

# BEXLEY LAWN TENNIS SQUASH & RACKETBALL CLUB

## CODE OF CONDUCT AND POLICY ON COURT ETIQUETTE

### Introduction

1. This code of conduct and policy on court etiquette sets out what the Club regards as good practice for all members to follow, and is available so that every member is clear as to what is expected of them in order to create the right playing and social environment in which everyone can enjoy their sport.

Both the code of conduct and the policy on court etiquette reflect the friendly and co-operative spirit which members at the Club have enjoyed for many years.

The General Committee of the Club is confident that this ethos will continue and sees this as important in maintaining the Club's reputation.

The Code of Conduct sets out minimum standards of behaviour, which all members are expected to follow, and seeks to avoid any serious issues arising.

The policy on court etiquette then sits alongside the code of conduct and sets out a range of actions and behaviours which are considered acceptable or unacceptable on and around the playing areas.

Should a breach of the code of conduct or a serious breach of the policy on court etiquette occur, a complaints and sanctions process is set out further in this document.

### Aims of the Code of Conduct and Policy on Court Etiquette

2. The aims of this code of conduct and policy on court etiquette are to:
  - Ensure that all members are treated fairly and with respect;
  - Advise all members of the standards of behaviour and court etiquette which they are expected to meet so that an environment is created within which members can enjoy their sport and the club can continue to flourish;
  - Provide a complaints and sanctions process so that any issues can be addressed.
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### General Clothing

Men must wear shirts or tops with sleeves on Club premises. Sleeveless tops are only allowed in the Gym.

No shirts or tops shall be taken off( ie: for sunbathing).

## Code of Conduct – Standards of Behaviour

3. All members are expected to treat all other members, officials and visitors respectfully.
  - The Club will not accept any behaviour which may cause any physical or mental harm to any other member, player or visitor.
  - All members are responsible for the behaviour of any guests they invite to the Club and the code of conduct shall also apply to them.

### **Unacceptable actions will include:**

- Being abusive or showing aggression towards another member, player or visitor;
- Swearing;
- Racket throwing;
- Intimidating another member player or visitor;
- Creating a danger to another member player or visitor;
- Calling into doubt the integrity of another member or player.
- Parents must have control of their children's behaviour.

## Policy on Tennis Court Etiquette

4. Tennis etiquette covers different areas from those addressed within the rules of the game. Etiquette covers a range of actions and behaviours which are considered acceptable on and around the tennis court.
  - The Bexley Lawn Tennis Squash & Racketball Club policy on etiquette covers these areas:

### **Showing respect and being courteous**

- Welcome new members and players to the Club irrespective of their experience of the game and their level of play;
- Show respect and courtesy to your partner, your opponents and others on or around the courts;
- Instead of criticising your partner or opponent, offer encouragement instead;
- If a loud dispute during a match occurs, take it off court and away from other players on adjacent courts;
- Do not walk behind courts when a point is in progress to avoid causing a distraction;
- During play and particularly between games keep the amount and volume of conversation to a minimum so as to avoid distracting players on other courts;
- If a ball from an adjacent court strays onto yours do not hit it back immediately but do so when the players on that court are ready and then hit it to the server's end of that court. Courtesy to your opponents should include leaving the court together at the end of the match.

### **Do not walk onto another court during play**

- Before crossing a court to get to yours, wait for the conclusion of the point or if the match is a competitive one wait until the end of game, or until you are invited to cross, and do so as quickly as possible;
- Close the gate behind you, as you would on your own court;
- Be aware if you are already playing on court that others may wish to cross your court in order to access their own court and facilitate that where possible;
- If your ball rolls onto an adjacent court, wait for a break in the play in that court before politely requesting its return rather than retrieving it yourself.
- After finishing your match leave the court clear of any rubbish and ready for the next players.
- Clay courts must be swept after finishing play.

### **Line calls**

- Only call the lines on your side of the net;
- Call clearly on the basis of what you honestly believe to be correct;
- If you are not certain, or did not see the ball clearly, the ball was good and the doubt must be given in favour of the opponent;
- If occasionally you have serious doubt over a line call, ask your opponents politely if they are certain as to the accuracy of their call, and if they are, move on and play the next point;
- If there is doubt over a line call, consider offering to replay the point.

### **Keeping score**

- The server should announce the score before each point;
- If the server forgets or does so inaudibly, the receiver should request the server to make an audible announcement of the score.

### **Mobile phones**

- Mobile phone calls should not be made or received on court: leave the court to make or receive a call;
- Mobile phones taken onto court should be switched off or put on silent or vibrate mode to avoid creating a distraction.

## **Clothing and footwear**

- Players should wear recognised tennis clothing of any colour together with tennis footwear;
- Tennis footwear is required both to promote safety as unsuitable footwear can provide insufficient grip, and to prevent damage to the courts.
- Soccer, beach or denim wear is not permitted on court.
- Men's vests or sleeveless shirts are not allowed.

## **Policy on Squash Court Etiquette**

- Squash etiquette covers different areas from those addressed within the rules of the game. Etiquette covers a range of actions and behaviours which are considered acceptable on and around the squash court.
- The Bexley Lawn Tennis Squash & Racketball Club policy on etiquette covers these areas:

### **Showing respect and being courteous**

- Welcome new members and players to the Club irrespective of their experience of the game and their level of play;
- Show respect and courtesy to your opponents and others on or around the courts;
- If a loud dispute during a match occurs diffuse the situation and try to resolve this by keeping calm and offer to play the point again.
- Do not walk behind courts when a point is in progress to avoid causing a distraction;
- During play and particularly between games keep the amount and volume of conversation to a minimum to avoid distracting players on other courts.
- Courtesy to your opponents should include leaving the court together at the end of the match.

### **Mobile phones**

- Mobile phone calls should not be made or received during a match.
- Mobile phones taken onto court should be switched off, or put on silent or vibrate mode, to avoid creating a distraction.

## **Clothing and footwear**

- Players should wear recognised squash clothing of any colour together with non-marking squash footwear;
- Squash footwear is required both to promote safety as unsuitable footwear can provide insufficient grip, and to prevent damage to the courts.
- Soccer, beach or denim wear is not permitted on court.
- Men's vests or sleeveless shirts are not allowed.

## Complaints and Sanctions

- If any member(s) believes that they have experienced either a breach of the code of conduct or a serious breach of the policy on court etiquette then they should contact the Tennis or Squash Committee Representative or Club Manager as appropriate.
- If they cannot resolve the dispute and the Club Manager was the person contacted, the Manager shall inform the appropriate Representative. The Representative will organise a Sub-Committee of the Representative and 2 other members from the Squash, Tennis or Management Committee and arrange a meeting with that person or people who are subject to the complaint to discuss the issue.
- In considering the complaint, the Sub-Committee will take into account any background information they consider relevant including the personal circumstances of the person who is the subject of the complaint, together with any external advice or guidance available to them which may be appropriate;
- After the Sub-Committee has deliberated and decided on a course of action with regards to the complaint they will arrange a further meeting with the member(s) concerned and explain the decision taken.
- The person before the Sub-Committee has the right of appeal against the decision taken by coming before 3 members of the General Committee not involved in the original decision.
- The General Committee's decision is final.
  
- **The following sanctions on a member found to be in breach of this code of conduct or in serious breach of the policy on court etiquette but not exclusively are as follows:-**
  - a warning as to future conduct
  - disqualification from any event or tournament in which the breach has taken place;
  - suspension of a member from membership;
  - exclusion of a non-member from the club's premises;
  - expulsion of a member from the club.
  - or any other sanction that is deemed necessary.

All members have a duty to encourage other members to follow the code of conduct and etiquette.

Also if appropriate to report any member for infraction of the code of conduct and etiquette to the Tennis/Squash Representative or Club Manager.

As of 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019