



The following is adapted from the British Tennis website on court etiquette.

General Etiquette

Please do not walk behind players whilst a game, rally or coaching is in progress. This is to avoid distracting other players and most importantly to avoid any potential accidents on court. If you are trying to cross a court please wait until you are invited to and it is safe to do so.

At WBTC courts 1,2 & 3 outdoor have separate gates to access each court. Please use the appropriate gate and do not cross the other courts when they are in use.

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 chatter can be disturbing to those playing nearby and, in between games, can hold up play for people waiting.

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.

Respect and Behaviour

Do not criticise your partner or opponent, be positive and offer encouragement instead. Overall, use your best judgement. We all want to be competitive but don't let your emotions get on top of you!

All club members and club officials must show tolerance, courtesy, good manners, fairness, honesty and integrity in their dealings with club members, officials, club members' guests, playing and social visitors.

Line calls

Disagreements between players on line calling and scoring are common within competitive tennis. Line calling involves a player making a subjective decision which ultimately could have a big effect on the outcome of the match.

Only call the lines on your side of the net. Call clearly and firmly 'OUT' what you see and what you honestly believe to be correct. If you are not absolutely certain or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball is IN and must be given in the opponents' favour. Even if a ball is 99% out, it is in. In doubles, if one player calls a ball in but their partner calls it out, then it is in. So it is usually wise to let the player with the best view of the line make the call.

If you are concerned about a call made by an opponent in respect of a ball on their side of the net, ask politely if they are **certain or sure** as to the accuracy of their call. If they say that they are certain, it is their call to make. Get on with the next point.

If playing on a clay court, there should be a mark to show where the ball landed, which should assist with accurate calling. It remains the responsibility of each player to line call balls on their side of the net, including checking any marks. Players do not have the right to go round to the other side of the court to discuss a line call mark, unless invited. If a rally continues after a close shot is initially called in, it is not permissible to go back at the end of the point to check the earlier ball mark and change the call as a result.

In **social** play if you feel your opponents regularly have difficulties making correct calls, start looking for different opponents! If in **social** friendly matches there is some doubt over a line call, offer to play the point again rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting.



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