

STC Policy: Rules and Etiquette

The intent of this document is to describe rules and courtesies to support a fun, safe and respectful tennis club.

Rules of Tennis

- Is your opponent or his / her fan club distracting you while you are about to hit that overhead?!!! Do you want to know if you change sides after a tie-breaker?!! Appropriate responses to questions about issues such as these can be found in the current International Tennis Federation Rules of Tennis. The 2016 version can be found here:
<http://www.itftennis.com/officiating/rulebooks/rules-of-tennis.aspx>

Dress Code (on STC premises)

- Tennis shoes or supportive non-marking shoes are mandatory
- Clothing must be suitable to prevent injuries
- Tennis clothes or athletic wear must include shorts and a shirt or a reasonable equivalent
- Clothing must not contain offensive symbols, pictures or language

Court Etiquette

- Whether watching or playing, demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
- Avoid crossing behind a court while play is in progress or about to commence. Wait outside of the playing area until the point being played is completed, then move briskly past.
- Do not play a point with a loose ball in the area where players may run to. If your opponent is about to hit a second serve, move the loose ball out of the way quickly to limit the delay between first and second serves.
- When a ball comes into your playing area:
 - Stop play if you are distracted or if any player is at risk of injury due to stepping on the ball
 - Return the ball to the other court or its players when they are not currently playing a point. If you do not wish to wait for them to complete their point, the ball may be placed at the back fence in between courts for them to retrieve at a later time.
- When making line calls, be scrupulously honest. Award doubtful calls on your side to your opponent or defer the decision to your opponent.
- When serving, always wait until all players are set in position and ready to play.
- Be respectful to all equipment and property.

When others are waiting

Please do your best to ensure the tennis courts are equally enjoyed by all members who wish to play. Players waiting must be included into tennis play as soon as possible. When people are waiting:

- (a) Initiating play at times without official scheduled activities: Doubles matches have priority over singles, but singles matches and practicing alone sessions already in progress may complete their set up to 30 minutes. Singles has priority over practicing alone.
- (b) Drop-in / scheduled activity times: Doubles matches have priority over singles. Singles has priority over practicing alone.
- (c) Keep warm-ups to no longer than 5 minutes
- (d) Use of no-ad scoring & tie-breakers at 5-5 is encouraged.
- (e) Ensure the players waiting are rotated in to the next tennis set or within 30 minutes (whichever time is shorter).

Some organized club activities (e.g. club tournament, scheduled activities) are exceptions.

When watching tennis play

- Consider potential distractions to players such as abrupt movements and loud discussions during points and adjust accordingly if necessary.
- Be supportive - it's pretty fun having people cheer you on!
- Please refer to our current STC alcohol policy.

Be good to our neighbours

Saanich Tennis Club is situated close to a number of residential neighbours and members of our community who utilize the park area. Please be considerate to our neighbours at all times including:

- Maintaining normal noise limits
- Preventing litter
- Avoiding parking inconveniences (please use our overflow parking lot as needed)

Reporting significant concerns of etiquette / safety

- Please attempt to politely discuss etiquette concerns directly with the person in question
- Please report any significant safety or etiquette concerns or concerns that affect our neighbours to the STC Vice-President by email (vice-president@saanichtennisclub.org)

Date: June 2016