**TENNIS COURT ETIQUETTE**

1. Show respect to all players, at all times.
2. Talk quietly if you are near tennis courts that are in use.
3. Please wait for a break in play before walking behind the courts.
4. When your turn comes, let the people before you finish the game they are playing before taking over the court
5. Leave the court promptly once your time has expired and others are waiting to play.
6. Whether you’re coming onto the courts, or leaving, it is common courtesy to close the gate behind you. This will keep the balls inside the confines of the court.
7. Before starting to play, ensure any equipment you are not using (spare rackets, clothing, drinks, etc.) are out of the way.
8. Keep your pre-match warm-up brief – the pros stick to five minutes, and so should you.
9. Before you serve, make sure your opponent is ready to receive.
10. If your opponent serves a first-serve fault, don’t hit a return back unless the call was so close that you had no option but to hit the ball.
11. Make line calls clearly and promptly. You call the ball on your side of the net. If you say the ball out, it is out and your opponent has to accept it with good grace. But you have to be sure. If you are in any doubt, the ball is in.
12. Never call a ball on your opponent's side of the net unless your opponent asks you for help in deciding on how to call it.
13. Keeping score is the server’s responsibility and the easiest way is to announce the score at the beginning of each point.
14. If a ball heads off to a neighbouring court, don’t rush after it. Wait till a suitable break in your own match and crucially, wait till whoever is playing on the neighbouring court has finished their point.
15. If a ball rolls into your court from an adjacent court, stop rallying if you have not begun to play. Return the ball immediately. If you are in the process of completing a point, and the ball disturbs either you or your opponent, stop playing immediately and call a "let". Replay the point. If you are able to play on, return the ball as soon as the point has been completed.
16. Keep your attention on the court – don’t chat to spectators, interrupt a game to answer your mobile phone or do anything else that might distract your opponent or delay play.
17. Do not criticise your partner or opponent, be positive and offer encouragement instead.
18. Shake hands firmly and congratulate your opponent at the end of the match
19. And finally - pick up after yourself. Don’t leave empty cans or old tennis balls on the court when you leave. Dispose of any rubbish you have in the bin provided near the court or take it with you. **Tennis Committee - Sept 2017**