

## Code of Practice; Respect, Behaviour and Court Etiquette

SHLTC is keen for all its members to enjoy our sport so we have just a simple Ground Rule to make the playing experience more enjoyable for all and that is 'Keep it clean!'. The 'it' being:

- the courts,
- your language and
- your play.

Leave the courts free of litter, collect in tennis balls and do not let the frustrations of the game make you an unpleasant person to play with.

### All Members;

- All members must play within the rules and respect officials and their decisions
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions, or inform their coach or team captain if they know they are going to be late
- Members must wear suitable kit for play, as agreed with the coach.
- Members must pay any fees for training or matches promptly

### Juniors;

- Junior members are not allowed to smoke on the premises or whilst representing their team at competitions
- Junior members are not allowed to consume alcohol or drugs of any kind on the premises

### Parents;

- Encourage your child to learn the rules of tennis and play within them
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results
- Never force your child to take part in sport
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes
- Publicly accept judgements made by officials
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport
- Use correct and proper language at all times
- Be patient – steady progression is unusual in children; peaks and plateaus are common
- Your first question following any match should be; 'Did you enjoy it?' not 'Did you win?'
- At no stage should you communicate with your child or interfere with the on-court helpers and referees during a match – just enjoy the game and let officials take care of the rules!

## Court Etiquette

The following is an extract from British Tennis website on court etiquette which reflects on the SHLTC approach.

Please do not walk behind players whilst a game, a rally or coaching is in progress, this is to avoid distracting other members and most importantly to avoid any potential accidents on court.

If you are trying to cross a court please wait until you are invited to and it is safe to do so.

If a stray ball comes onto your court don't knock it back immediately, wait until the owners are ready and then hit it to the server's end.

During play and particularly between games, keep the amount and volume of conversation down to a minimum necessary to play and enjoy your own games. Too much chatter can be disturbing to those playing nearby and, in between games, can hold up play for people waiting.

Line calls can be a problem and SHLTC recommend the use of the 'honour system'.

Only call the lines on your side of the net.

Call clearly and firmly what you see and what you honestly believe to be correct.

If you are not absolutely certain or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball was IN and must be given in the opponents favour.

If occasionally you have serious doubts as to your opponent's eye-sight, ask politely if they are certain as to the accuracy of their call. If they say that they are, get on with the next point.

If you feel your opponents regularly have difficulties making correct calls, start looking for different opponents!

If in social friendly matches there is some doubt over a line call, offer to play the point again rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting.

Do not criticise your partner or opponent, be positive and offer encouragement instead.

Overall, use your best judgement as we all want to be competitive but don't let your emotions get on top of you!

Above all enjoy playing!

## **Respect and Behaviour**

All Club members and Club officials must show tolerance, courtesy, good manners, fairness, honesty and integrity in their dealings with Club members, officials, Club members' guests, playing and social visitors.

## **Equality**

The Club is opposed to discrimination in any form. All Club members have a responsibility to make everyone feel welcome and to ensure that membership of the club is a positive experience.

## **Safety and Responsibility**

All Club members will act responsibly and look to protect and ensure the safety of everyone at the Club at all times and particularly to consider the well-being and care of junior players and visitors. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have with; **Brian Aitchison, Club Secretary SHLTC**

## **Fair Play**

All Club members will respect the rules of tennis and address disputes with dignity and appropriate language.

## **Club Reputation**

All Club members should endeavour to protect and further the Club's good reputation at all times. When representing the Club, all players and officials will observe the principles in this Code of Conduct.