- Any other additional penalty deemed appropriate.

If a player is suspended, the DRP and/or Tribunal has the option to:

- Extend the suspension to participation in any other events, squads, tours, programs or other ATO activities, including training, for a specified period of time not exceeding the time of the suspension
- Commence the suspension at any time it deems appropriate
- Split the period of suspension into periods (i.e. a two-month suspension may be split into 2 x one month suspensions)
- Identify specific Tournaments and/or Competitions at which the player is prohibited from participating in as part of the suspension.