

## Section II - Code of Conduct

All players, their supporters, and officials have a duty to encourage and maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and fair play, and are under an obligation to avoid all conduct, acts or practices, which are perceived to be detrimental to the integrity of the Game. Such acts include, but are not limited to the following subsections. The Point Penalty schedule, as set out in the Definitions section, is for Code Violations by players during match play. Parents, coaches and other supporters who violate sections of the Code of Conduct may be subject to removal from the tournament site, and failure to comply with such an order may cause the immediate default of the player they are representing (as in Section II-10, under Coaching and Parental Interference). Tournament Code Violation Reports and Incident Reports document all Code Violations and incidents that take place at the Precincts of the Tournament Site, as follows:

### **1. Fair Play**

Players shall call all balls, double bounces, and foul shots, fairly and honestly as described in the latest edition of the "Rules of the Court" and adhere to the Code for playing without a chair umpire. This includes calling out the score after every point, using score cards when provided, and making out calls loudly or sufficiently visible so one's opponent is aware of the call, etc.

Line calls must be made so that one does not have a second chance to win the point. That is, the call is to be made before one's own next shot lands out, bounces twice, goes into the net or hits a permanent fixture.

Over-rules on Line Calls

At the discretion of the Designated Tournament Official, a player may be coded for flagrantly incorrect line calls. If a player is blatantly egregious in his/her line calls, they may be defaulted from the match and cited to Conduct Contrary to the Integrity of the Game.

### **2. Abuse of Balls**

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball while on the grounds of the tournament site except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including warm-up). For purposes of this rule, abuse of balls is defined as intentionally or recklessly hitting a ball out of the enclosure of the court, hitting a ball dangerously within the court or hitting a ball with disregard of the consequences.

### **3. Abuse of Equipment**

Players, and their supporters, shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a racquet or other equipment within the precincts of the tournament site. For the purposes of this rule, abuse of racquets or equipment is defined as intentionally, dangerously and violently destroying or damaging racquets or equipment or intentionally or violently hitting the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixture out of anger or frustration.

### **4. Physical Abuse**

Players, and their supporters, shall not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site. For

purposes of this rule, physical abuse refers to the unauthorized touching of another person.

### **5. Verbal Abuse**

Players, and their supporters, shall not at any time verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site. Verbal abuse is defined as any statement directed at another person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

### **6. Audible Obscenity**

Players, and their supporters, shall not use audible obscenities while on-site. An audible obscenity is defined as the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard.

### **7. Visible Obscenity**

Players, and their supporters, shall not make obscene gestures while on-site. A visible obscenity is defined as the making of a sign with one's hands and/or racquet or balls that commonly have an obscene meaning.

### **8. Unreasonable Delays**

Continuous Play / Delay of Game. Following the expiration of the warm-up period, play shall be continuous. A player shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause (see also, Rest Periods):

1. A maximum of 25 seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the point until the Server tosses the ball in the act of serving the next point. If such serve is a fault, then the second serve must be struck by the Server without delay.
2. Changeover. When changing ends, a maximum of 90 seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game until the Server tosses the ball in the act of serving the next game. If such serve is a fault, then the second serve must be struck by the Server without delay.
3. Set Break. At the end of a set, a maximum of two minutes shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game until the Server tosses the ball in the act of serving the first serve of the next game. If such serve is a fault, then the second serve must be struck by the Server without delay.
4. The Receiver shall play to the reasonable pace of the Server. The Receiver may be given a "Time" Violation for unduly delaying the Server or a Code Violation if the Chair Umpire deems "gamesmanship" as the reason for the delay.

**Time Violations** (violations of the previous four points) shall be penalized one time by a warning, then each subsequent violation shall be penalized by the assessment of a point penalty. Only one Time Violation can be assessed during a single point, if a second infraction occurs it is an automatic Code Violation. It should be noted that Time Violations **do not** form part of the three-step Point Penalty schedule for Code Violations.

## **9. Failure to Give Best Effort**

All players shall use their best efforts during matches when competing in a tournament.

## **10. Coaching and Supporters Interference**

Players shall not receive coaching during a tournament match, except from an on-court coach during end changes in team events where explicitly allowed in advance.

Communications of any kind, audible or visible, between a player and a third party shall be construed as coaching. This includes messages sent to players via handwriting or electronic devices. Coaches and supporters on-site are prohibited from:

1. Using an audible obscenity or making obscene gestures of any kind.
2. Abusing any official, opponent, spectator or other person, verbally or physically.
3. Engaging in conduct contrary to the integrity of the Game.

In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, the Designated Tournament Official shall have the authority to relocate the position of a supporter or order the supporter to be removed from the precincts of the tournament site. Upon the failure to comply with such an order, an immediate default of the player may be declared. Players may also be penalized through the Point Penalty Schedule for the coaching/behavior of their supporters.

## **11. Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Players, and their supporters, shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any misconduct that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the success of a Tournament, and/or the sport. In addition, unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the giving, making, issuing, authorizing or endorsing any public statement having, or designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interest of the Tournament and/or the officiating thereof.

## **12. Improper Attire**

All players shall dress and present themselves for play, from the moment they enter the court, in proper attire as designated by the Designated Tournament Official and/or the regulations of the host club. A player who violates this section may be ordered by the Designated Tournament Official to change his attire immediately. Failure of a player to comply with such order may result in an immediate default. At Ontario Provincial Championships proper attire includes collared (or other previously approved) tennis tops, proper tennis shorts, skirts or dresses, as well as approved tennis shoes. It does not include t-shirts, sports bras or boxer shorts. Some host clubs may also enforce all-white clothing regulations.