



# COURT RULES/ETIQUETTE

**These rules are guidelines to help the club run smoothly. They are primarily for reference, with enforcement only in extremis. Please speak up if you see someone abusing them, and involve either the Club Manager or a Committee member if necessary. Remember - it's YOUR club!**

- 1. When WAITING to play (or even if you are the day's first arrivals), you must write your name on the whiteboard.** Names of people playing on one court cannot be written on the whiteboard until they are all physically at the club **and ready to play.**
- 2. Anyone playing without names down on the board has NO STATUS** and must, **if all courts are full**, give way to singles or doubles with names down. 'No status' singles should normally cede their court before 'no status' doubles.
- 3. Please don't rub out** names on the whiteboard when people go on court. Only erase names when people have come off court.
- 4. Put the time you go on court and the court number on the whiteboard.** This allows a check to be made on playing order.
- 5. PLAYERS ON COURT may not** have their names down on the board for another set.
- Please be sensitive to how many members are waiting to play; don't spend any longer on court than you absolutely need to. Don't hang around chatting on court when changing ends.
- 7. DON'T STAY ON** court for another set **even if no-one appears to be waiting. Walk back, check the board and rewrite** your names first. People often wait **unseen inside the clubhouse**, or turn up in droves just as you start again.
- Put **(M)** after your names if playing an **Open/Handicap Tournament or Winter League match.**
- In the summer: **Tournament matches have queuing precedence 8am-1pm and 5-9pm on Saturdays and Sundays only.** Winter League matches don't have precedence at any time.
- In the winter: **Winter League Singles** matches may only be played on a maximum of **three** courts at any one time - unless no one is waiting to play. If there's a home team match, then this is limited to **two** courts.
- 11. SINGLES** games on either surface which are not matches are permitted, so long as other courts remain available. But if courts are full, a 'singles' must agree to make up a 'four' if asked to by 2 waiting players (finishing the game in progress, but not the set). The new four may then start a new set. **BUT a 'ready-made' four may not** displace a singles already in progress. However, players playing a Winter League singles match are **NOT** required to make up a four.
- 12. KNOCKING-UP** is for **5 minutes only at all times.** Then play **11 games** (unless 9 or 7 are stipulated at busy times). If just '**hitting**', please limit time on court to **45 minutes total (including the warm-up).** If 'hitting', two other players may come and join you for a game of doubles.
- 13. TEAM MATCHES** have priority choice of courts.
- 14. Coaches and hitters** will coach/play on the least popular courts.
- 15. On Tournament (Open/Handicap) FINALS afternoons,** no other games are allowed until the end of play unless otherwise specified.
- 16. JUNIOR A MEMBERS** have equal rights on all courts at all times. All other **JUNIOR MEMBERS** have **no court rights** after 6-00pm Mon-Fri, after 2pm Saturdays, Sundays and all day on Bank Holidays. At such times they play at the discretion of senior members.
- 17. BALLS!** Please do not leave balls lying around on the courts. If no longer required, either return them to the bucket in the clubhouse or put them in the ball recycling bin.
- Please make sure mobile phones are either on 'Silent' or are turned off so that they don't disturb other players.
- A non-member (as a guest of a member) may only play tennis at the club up to a maximum of **three times per year.** The guest fee is £6 per visit for adults and £3 for juniors. Members must sign in their guest/s at the book at the bar and pay the fee/s to a member of bar staff.
- Please adhere to the **Artificial Clay Court Maintenance Rules** to help prolong the court life. Return drag brushes to the hooks on the fences where possible. Drag brushes should always be left at the back of the court; there should be one brush between each pair of courts at either end.
- If playing on Courts 4/5, please **use the gate by Court 5** (not at Court 2). If there are games/matches in action, please remember to wait until an appropriate moment to open the gates.
- 22. PET DOGS** are not permitted on the courts. They are welcome in the club grounds/clubhouse **but must be on a lead and supervised at all times.**