

PROMOTING A HEALTHY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT

Tennis Canada and its provincial partners are committed to creating a healthy, supportive and respectful environment in which athletes of all ages and abilities can compete. Please help in achieving this goal by taking a few minutes to review this tournament environment guide.

Rules of Tennis:

All players are expected to know and understand the Rules of Tennis found in the rulebook *Rules of the Court*. Players and their support team (parents, coaches, supporters, etc.) are expected to behave at all times within the boundaries of the tournament rules and regulations, which are provided at the time of entry, and the Code of Conduct found in the *Rules of the Court*. This PDF document is available for free download on the Tennis Canada website or available for purchase as a hardcopy. Support team members please be aware that your player may be penalized, including defaulted, for any unacceptable behaviour on your part.

Officials that oversee match play at sanctioned tennis tournaments are trained via the Tennis Canada Officiating Program. Their role is to make sure that matches are played fairly, according to the rules and etiquette of our sport. Officials will conduct their rulings with impartiality and professionalism.

In order to help you understand what is considered acceptable behaviour and the consequences of non-compliance, some of the most common situations are summarised below.

Coaching and Player Support Team:

Players may not receive coaching during a tournament match. Communication of any kind whether audible (in any language) or visible (using gestures) between a player and a coach/parent may be considered coaching.

In addition, coaches and parents should refrain from:

- Verbal or physical abuse of an official, tournament staff, player, spectator or any other person
- Audible obscenities or obscene gestures of any kind
- Any actions considered in contradiction to the integrity of the game

If such behaviour occurs, sanctions may be applied to the related player and/or the person responsible.

These sanctions may include on-court penalties, suspension points or in serious cases, periods of suspension for the player or parent/coach concerned. Support team members who refuse to abide by the requests of the tournament officials or staff may be required to leave the tournament site.

Players:

Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and appropriate manner, giving due regard to the authority of the tournament officials and staff.

Players are expected to demonstrate behaviour and attitudes that show respect for the rules of the game and for the other players.

Unacceptable conduct will be penalised according to the appropriate section of the Code of Conduct. Examples of unacceptable conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Intentional bad line calls or retaliatory bad calls



- Refusal to call the score or make clear line calls
- Taunting of opponents (fist pumps towards opponent, verbal taunting)
- Constant questioning of opponent's line calls and intimidation
- Ball, racquet or physical abuse
- Audible or visible obscenities

Point Penalty System:

Failure to abide by the Code of Conduct may result in penalties being assessed on-court:

- First Offence: Code Violation, Warning
- Second Offence: Code Violation, Point Penalty
- Third Offence: Code Violation, Game Penalty
- Fourth and Subsequent Offences: Game Penalty or possible Default, as determined by the Referee

For particularly severe offences, the Referee may decide to proceed straight to a Default. Players who are defaulted for behavioural offences may not compete in any other events in the tournament. Note that some provinces may adopt a stricter point penalty policy.

Suspension Points:

Disciplinary procedures are handled by the provincial associations. Suspension points ranging from 1-3 points may be assessed for unacceptable behaviour and each point remains in effect for 12 calendar months.

Players accumulating 3 or more suspension points in a 12-month period may be suspended. A list of the suspension points assessed per infraction can be found in the *Rules of the Court*.

Continuous Play:

Time between points: 25 seconds
 Time between games: 90 seconds (at changeovers)
 Time between sets: 120 seconds

Time Violations may be assessed by the officials for slow play. A player will receive one warning for the first Time Violation, then a loss of a point for each subsequent Time Violation.

Toilet Breaks:

Toilet breaks should only be taken at the set break and should be used for no other purpose. If a toilet break needs to be taken during a set (i.e. not taken on a set break), a player should leave the court before his/her own serve. Time violations will be assessed for players taking such emergency toilet breaks during a game or before their opponent's serve. Players should always ask permission from the official before taking a toilet break.

We all play a role in creating a positive tournament environment.

Players:

Do	Please don't
Know the rules before going on court	Talk during a point or try to distract your opponent
Make accurate and honest line calls	Abuse your equipment, opponents or officials
Be respectful of your opponents and officials	Intimidate your opponent
Give 100% effort in every match	Forget to have fun!



Player Support Team:

Do	Please don't
Know the basic rules of tennis	Interfere in your player's matches
Be supportive, interested and encouraging	Show negative emotion, fear or nervousness
Acknowledge good shots by all players	Criticize opponents
Be respectful of all players and officials	Forget to keep things in perspective

