



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Tennis Officials recognize that parents and guardians have a major role to play in their Player's enjoyment of tennis and would like you to follow these guidelines:

- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all participants, coaches and officials at every match.
- Place emotional and physical well-being of all participating players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- Support coaches and officials working with your Player and consider the feelings of others in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- Encourage your child to learn the rules of tennis and participate within them.
- Once your child enters the court – you strive to be the #1 FAN. *(see #1 Fan document below)*
- Discourage challenging/arguing with the Officials.
- Set a good example of recognizing good sportsmanship and applauding the good performances of everyone.
- Never punish or belittle your Player, or the opponent, for making mistakes.
- Out of courtesy to the other player, keep the Tournament Director/Referee informed if your Player is unable to attend their matches.
- By your example, teach your player to respect the Tournament Staff and Facility where the event is held.
- Share any concerns or complaints about any aspect of the tournament – including Officials through proper channels. Please include specifics: incident, name(s), and time.
- **FINALLY, treat other parents/guardians/players/officials the way you would want to be treated regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.**

THE CODE – FOR PLAYERS

(found in the [Friend at Court](#) pg.36-42)

The Regulations specifically state that The Code shall apply to all matches except to the extent to which an official assumes some of the players' responsibilities.

The Code is basically a summary of procedures and unwritten rules that custom and tradition dictate all players should follow. No system of rules will cover every specific problem or situation. If players of goodwill follow the principles of The Code, they should always be able to reach an agreement, while at the same time making tennis more fun and a better game for all.

The principles set forth in The Code shall apply in cases not specifically covered by the ITF Rules of Tennis or the USTA Regulations. Before reading this, the following question may come to mind: Since there is a book that contains all the rules of tennis, is there a need for The Code? Isn't it enough to know and understand all the rules? There are several things not specifically set forth in the rules that are covered by custom and tradition only. For example, if there is doubt on a line call, the opponent gets the benefit of the doubt. This result cannot be found in the rules. Further, custom dictates the standard procedures that players will use in reaching decisions. These are the reasons a code is needed.

The tennis player will: ·

- Play fairly and have fun
- Abide by The Code and USTA rules
- Respect officials and accept their decisions
- ALWAYS give benefit of doubt on a call to your opponent
- Use your best efforts in competitive matches
- Refrain from the use of bad language and inappropriate gestures
- Refrain from ball/racquet abuse
- Refrain from the use of coaching during competition
- Never use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage on or off the court

- Respect opponents and always shake hands at the end of a match
- Win with grace and lose with dignity

When everything is said and done the bottom line is good sportsmanship – **treat others the way you want to be treated!**

What it takes to be the BEST FAN!!!

What are you permitted to do when your child plays a match?

A parent/Guardian's responsibility is to help the player get to the match on time. If this is a new area – find out the site/playing location well in advance. Best practices are to arrive 30 minutes early to the site. Arriving early helps with easing tensions and allowing the player to focus on the task ahead. Once at the site become familiar with the facility: Check in Desk, Water/ice area, Restrooms, Courts, Training Area, Concessions, etc.

Have THE PLAYER available to check in at the Tournament Desk at least 15 minutes before scheduled match time. Make sure once your player checks in – that they are completely ready to play! They have used the restroom, have their water, court bag and shoes strings tied and ready to go!!!

When the player walks onto the court, your responsibility ends, and you now become the #1 FAN.

What does it mean to be a fan versus a coach?

As a fan, you can encourage by applause and by cheering a good shot. You can encourage good sportsmanship by acknowledging good play by BOTH players. Also, remember, in tennis there is no cheering DURING the point. After the point is over and before the next point begins is the time to cheer.

You are NOT permitted to say anything in the form of strategy:

- Way to step into the return
- Stay on your toes
- Step in on the second serve
- Drink your Gatorade
- That's 40-15

You can say:

- Great Shot!
- Come on, _____ (player's name_____)

Whooo Hooo!
Beautiful Serve

If there is a problem on court, it is up to the players to request an official. You are an observer. It is not your job to be involved in the match in any form. You are not the scorekeeper, the linesman or the referee – please leave this for the players and officials. There will be zero tolerance of parents/coaches or friends involving themselves with any match.

If you do interfere or offer advice, your child can be penalized under the point penalty system:

First Offence, loss of Point

Second Offense, loss of Game

Third Offense, Default

Good Luck to All and have a Great Time as a #1 FAN!

Player Responsibility and Conduct

(found in the [Friend at Court](#) page 103)

C. Standards of Conduct

1. *General.* Players, persons who appear to be associated with a player (including, but not limited to, parents and coaches), officials, and organizers of any tournament are under a duty to encourage and maintain high standards of proper conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. They are under an obligation to avoid acts that may be considered detrimental to the game of tennis. Detrimental acts include, but are not limited to, the acts set forth in USTA Regulation IV.C.

And page 105

11. *No abuse of players or officials*

a. *No person shall abuse official or player.* The Chair Umpire, Referee, and any other official responsible for ensuring that a match is played under conditions that are fair to all players shall make certain that no parent, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player abuses an official or player.

b. Official may request abusive person to desist or leave tournament area.

A player who enters a sanctioned tournament or match consents to being penalized under the Point Penalty System for abusive conduct by a person who appears to be associated with the player. If the official observes the conduct, the official shall suspend play and request that the person desist. If the abuse continues, the official may direct the person to leave the tournament area. In a flagrant case the official may immediately direct the person to leave without requesting the person to desist.

c. *Point Penalty System applies to abuse.* If the person refuses to follow the instructions to leave, then the official may penalize the player associated with the person under the Point Penalty System.

THE CODE – FOR OFFICIALS (found in the [Friend at Court](#) pg.213)

The Official's Code of Conduct A USTA official is expected to maintain high professional standards. Violations of this code may result in decertification or suspension of USTA-directed assignments.

An official shall:

1. Wear the official USTA uniform at USTA sanctioned events, or as otherwise designated by the USTA.
2. Be prompt for all assignments.
3. Not socialize with or become intimate with the players. (An official is not prohibited from staying in the tournament hotel or from attending social functions where players may be present.)
4. Not accept assignments for any match that may cast doubt upon the official's impartiality. Not only is a bona fide conflict of interest prohibited, but the appearance of a conflict makes the assignment unacceptable.
5. Not solicit specific assignments in tournaments.
6. Not accept an assignment and then withdraw from that assignment in favor of another unless released.
7. Not be interviewed by the media without permission of the Referee or the Referee's designee.
8. Not publicly criticize other officials.
9. Not participate in, including aiding and abetting whether directly or indirectly, any form of gambling or betting on tennis.
10. Not converse with spectators while on the court.
11. Not request favors or special considerations from a tournament sponsor.
12. Not use title or position to abuse the rules or influence others to do so.

13. Not consume alcoholic beverages or take drugs while in uniform; not consume alcoholic beverages, drugs, or medications that may inhibit performance during an assignment.

14. Cooperate with the efforts of officials' committees appointed by the National Chairperson.

15. Not take photographs of players while in uniform nor at any time request player autographs.

16. Be professional and ethical

17. Conform personal conduct to standards of good citizenship and sportsmanship; support and sustain an environment free from discrimination, harassment or sexual harassment; and adhere to the USTA Safe Play guidelines and policies