

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

Rules and Etiquette 2023/24

Stansted Tennis Club has certain standards and values which apply throughout the Club at every level, both on and off court, and during social as well as more competitive events. Tennis should be enjoyed by everyone who wants to play the game, regardless of ability. This ethos is fully supported by the STC Committee.

In addition, members should be mindful and respectful of the fact that the Club is run by volunteers. If members are able to contribute some time, however short, to assist with the running of the Club then this will benefit us all. Even where members are unable to commit formally to volunteering, they should be aware of the work that goes on behind the scenes and lighten the load where possible, for example by leaving the premises clean and tidy.

Tennis etiquette is different from the rules of the game. It covers a broad range of actions and behaviours which are traditionally considered acceptable on and around the tennis court. The following list includes actions and behaviours that Stansted Tennis Club expects of its members:

1. All members are required to observe and adhere to the instructions given in the document "Practical Guide for Members", a copy of which will have been emailed to you on joining and the current version of which can be found on the Clubhouse noticeboard as well as on the STC website.
2. When playing, please wear suitable clothing and appropriate footwear, so as to minimise accidents and avoid injury.
3. All members attending Club Sessions should be inclusive and welcoming.
4. During Club Sessions, stronger players are expected to adjust their style of play accordingly when playing with or against weaker players.
5. All players are expected to observe the accepted standards of tennis etiquette at all times. Any rude or offensive language is not permitted, nor is ball or racket abuse. At STC we place great importance on showing respect to all other players which includes offering encouragement (rather than criticism), both to partners and opponents.
6. When playing at Club level (ie during Club Sessions or in Club competitions) in cases of line disputes the receiver(s) has/have the right to decide what happens next. If he/she/they are unable to make a clear decision on the ball position he/she/they can elect to play a LET. This means the whole point is replayed regardless of whether the dispute was over a first or second serve.
7. Smoking or vaping is not allowed at any time in the Clubhouse or within the fenced area of the courts.
8. Please use mobile phones considerately whilst on the premises. The use of mobile phones for making and receiving telephone calls is restricted to the Clubhouse and away from the courts.
9. Keep your voice down and confined to your court as much as possible so as not to distract players on the adjacent court or neighbours of the Club.
10. Please do not walk onto or behind an adjacent court whilst play is in progress on that court (eg when retrieving balls). Instead, wait until a break (eg the end of a game in a competitive match, or the end of a rally in a social game) before indicating to the players that you need to come onto their court area. This is to avoid distracting other members and, most importantly, to avoid any potential accidents.
11. All litter must be removed from the courts, grounds and Clubhouse at the end of play and deposited in the appropriate receptacle or taken home with you.