

# Tennis Etiquette Rules



As well as the written Rules of Tennis there is something called **Tennis Etiquette** which exists to help everyone enjoy the game we all love.

Sportsmanship, consideration, and politeness have been part of the game since its inception and with so many differing aspects of tennis now existing at The Club including Matches, Individual Coaching, Social Tennis and Cardio Tennis to name a few, we would like all members to read the following points to help bring you into the mind-set of tennis players and other members to help The Club maintain a great atmosphere and reduce potential incidents between courts and members.

We are keen for all of our members to enjoy their time at The Club both on and off court so please find below a set of simple Tennis Etiquette Ground Rules, which will help keep everybody's experience of playing tennis at Abbeydale a pleasant and enjoyable one.

## **General:**

Treat and speak to all members in a way you would like to be spoken to yourself at all times. be kind and be polite !

Dress in recognised tennis clothing and non marking shoes at all time

## **Court Booking / Timings:**

Please vacate the court you have booked at the exact time your booking ends. Staying on court after your allotted time, will mean another member having to approach you and ask you to move, which will be prevented if you start and finish at the time you have booked. If you wish to play longer than your initial booking period, please book an extra time slot on your court and not stay on a court over the allotted time, another member may have booked.

Do not disturb people on court until after their time slot is up. If players are on a court that you have booked, please approach them after their time slot has finished and after a point has ended **POLITELY** inform them that you have booked the court and are ready to play.

Please inform reception if you need help speaking to someone on your booked court.

## **Respecting Players on your Court and on other Courts.**

Do not walk behind a court during an active point under any circumstances ( other than an emergency. ) Please wait until the point has concluded and then pass as quickly as possible after the point has finished. Move quickly and quietly to ensure the interruption is as short as possible.

It is a natural hazard of Tennis that tennis balls will end up accidentally being hit onto an adjacent court and we all need to accept this will happen. When it does, if the point is live, the point should be halted immediately ( for safety reasons ) and the point replayed with the server receiving 2 more serves.

Please refrain from comments to the members on the next court ( they are not doing this deliberately ) regarding their interruption of your game and just accept its just part of the game and that occasionally it will happen and you also you may accidentally disturb their game too.

To return a ball that has accidentally come onto your court, please could you just pass it back gently at the end of their rally, behind their court and not return it back angrily or across the middle of their court. ( as this is dangerous )

Don't roll balls behind or onto someone else's court during a point. If a ball comes onto your court from another match, wait until they have finished their point to return their ball or roll it back to the back fence in-between your two courts ( but not behind their court where they could potentially trip and fall ).

If your ball goes onto or behind another court, don't retrieve it if the players are playing a point. If a ball rolls behind a player or players who don't see it and they might injure themselves by stepping on it, you might need to warn them. Ask politely for the return of your ball between their points.

To avoid serious injury, please don't run onto the tennis court next to you to continue a rally. It's far better to either concede a point or even call a let rather than run into somebody on the next court and cause serious injury to one or both of you.

In coaching sessions, the tennis professionals will do risk assessments and focus on drills and exercises that minimise players from crossing over onto each other's courts.

Do not criticise your partner or opponents, be positive and offer encouragement instead.

Line calls can be hard to see from the other side of the court so you must call your own lines, ensuring your opponent can hear you. A ball that touches any part of the line is good, so you don't have to say anything,

Always respect the line calls of your opponent, because they are nearer to the ball and line than you.

If you have a disagreement with your opponent, consider offering to play the point again. ( Let ) This means you replay the whole point, with the server starting the same point with a first serve.

Talk quietly if you are near tennis courts that are in use, so you don't put off other players.

No Food and drink allowed on the indoor courts (except water in a sealed container)

We want to keep the courts in a nice condition and drink / food stains are very hard to remove from the playing surfaces.

In a game when you are the server, make sure you call the score before every point. This not only lets your opponent know you're ready to serve, but also prevents score disputes later.

It is up to the receiver if they cannot hear the server's score announcement to politely ask the server to repeat the score or speak louder. It is too late to correct any scoring errors once one player believes they have won the game!

If both sides have lost the score completely and can't agree, you must go back to the score where you can both agree the score was and restart from that agreement.

### **Line Calls**

A few pointers:

If you are unsure as to whether your opponent's shot was in or out, call it in.

Doubles specific: Both you and your partner take responsibility for monitoring and reporting line calls on your own side of the court, unless your partner's vision is compromised and the call is an obvious one.

Doubles specific: If you are receiving the ball from a serve, and your partner is also near to the service line, he is better placed than you to make a call as to whether the ball was long or not and the returner is better placed ( on the baseline ) to see if the ball was wide or not.

Before a friendly/social matches, players have five minutes or so to warm up. This is not match time, so you should hit balls in a way that lets your opponent warm up, and they should do the same for you. Practice groundstrokes, a few volleys and finally serves.

If you think (or even know) your opponent has made a bad call, you should ask once ( per point ) for clarification and that's it. No matter how flagrant a bad call, you can't keep arguing.

It's impolite to keep challenging the same call and you might be wrong! If you feel that a particular player is consistently giving bad calls ( cheating ) when you play, rather than cause a huge argument - Just don't play against them again !

**Apologise if you hit someone** - During a close quarters doubles rally or when hitting a passing shot when your opponent is at the net, if you happen to hit your opponent by mistake then be sure to apologise! It can be painful to get hit with a tennis ball, so the last thing your opponent needs when they get hit is someone celebrating or laughing about it! Be kind / concerned instead.

**Be a Good Partner** - New players often appreciate advice from more experienced players on how they could play better during a match. Sometimes, however, they would prefer to receive this guidance from their tennis coaches. So, be sure your advice is welcome before continually giving it to a person. In addition - whether new or more experienced players do not appreciate being told “it was your fault” we lost the point or match. Be magnanimous, keeping in mind it could be you who loses the next point or match.

**Be a Good Sport** - Most young people are taught from an early age to always shake hands with their opponents at the end of a sports game. Whether you win or lose, graciously give your opponents a firm handshake and a smile, along with a complimentary comment, such as “well played” when the match is over.

**Mobile Phones:** Other people's Mobile phones can be both annoying and distracting and we'd like the tennis courts to be a Mobile Noise Free Zone.

While Mobile phones aren't banned, please ensure that all mobiles and devices are turned to silent when on the tennis courts and that if you do have to answer an urgent call, please could you keep your voice down as much as possible.

In addition, lengthy conversations should be avoided on the court. Wait until there is a break, or better still, wait until the match is over. Minimal small talk is most appropriate and appreciated until you are away from the tennis courts.

‘Keep it clean!’. The ‘it’ being:

- The courts and surrounds
- Your language
- Your play

For a full set of the “Rules of Tennis” visit - <https://www.lta.org.uk/play/how-to-get-started/rules-scoring/>

