



Celbridge Tennis Club

Tips for good Tennis Etiquette

Tennis is a game that requires politeness and consideration for other players on court. Everyone will enjoy the game so much more if those standards are maintained.

Good tennis etiquette is about the little things that help a match go smoothly, don't spook your opponent and show consideration to players on other courts. Most of what follows is common sense. Speak quietly when standing near tennis courts that are in use. Never walk across the back of, or collect your ball from, another court when a point is still in play on that court. Wait until the point is over and then cross as fast as possible.

Parents and seniors should show example to juniors. Members are responsible for ensuring that their guests comply with the rules. Make safety a priority. Read the rules on safety and adhere strictly to them, especially where children are involved. Do not damage or deface club property. The club belongs to all members and we should all take responsibility for its upkeep and appearance.

Show respect and consideration for all other members. Juniors should respect the rights of seniors and seniors should equally respect the rights of juniors - (They will be running the club in a few years from now.)

When playing tennis, you always need to show respect for your opponent and those playing on the courts around you. The following tips will help you

1. Don't walk across a court when a match is in progress. Instead wait until the point has been played, then walk behind the baseline to your court.
2. 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 gate and they won't roll outside.
3. Proper tennis attire/runners must be worn on court.
4. Don't barge your way onto court until your booking time. Flexing your biceps courtside won't enhance your predecessors' concentration and might earn you a mouthful of tennis ball. When your turn comes, let the people before you finish the game they are playing before taking over the court.
5. To decide who will serve first, toss a coin or spin a racquet. The person who wins the toss may choose to serve, receive, pick which end of the court they would like or even make their opponent choose.
6. If there are lots of people waiting, keep your warm up to a minimum (warm up off court).
7. Don't have a tantrum if things aren't going your way. Shouting, swearing and throwing your racket when you miss a shot is bad manners and only lets your opponent know you are annoyed giving them an advantage.
8. Be respectful of your opponent. While it's fine to celebrate your successes it's not polite to pump your fists, hiss "yes" or high-five spectators when your opponent makes an error.



Celbridge Tennis Club

9. If a ball rolls on to your court during a rally, stop playing and return the ball to the other court.
10. If you are serving, call the score out loudly and clearly. It will help to minimise disagreements.
11. Wait until your opponent is ready and in position before you serve.
12. When your opponent is serving and the point is over, if there are any balls on your side of the court, pick them up and return them to your opponent. Make sure the server always has two balls at their end of the court. When you are feeding balls up the court, hit or roll them gently within reach of the server, don't delay play by spraying them around.
13. You are supposed to call balls "in" or "out" when they land on your side of the net. If you are not sure, give your opponent the benefit of the doubt. Never call a ball on your opponent's side of the net unless your opponent asks for your help in deciding. While it's rude to question your opponent's line calls, if you really think you are being diddled ask once, firmly: "are you sure?" then move on.
14. Never argue with an opponent. If players can't agree on the score they should go back to a score on which there was agreement and resume the match from there.
15. If you or your racket touches the net before the point is over then you lose the point.
16. Apologise if you win a lucky point or if you accidentally hit your opponent with a ball.
17. Keep your attention on the court – don't chat to spectators, interrupt a game to answer your mobile phone, file your nails at the change of ends or do anything else that might distract your opponent or delay play.
18. When the match is finished, shake hands with both your partner and opponents. Shake hands firmly and congratulate your opponent at the end of the match
19. Don't leave empty tennis ball cans, glasses, plastic beakers or old tennis balls out on the court when you leave. Dispose of any rubbish you have in bins provided on or near the court – if there aren't any, take it with you. If you have old tennis balls that you don't want anymore, don't leave them on the court – there is a bucket inside the front door of the club – put them there so that another player can use them.
20. Everyone who plays tennis wants to encourage children to play the game as well, but children must also follow these rules. Since children tend to get distracted, it's up to the adults with them to assist. Stray balls, running around and yelling are actions that need to be managed.
21. A great deal of money goes into maintaining tennis courts. If you see activities that can damage the surface, please report to a committee member. Remember it is your club!
22. When driving into or from car park at night, please avoid shining car lights onto courts where play is in progress and cause as little disruption as possible.



Celbridge Tennis Club

23. The entire objective of playing tennis, aside from being good aerobic exercise, is to have fun. You can follow these rules of etiquette and still have a good time on the courts - the players on adjacent courts will appreciate it.
24. Enjoy being part of the club having fun playing tennis!!!

The Committee

Date: _____