

Tennis Etiquette

Tennis etiquette covers a broad range of actions and rules which are traditionally accepted as 'correct behaviour'. These actions have one common purpose, that of having consideration for our opponents and the other players around us.

1. Do not walk behind other courts while play is in progress. Preferably wait until the end of the game and certainly wait until the end of the point.
2. When you are crossing courts it is normal to do so at the rear of the court and not at the net.
3. When you decide to cross behind other courts do so as quickly as possible and don't stop for a chat on the way.
4. 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.
5. When hitting balls down to your opponent for them to use or serve, try to hit it gently towards them unless your plan is to tire them out.
6. 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 social chatter or debate can be disturbing to those on adjacent courts who came to play tennis.
7. Line calls can be a problem and the majority of experienced players use what the Americans call the 'honour system'.
 - a) Only call the lines on your side of the net.
 - b) Call clearly and firmly what you see and what you honestly believe to be correct.
 - c) 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.
 - d) If occasionally you have serious doubts as to your opponents 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.
 - e) If you feel your opponents regularly have difficulties making correct calls, start looking for different opponents.
 - f) If in social friendly matches there exists some doubt on a line call, offer to play the point again rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting.