

# Tennis Queensland

## Etiquette Rules

Sunshine Coast Tennis League



**GET  
COURT  
UP**

# Vision

The vision for Tennis Queensland Competition pathways is to provide safe and enjoyable environments, encouraging the long-term participation of all young players and to provide a positive experience at all levels.

To achieve this vision, all parties involved need to adhere to the etiquette rules outlined below.

## Players

It is expected that every effort is made by Parents, Managers, Coaches, Teachers, Officials and friends to create a safe and enjoyable environment for players to participate. Out of respect for these efforts, it is expected that you adhere to, not only the rules and code of conduct but also these Etiquettes outlined below.

## Behaviour

- Conduct yourself at all times in a positive and honest manner.
- Always play to the best of your ability.
- Play fairly and by the rules – gamesmanship, complaining nor time wasting will not be tolerated.
- Respect those around you, including team-mates, the opposition, officials, coaches/managers and spectators.
- Talk to someone you trust or the club member protection officer if you are unhappy or uncomfortable with anything or anyone.
- **ALWAYS** accept an Officials final decision. Understand that you have the right to question the original decision not the right to disrespectfully argue with the Tournament Director or Officials decision after the final decision has been made.
- Read, understand and follow the rules and Code of Conduct.
- Always shake the oppositions hand(s) after each rubber played.
- Complement the opposition on good play.
- Wait until a point is over to walk behind a match court or retrieve your ball from that court.

## Verbal Calls

- Players are, at all times, to make loud and clear calls. The calls should be loud enough that their opponent can hear in any conditions, in particular, the wind.

## Line calls

- Out calls should only be called when a player is 100% sure the ball is out. Calls should be made immediately. Remember, if you have to think about it, it was probably in.
- Be mindful that a ball can compress or hit and roll and therefore leave the court in a different place to where it bounced or touch more of the ground (including the line) than it may appear.

- Players are to make all of the line calls on their side of the net. However, if an opponent has called a ball in on their side of the net because they are not sure, but you are sure it is out, then good sportsmanship dictates you concede the point.
- Never ask anyone else if a ball was in or out, especially someone off the court.

## Speed of play

To ensure a fast and fun match the following should be adhered to:-

- Players should have 2 balls before they start serving. Please wear shorts, skirts, skorts with pockets, bike pants or have some way to hold a second ball on your person.
- When returning, let first serve faults go pass without hitting the return shot.
- After a point, return balls back to the server directly. This means don't deliberately hit the ball in the opposite direction. Make every effort possible to roll the ball back to where the server is due to start the following point.

## Scoring

- The server must call the score before each game and each point. It is, however good practice for all players to call the score to confirm.
- Don't argue the score from the back of the court. If you don't agree with the score that is called, approach the net and discuss the issue calmly. Count the points you agree on and replay only those you don't. If an agreement can't be reached call for an official.
- Don't ask anyone off the court for the score.

## Support Team

Parents, coaches, managers, teachers and spectators are part of the "support team" for junior players. During matches your principal function is to let players play and enjoy themselves while giving them encouragement in the normal sporting manner. Emphasise the importance of effort and having fun, rather than the score. Tell your child how proud you are of them and enjoy watching regardless of the game's outcome.

## Parents

As a parent you should leave the stress and tension of daily life behind when going to your child's tennis match. Concentrate on how to make the day enjoyable for them, and always set a positive example.

Please consider the following:-

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than whether they win or lose.
- Keep your emotions in check. Encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.

- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skillful plays by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for volunteers, coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Understand that parents are responsible for spectators (or entourage), pertaining to their player.
- Sit/stand away from fences so as not to intimidate the players.
- Be respectful to all those around including other parents.
- Leave administrative and operational matters to managers, players and officials.

## Coaches, Manager's & Teachers

As a leader you will be seen as a role model for players. It is imperative that you adhere to and enforce the Code of Conduct as well as the Etiquette Rules. Educate players to play, think and behave positively on and off the court. This is all crucial for their development and long term participation.

Please consider the following:-

- Read, understand and adhere to the Rules and don't practice gamesmanship.
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour.
- Promote Fair Play.
- Always respect the match officials' decisions.
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials.
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.
- Never engage in bullying, intimidation or harassment.
- Understand your role and repercussions for your mistakes.
- Educate those under your control in regards to the rules and Code of Conduct and Etiquette.