



How should parents and other spectators behave?



HTA Code of Conduct Policy

On the whole, our experience is that parents and other spectators (of both home and away teams) are usually considerate, polite and positive role models. However, it is worth noting that the Hills Tennis Association (HTA) has included the following in its Rules of Match Play (Appendix 1, Code of Conduct Policy):

On match days the following action can be undertaken: (this applies to any player/parent/spectator in any HTA competition):

One warning only will be given if a player, spectator or parent engages in any of the following behaviour:

- Bad language (directed at self or others).
- Racquet abuse (throwing or hitting net, fences, etc.).
- Yelling or screaming at themselves or others, so that it is clearly audible and distracting.
- Intimidation.
- Constant dispute of line calls.
- Ball abuse (hitting out of court, into fences, and not directly returning balls to opponent).
- External interference by parents or spectators, including constant praise to one player which can be off putting/intimidating to their opponent/s.
- Coaching of any kind.

A second offence of ANY sort will result in immediate forfeiture of the set.

The HTA Rules of Match Play also set out the action that may be taken if the code of conduct/dispute is serious or continuous.



Outside interference

The following has been copied from Appendix 4 of the HTA Rules of Match Play:

There are a number of outside (off court) disturbances that are NOT permitted. These include:

1. Spectator interference.
2. Coaching.
3. Unfair comments made within earshot of the players.
4. Unsporting behaviour e.g. clapping double faults/hitting the ball into the net etc.
5. Support for one player that intimidates the other player.