



TENNIS COURT ETIQUETTE

The rules of tennis are set by the International Tennis Foundation and can be found here:

[Tennis Rules and Regulations | ITF \(itftennis.com\)](https://www.itftennis.com)

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. Here are some actions and behaviours RLTSC would like you to adhere to:

- When playing please wear recognised sports clothing and most importantly proper Tennis Shoes. This is for two reasons. Firstly, other shoes mark and damage the courts and secondly, non tennis shoes do not grip the courts as well and can cause accidents and avoidable injury if you were to fall or slip.
- Use the entry gate nearest to the court you are booked on, to avoid walking behind a court which is in use by other members. Out of courtesy, please wait outside the courts whilst rallies are in play.
- Please do not walk behind players whilst a game or a rally is in progress, this is to avoid distracting other members 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.
- When you are crossing courts, it is normal to do so at the rear of the court and not at the net.
- When you decide to cross behind other courts do so as quickly as possible and don't stop for a chat on the way.
- 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.
- 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 social chatter or debate can be disturbing to those on adjacent courts who came to play tennis.
- Line calls can be a problem and the majority of experienced players use what is called the 'honour system'.
 - Only call the lines on your side of the net.
 - If any part of a ball touches a line, the ball is IN; a ball 99% out is still 100% good i.e. it is IN. A player should not call a ball out unless the player clearly sees space between where the ball hits and a line.
 - You cannot call an opponent's foot fault
 - Call clearly and firmly 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 was IN and must be given in the opponent's favour.
 - If occasionally you have serious doubts as to your opponent's eyesight, ask politely if they are certain as to the accuracy of their call. If they say that they are, get on with the next point.
 - If you feel your opponents regularly have difficulties making correct calls, start looking for different opponents!
- When a ball from another court enters the playing area, any player on the court affected should call a let as soon as the player becomes aware of the ball.
- Do not criticise your partner or opponent, be positive and offer encouragement instead.
- Body Language - Tennis can be a frustrating game if you are not getting your serves in or not hitting your shots but try to remain upbeat and happy. Your opponent and/or doubles partner does not want to be playing tennis with someone who is miserable so cheer up! You are more likely to play better tennis if you are calm, relaxed, focussed, and in a positive frame of mind.
- Do not leave your litter on court, particularly ball tin lids – please put in the bins provided on the pathway or patio.
- Do not bring chairs onto the court, since they may damage the court surface.