



Texas Tennis Sportsmanship Tips

The following are recommendations provided by the USTA Texas Sportsmanship Committee

**The Golden Rule of Sportsmanship in Tennis:
Treat your opponent, coaches and spectators the
way that you would want to be treated**

Your Reputation Matters

- Realize that you are representing not only yourself, but also your school, your family, your coach, your academy, your city and (at a national tournament) your state
- Apologize for your own bad behavior
- From the sidelines, cheer equally for both players
- Encourage your doubles partner. No blaming or showing frustration towards partner
- Be motivational to others, you are someone's role model
- Be the example you want to see from others on and off the court – Lead by example

On the Court

- Playing fairly is the only way to play
- Correct the score in favor of your opponent, if needed
- No gamesmanship during the match
- Return the tennis balls from your side of the court to your opponent properly
- Keep your comments positive, and if in doubt, the ball is good
- Correct incorrect calls you make immediately
- In doubles, correct your partner's incorrect call immediately
- When a ball lands close to the line but is out, make the call loud but not obnoxiously
- Call out score, by either player, loud enough so opposing player and spectators can hear, but not obnoxiously
- When players are unmatched, the better player should stop being overly aggressive – Win quietly – Also, spectators should not clap or cheer as vehemently and show great compassion and empathy

Off the Court

- Older or more experienced players should be mentors to younger players
- Respect yourself – Respect your opponent – Respect your coach – Respect your family – Respect the officials
- No parental involvement before, during or after the match
- No coach involvement before, during or after the match
- Going to opposing parent and coach AFTER the match and tell them "Good match" whether they win or lose
- Help during rain delays by squeegeeing
- Help volunteers setting up site or breaking down at the end of the day
- Encourage other players to help as well
- Expressing sincere gratitude and appreciation to the site directors, tournament director, referee, officials and volunteers at the end of the day

Win with class and dignity – Lose with class and dignity