



WEST BRUNSWICK TENNIS CLUB INC

# Code of Conduct

**For players and parents**

This code of conduct applies to all players representing the West Brunswick Tennis Club, their parents and supporters and is aimed at developing and maintaining appropriate levels of behaviour and sporting conduct and to maintain the good name of the West Brunswick Tennis Club..

## **Dress Code**

The Affiliated Tennis Associations rely on clubs to enforce the application of By-laws relating to the wearing proper tennis attire. In winter, some clubs do not enforce the rule that tracksuits are not to be worn during match play however, cargo pants, jeans, board shorts, and clothing with large or prominent printing etc are not considered acceptable attire. Players must wear approved tennis shoes at all times. If in doubt, ask your team manager or captain about the relevant association's rules regarding tennis attire.

## **Abuse of racquets, balls, courts etc**

"Abuse of balls" is defined as intentionally hitting a ball out of court or hitting a ball in a dangerous or reckless manner. "Racquet abuse" is defined as throwing or slamming a racquet into the court, net, fence or other court fixtures. Players exhibiting inappropriate behaviour may receive a warning from Team Manager or Captain.

## **Physical or verbal abuse**

Players and supporters shall not physically or verbally abuse an official, spectator or another player. Such behaviour will result in warnings and/or an official complaint. Where the action is deemed serious enough, the offending WBTC member may be required to show cause to the committee as to why they should be allowed to continue to represent the club.

## **Audible or visible obscenities**

In the instances of social tennis, Round Robin or Club Championships, players using offensive or obscene language during a match or within the confines of the club shall receive a warning for a first offence and forfeit of the set should the behaviour continue. Similarly, visible gestures of an offensive nature are not appropriate and the same penalties will apply. Spectators using offensive or obscene language will be asked to leave the facility.

In the instances of players representing WBTC in home and away competition, use of offensive or obscene language during a match or within the confines of the club shall receive a warning for a first offence and where the action is deemed serious enough, the offending WBTC member may be required to show cause to the committee as to why they should be allowed to continue to represent the club.

## **Coaching**

"Coaching" during a match is not allowed during competition. "Coaching" is defined as giving advice or instruction to players during the course of a match. Cheering is acceptable but it should be kept to a reasonable level and remain within the spirit of the game.

## **Leaving the court**

Players are not to leave the court whilst a match is in progress without the permission of the umpire or, in matches being umpired by the players, without the permission of the opponent.

## **Umpires**

Umpires should be allowed to umpire a match free from abuse or disputation. If a player believes an umpire not to be competent they should refer the matter to the home club official who will deal with the situation in an appropriate manner. Under no circumstances can umpires be verbally or physically abused.



## Court Entry

Only players and officials are permitted to enter the court whilst a match is in progress. Spectators must remain outside the courts at all times.

## Unacceptable behaviour by visitors

If there are instances of unacceptable behaviour by a visiting player or spectator, during home and away competitions; the following guidelines should be followed:

## Junior Matches (NSJTA)

### Unacceptable/offensive behaviour by visitor

1. WBTC court manager, or team manager should speak to the visiting team manager, and advise that visitor's behaviour is contrary to WBTC Code of Conduct and is unacceptable.
2. If visitor continues with unacceptable/offensive behaviour, advice should be given to opposing team manager that actions will be initiated to make an official complaint to home club of offending visitor.
3. Team manager or court manager should document incident/s and send notice to Secretary of WBTC committee; to have the matter raised at the next scheduled meeting.
4. If the committee considers that the case is of a serious nature, the Secretary of WBTC should draft a letter of complaint to the secretary of the home club of the offending visitor.
5. A copy of letter of complaint to be sent to the NSJTA.

## Disputing umpires decisions

- If a visiting player disputes an adult umpire's decision in a disrespectful or abusive manner, the umpire may call the offending player into line, in a calm and non-threatening manner.
- If disputation continues, umpire shall raise issue with WBTC team manager or court manager at the completion of the set, and procedures outlined in points 1 to 5 above should be followed.
- In the instances of visiting player disputing or abusing junior umpire, then procedures outlined above in points 1 to 5 should be followed.
- If matter is serious enough WBTC court manager may be called upon to intervene.

## Adult matches (NSTA, NSNTA, and NSLTA)

- In instances where visitor behaves unacceptable or offensive manner, team captain should calmly and tactfully raise the matter with visiting captain.
- If visitor continues to behave in an unacceptable or offensive manner, steps along the lines of points 2 to 5 above should be taken.

## Away games

When WBTC players compete in away matches, they are expected to follow the principles of the WBTC Code of Conduct.

If instances of unacceptable or offensive behaviour occur at host club, WBTC team manager, or captain should raise the matter with host court manager, team manager or captain.

If offensive or unacceptable behaviour continues, steps along the lines of points 2 to 5 above should be followed.

