

STC POLICY: CODE OF CONDUCT

1. OVERVIEW

This Code of Conduct describes the rules and courtesies for Saanich Tennis Club (STC) members and is based on the following principles:

- Every member has the right to an enjoyable, safe, and inclusive experience
- Every member has the right to be treated with fairness and respect
- Every member has the right to full and fair participation in the sport of tennis
- Every member has the right to fair, equitable, transparent, and consistent treatment

This Code of Conduct is clear in the following:

- All members are expected to fully comply with both STC Bylaws and this Code of Conduct
- This Code of Conduct outlines infractions that may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board
- Any STC member who observes an infraction should submit such observation in writing as per the section [Reporting Code of Conduct Concerns](#)
- This Code of Conduct adheres to [Tennis Canada's Code of Conduct](#)

2. RULES OF TENNIS

The official rules of tennis can be found in the [International Tennis Federation \(ITF\) Rules of Tennis](#).

3. COURT ETIQUETTE

- Always demonstrate good sportsmanship while watching and playing
- When making line calls, be scrupulously honest. Award questionable calls on your side to your opponent or defer the decision to your opponent
- When serving, always wait until all players are in position and ready to play
- Do not cross behind a court while play is in progress or about to commence. Wait outside the playing area until the point is finished, then move briskly past behind the baseline.
- Ensure the play is continuous and moves at a reasonable pace. Do not deliberately delay by stalling between first and second serves or walking at an unreasonably slow pace to pick up balls
- Do not start playing with a loose ball in an area where players may run. If a second serve is about to be hit, quickly move the ball to limit the delay between first and second serves
- When a ball comes into your playing area:
 - Stop play if you or any player is distracted or at risk of injury due to stepping on the ball
 - Return the ball to the other court when the point has finished. Alternatively, you may place the ball at the back fence in between courts
- Clean your court when finished. Please dispose of trash, tennis ball cans, water bottles, etc.
- Be respectful to all equipment and property

4. DRESS CODE (ON STC PREMISES)

- Tennis shoes or supportive non-marking shoes are mandatory
- Clothing must be suitable to prevent injuries
- Clothing must not contain offensive symbols, pictures, or language
- Clothing must include shorts and a shirt, and must be worn at all times on STC premises
 - Clothing must not be removed at any time

5. WHEN WATCHING TENNIS

- Please avoid potential distractions to players such as loud discussions or abrupt movements
- Be supportive - it's pretty fun having people cheer you on!

6. ONLINE COURT RESERVATION SYSTEM

- Please use the [STC Online Court Reservations](#) system to book time outside of public hours
- Please respect others' bookings. Play on the court that you have booked and leave the court promptly at the end of your booking

7. PUBLIC COURT TIME

- During public court time, please ensure the tennis courts are equally enjoyed by all
- When people are waiting:
 - Doubles has priority over singles
 - Singles has priority over practicing alone
 - Limit warm-ups to a maximum of 5 minutes
 - Limit play to a maximum of 30 minutes
 - Use no-ad scoring

8. CLUBHOUSE

- Please ensure clubhouse doors and gates are closed, latched, and locked when you leave, even if you didn't open it

9. BE GOOD TO OUR NEIGHBOURS

Saanich Tennis Club is situated close to residents and members of our community who utilize the park area. Please be considerate of our neighbours by observing the following:

- Do not play or use the ball machine **before 8am or after 9pm**
- Maintain normal noise limits
- Use the club parking lot, whenever possible
- Avoid parking on the street
- Avoid littering on and around STC premises

10. GUEST POLICY

Guests are welcome to visit and play at STC when accompanied by a member in good standing. Please observe the following rules when bringing a guest at STC:

- Guests must agree to the STC waiver by signing the guest book (a copy of the waiver is attached to the book)
- Guests must pay the daily fee of \$5.00
- Guests may play for up to two hours of reserved court time per day
- Guests may access the club for a maximum of four visits per calendar year
- After four visits, the guest must become a member of STC to continue to use the facilities

11. REPORTING CODE OF CONDUCT CONCERNS

- Please attempt to politely discuss safety and etiquette issues directly with the person of concern
- Any STC member who observes an infraction should submit such observation in writing to a [Board Member](#):
 - The Board requires incidents to be documented to exercise Club Bylaw 2.11 Suspension and Expulsion of Members
- Please report other concerns to the STC Vice-President at vice-president@saanichtennisclub.org:
 - Unresolved or serious safety and/or etiquette issues
 - Issues that may affect our neighbours

12. CODE OF CONDUCT INFRACTIONS

In addition to the rules and etiquette outlined in the above sections, this section describes **acts of misconduct that may be subject to disciplinary action**. The acts of misconduct described in this section are not considered to be fully inclusive, nor do they cover all possible offences. All disciplinary actions taken by the Board **will be duly recorded and placed on file** for reference.

This Code of Conduct recognizes that:

- The Board has full discretion to determine if any infraction is subject to disciplinary action, regardless of whether the act is explicitly defined in this document
- Every member has the right to adequate notice if the Board intends to pursue disciplinary action
- No member shall be expelled for a first Code of Conduct breach
- No member shall be expelled without first being given an opportunity to be heard by the Board at a meeting called for that purpose (as per STC Bylaw 2.11 Suspension and Expulsion of Members)
- At the Board's discretion, a member may be suspended for a first Code of Conduct breach that is deemed to be [Gross Misconduct](#)

12.1. Simple Misconduct

Simple Misconduct is an offence of a minor nature, for example:

- Discourteous, crude, or offensive behaviour at games, lessons, or organized Club events
- Blatant disregard for equipment, property, or safety of members or the public

- Conduct of an unsafe nature
- Refusal to comply with requests issued by event officials, event organizers, or Board members
- Threatening, abusive or bullying behaviour - as perceived by others observing the behaviour of the alleged offender
- Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct
- Any other actions of similar gravity to the above, at the Board's discretion

12.2. Serious Misconduct

Serious Misconduct is an offence that is more serious than Simple Misconduct, for example:

- Repeated or especially grave Simple Misconduct offences
- Deliberate or consistent breaches of Club rules
- Any attempt to achieve gains or advantage over others by unfair or unscrupulous means
- Theft or misappropriation
- Participating in the sport whilst intoxicated by use of drugs or alcohol
- Any other actions of similar gravity to the above, at the Board's discretion

12.3. Gross Misconduct

Gross Misconduct is an offence of such gravity that the Board, at its discretion, may immediately suspend the member from the Club pending a Board meeting and vote (as per STC Bylaw 2.11 Suspension and Expulsion of Members). Examples of gross misconduct include, but are not limited to the following:

- Physical violence or assault towards other persons while on STC premises, including threatening, intimidating or forceful behaviour
- An act of an extremely serious nature perpetuated against the Club, members, or another party
- Any other actions of similar gravity to the above, at the Board's discretion