

Clarkston Bowling & Tennis Club - Tennis Section

Court Etiquette



Tennis etiquette is different from the rules of the game. It covers a broad range of actions and behaviours, which are traditionally considered acceptable on and around the tennis court. Here are some actions and behaviours we would like all our club members to adhere by.

Show respect and courtesy to players on the court (or adjacent courts)

- Keep your voice down and confined to your court as much as possible so as not to disrupt players on adjacent courts. When carrying on a conversation do so at the net rather than from baseline to baseline.
- Avoid grunting or making other loud noises
- Swearing or disrespectful language is not acceptable

Don't walk onto a court while in use, or walk behind players while a game or coaching is in progress

- This is to avoid disrupting a game in progress and, most importantly, any potential accidents on court.
- If you are trying to cross behind a court please wait until you are invited and it is safe to do so

Be considerate when retrieving or returning balls

- If a stray ball comes onto your court don't knock it back immediately, wait until the owners are ready and then hit it to the server's end
- If a ball from your court goes onto another court, wait for a break in play on that court (and any courts between you and the court where the ball stops) and then politely ask the players on that court to return the ball. If the ball presents a danger to a player, alert them immediately.

Line calls - the prime objective in making calls is accuracy

- Only call the lines on your side of the net
- All line calls should be made promptly and clearly
- Any doubt must be resolved in favour of the opponent, ie any ball that cannot be called OUT with certainty must be considered to have been IN.
- Acknowledge promptly if a ball touches you, you touch the net, you double hit a ball, or the ball bounces twice.

Don't try to win the warm-up

- Hit your shots to your opponent at moderate pace to warm up all regular shots (forehand, backhand, ground strokes, volleys, overhead), and returns of warm up serves should be hit back to the opponent.

Mobile Phones

- Please turn off all ringers when on court.

Keep the courts tidy and safe

- For safety, only take plastic drinks bottles onto court.
- Collect all balls after playing and leave the courts in a safe and tidy condition. Dispose of any rubbish in the litter or recycling bins provided and put unwanted tennis balls in the ball box in the Clubhouse.
- Close the gate behind you when you enter or leave the front courts.

Attitude and Demeanour

- Don't criticise your partner or opponent; be positive and offer encouragement instead.
- Compliment your opponent on good play.
- Shake hands when the game is over.
- Spectators should not applaud errors, heckle players or call balls in or out (even if asked to do so).

We wish to make your experience on the tennis courts an enjoyable one