

# SPECTATOR AND TEAM ETIQUETTE

Besides the rules of tennis, there are also some important unwritten laws, which come under the title of tennis etiquette. Tennis is a social game, a game involving simple politeness and consideration. Everyone will enjoy the game so much more if those standards are maintained. Here are some of the rules, which are most important:

- Talk quietly when standing near tennis courts that are in use.
- Never walk behind a court when a point is still in play. Wait until the point is over and then cross as fast as possible.
- Always come prepared. Bring not only balls, but also towels and water to drink when it is hot.
- Wear sneakers for tennis. Other shoes may wear out quickly, hurt your feet, or damage the court.
- Wear clothing with pockets so they can manage two balls when serving (one in a pocket) and never to leave a ball at their feet. Remind them not to chase balls between first and second serves.
- When you're ready to play, put racket covers, ball cans, jackets etc., out of everyone's way.
- To see whom serves first, spin your racket. If you win the spin, the choice is yours. You may serve first, or you may choose to receive first or to pick which end of the court you want to start playing on. As a third choice you may make your opponent choose first.
- When sending balls back to a neighboring court, roll them to the back of the court. Never send them back while play is in progress.
- Retrieve balls for your partner and your opponent.
- Don't criticize your partner, but offer encouragement.
- Call your own lines and let your opponent hear the call. If the ball is good say nothing and play on.
- Always call the score out before serving, and make sure opponent can hear.
- Always respect the line calls of your opponent. However, if you are involved in a match where many calls are questionable, report the problem to both captains.
- If there is a disagreement, offer a let. In other words, replay the point, even if it was a second service.
- There should be NO cell phones on the court.

## **The following are unacceptable court behaviors:**

- Throwing a tennis racquet. It is "racquet abuse," and is not acceptable.
- Throwing or hitting a tennis ball in anger.
- Negative verbal exchanges between players. Exchanges should be polite, not negative.
- Laughing at or teasing another player when a mistake is made.

- Profanity will not be tolerated in any form. Profanity should be dealt with immediately. First offense: the captain or coach will speak with the player. Second offense: the Coordinator will speak with the player. Third offense: The player will sit out two matches. Fourth: Can no longer play in the league.

Consequences of inappropriate Court Behavior:

Any player who has been reported at least 3 times to the league coordinator will be dealt with in the following manner:

First offense - The captain or coach will speak with the player.

Second offense - The Coordinator will speak with the player.

Third offense - The player will be accompanied by a court monitor, assigned by the coordinator, for the next match. Captains' will be notified and it is the captain's responsibility to contact the coordinator to let them know about the next date of play.