

Tennis Court Etiquette

The following rules of etiquette are mostly common courtesy, and should be followed whether you're playing tennis at the country club or at public courts. Most of us know the right thing to do, we just need a gentle reminder every now and then.

Show respect and courtesy

To your opponent(s), your partner, and others on or near the courts. Keep your voice down and confined to your court as much as possible so as not to disrupt players on adjacent courts. If you get into a loud dispute with your opponent, take it off the court and away from other players.

Do not walk onto another court during a game

Wait for the players to finish the game, or minimally the point, before walking onto their court. It is very distracting to have someone disrupt a game in progress, so if you must cross another court, do so after the game is finished, and go around the court.

Do not retrieve your ball from the other court

As with the above, it is common courtesy not to disrupt players on court during a match. If your ball rolls onto an adjacent court, wait for them to finish the game and kindly ask for "a little help" to get their attention. Under no circumstances should you run over onto their court in the middle of a game to retrieve the ball yourself.

Always wear proper tennis shoes

This isn't because of the club dress attire, it's because black-soled shoes leave marks on the courts that are difficult to get off. Make sure you wear tennis shoes on the courts. Proper shoes also give your feet the needed lateral support when running down balls, and making abrupt changes in direction.

Use the tennis courts for tennis

A great deal of money goes into maintaining tennis courts, and they are not for BMX racing with bicycles, roller hockey or rollerblading. These other activities can damage the court surface, leaving it unplayable for tennis players, and can result in a large expenditure for the club in terms of repairs.

Close the gate behind you

Whether you're coming onto the courts, or leaving, it is common courtesy to close the gate behind you. This will keep the balls inside the confines of the court.

Pick up after Yourself

Don't leave empty soda cans or old tennis balls on the court when you leave. Dispose of any rubbish you have in the bin provided near the court or take it with you. If you have old tennis balls that you don't want anymore, don't leave them on the court – give them to the recreation ground or local school.

Monitor children on the courts at all times

Every-one who plays tennis wants to encourage children to play the game as well, but they must also follow the rules. Since children can tend to get distracted, it's up to the adults with them to assist. Stray balls, running around and yelling are actions that need to be managed.

Have fun!

The entire objective of playing tennis, aside from being good aerobic exercise, is to have fun. You can follow these rules of etiquette and still have a good time on the courts - the players on adjacent courts will appreciate it too.