

Coaches Code of Conduct



(adapted from the International Tennis Federation Code of Ethics for coaches) 1 June 2011

As a Tennis Australia coach member you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by or under the auspices of Tennis Australia, a Member Association, an Affiliated Organisation, a Member Affiliated Organisation, a Regional Association or an Affiliated Club, on any private court or any time a coaching service is provided:

1. Behave in a professional manner – be a good role model. Always project a favourable image of tennis and coaching at all times.
2. Ensure that your qualifications and those of your employees and colleagues are not misrepresented. Promote your current qualifications only.
3. Recognise your responsibility to the sport, to other coaches, players, parents, officials and its stakeholders. Avoid criticism of colleagues, players and all stakeholders. Behave with integrity at all times.
4. Treat students with respect, fairness, honesty and consistency at all times regardless of their background, beliefs or physical ability.
5. Understand and abide by the rules of confidentiality (i.e. for confidential and personal information of your employees, colleagues, students, players and other persons with whom you interact).
6. Honour all promises and commitments, both verbal and written.
7. Be positive and considerate when providing feedback. Avoid using negative feedback.
8. Encourage a climate of mutual support and respect for each other among your students, both on and off the court and regardless of their level of play.
9. Recognise individual differences in students and always consider the student's long-term best interests.
10. Set challenges for each student which are both achievable and motivating.
11. Encourage players to participate in active play through appropriate pathways available, relative to their ability and level of play.
12. Use appropriate training methods which will benefit the students taking care to avoid those which could be harmful. Consider age, experience, ability and physical and psychological conditions. Adhere to the Tennis Australia Athlete Development Matrix.
13. Recognise students' rights to consult with other coaches and advisors (eg sport scientists, doctors, physiotherapists etc). Be cooperative.
14. Encourage and facilitate students' independence and responsibility for their own behaviour, performance, decisions and actions.
15. Aim for excellence based upon realistic goals and give due consideration for the student's growth and development.

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16. Recognise the 'power' that you as a coach develop with your students in the coaching relationship and avoid any behaviour that would encourage a closer, inappropriate relationship with students that could compromise your professionalism.
17. Actively discourage use of performance-enhancing drugs, the use of alcohol and tobacco and any illegal substance.
18. Do not exploit any coaching relationship to further personal, political or business interests at the expense of the best interest of your students.
19. Accept that players will move on. Do not be obstructive during this transition but try to be helpful if that is the student's request.
20. Accept and respect the role of officials whose job it is to ensure that competitions are conducted fairly and according to established rules.
21. Have a working knowledge of and abide by the rules of tennis, regulations and standards, and encourage students to do likewise. Accept both the letter and the spirit of the rules.
22. Assess and monitor the safety of your coaching venue.
23. Place the safety and welfare of athletes above all else. Maintain a duty of care towards students/athletes under your supervision.
24. Be open to other people's opinion and willing to continually learn and develop.
25. Be aware that our sport is bigger than all of us. Tennis and players will be there when we are not, but while we are involved, our ethical standards, values and behaviours matter a great deal as they influence others.
26. Be respectful and courteous when a working relationship (eg between employer, and employee or sub-contractor) ends. Do not misuse the privileges obtained as an employee or contractor.
27. Ensure the relationship between the coach and club, or council, or school, or other community organisation is respectful, truthful and transparent at all times and that there is documented evidence of all agreements in the form of a Contract or formal Agreement.

Coaches must:

- Provide services with due care, skill and diligence and to the best of his/her knowledge and expertise;
- Ensure services are provided to the club's reasonable satisfaction and for the benefit of the club;
- Ensure services meet the requirements set out in your written agreement with the club and other entities and any reasonable instructions and directions given by the club from time to time;
- Comply with all policies and by-laws of Tennis Australia (as developed and/or amended from time to time), including Tennis Australia's Member Protection policy and Anti-Doping policy and available via [tennis.com.au/about-us](https://www.tennis.com.au/about-us)
- Comply with the National Privacy Principles and other requirements contained in the Privacy Act 1988.