

HIGHWORTH TENNIS CLUB RULES AND POLICIES

Last revision: January 2019

General Behaviour

Playing for and representing the club in matches, at tournaments, or in any competitive play can place a certain amount of stress on players anxious about their impending performance or the match result. However, this should not be an excuse for bad manners or an unfriendly attitude towards their opponents.

Members and their guests are expected to:

- Dress appropriately both on and off court respecting any dress rules laid down in the league rules, their own club, or by the club they are visiting.
- Always be punctual for matches.
- Remain polite, cheerful and tolerant towards their opponents.
- Contribute productively to the club's image.

Members and their guests must:

- Behave in a reasonable and sensible manner, on and off court.
- Act in a sporting manner and show respect for their opponents.
- Take pride in their appearance.
- Show respect and care for the equipment and facilities.
- Never use profanity or derogatory language based on gender, race or impairment.
- Know the rules of the game and apply them fairly.

Members and their guests must not:

- Behave aggressively towards anyone.
- Over-react in self-congratulation.
- Raise issues of disagreement publicly.
- Applaud mistakes by opponents.

Parents/Supporters Code of Conduct

Junior Programme Parents/supporters should be aware of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) [Fair Play Principles](#) and should:

- Encourage children to participate if they are interested. If they are not, don't force them.
- Focus on playing the game, reducing the emphasis on winning.
- Teach children that an honest effort is as important as success or victory, so that the result of each coaching session or game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage children to always play by the rules.
- Not criticise children in front of others, reserving feedback for more private moments.
- Remember children are involved in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.

- Remember a child learns best by example. Applaud good play by all players.
- Accept decisions of all officials or players as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
- Do not criticise coaches, players or other parents/supporters by word or gesture.
- Set a good example by your own conduct, behaviour and appearance.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.

Court Etiquette

Players should:

- Make efforts to conclude play five (5) minutes before their session ends if others are waiting.
- Court time booked through the Highworth Tennis Club booking system is considered a priority and players in conflict with the court booking must relinquish the court in a timely manner.
- Leave the courts free of litter, collect all tennis balls for other players to use.
- Please do not walk behind players whilst a game, a rally or coaching is in progress, to avoid distracting other members and avoid 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.
- 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.

Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct (Separate document)

- Highworth Tennis Club is committed to prioritising the well-being of all children and adults at risk, promoting safeguarding in our club at all times, including all programmes and events we run. For additional information and codes of conduct, please refer to the **Highworth Tennis Club Safeguarding Policy** posted in the clubhouse, emailed to all members and available upon request. Please contact chair@htc.org.uk for more information.

Pet Policy

- Members may bring dogs to the club but must keep them on a lead, or under proper control. Members are responsible for cleaning up after their dog. If a dog is not under proper control, the member responsible may be asked to remove the dog from the club. The committee reserve the right to have the member responsible remove the dog from the club.

Violation of Rules and Policies

As per Section 9 of the Highworth Tennis Club Constitution (SUSPENSION, EXPULSION AND RESIGNATION):

- The committee shall have the power to terminate or suspend membership of any member or to exclude any member or visitor whom it considers guilty of a breach of these rules or of misconduct or offensive behaviour that may bring the club into disrepute.

Adherence to the Practices of the LTA

Highworth Tennis Club is a LTA Registered facility and adheres to the policies and practices of the LTA. Any rule or policy not covered in this document defers to the [policies and practices of the LTA](#).