

THE LTA CODE OF CONDUCT (last updated April 2010)

(All references to the masculine include also the feminine gender)

A Player shall, during all matches and at all times within the tournament site and official tournament hotel, conduct himself in an acceptable manner, following the provisions set out below.

In addition, a coach, relative or representative of a Player shall be under a similar obligation and sanctions can be applied to the Player for any failure on the part of his coach, relative or representative to fulfill such obligation.

The Referee has the authority to order a Player, coach, relative or representative of a Player to move from the side of the court, or from the tournament site.

1. A Player withdrawing from a tournament after the specified withdrawal deadline, or failing to appear without notifying the Referee, or withdrawing during a tournament except for personal emergency, is liable to disciplinary action by the LTA in accordance with the penalty points system as set out in Appendix E.

2. Every Player must sign the tournament attendance sheet immediately on arrival each day and until he has done so will be assumed to be absent.

3. Every Player shall present himself for play when his match is called. A Player not ready to play within 15 minutes of his match being called is liable to be defaulted. The official clock shall be that designated by the Referee in accordance with Regulation 3.3.7.

4. It is the responsibility of all Players to ascertain from the Referee when they are next scheduled for play.

5. A Player shall present himself for play in acceptable tennis attire, in accordance with these Regulations including the provisions of Appendix C – Identification on Clothing and Equipment and as decided by the Committee.

6. Players shall play within the times allowed. A maximum of five minutes is allowed for the warm-up, 20 seconds between points, 90 seconds for a changeover and 2 minutes for a set break. Violations of this section shall be penalised with a time violation (in the first instance by a warning and in each subsequent instance by a one point penalty.) However, a Player who refuses to play, is late because of a medical condition or treatment, or is late having left the court with the permission of the Chair Umpire or Referee shall be penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule as set out at paragraph 15 of this Appendix.

7. A Player shall not leave the court during a match (including the warm-up) without the permission of the Chair Umpire. When there is no Chair Umpire, the Player is allowed to leave the court only to seek the services of the Referee.

8. A Player shall use his best efforts to win a match and must complete a match in progress unless he is reasonably unable to do so.

9. A Player shall not use an audible obscenity, or make an obscene gesture of any kind.

10. A Player shall not violently, dangerously or in anger, hit, kick or throw a tennis ball, racket or other equipment.

11. A Player shall not at any time verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person.

12. A Player shall not receive coaching during a match. Communication of any kind, audible or visible, between a Player and a person off-court (e.g. coach, relative or Player representative) may be construed as coaching. This regulation shall not apply in certain team competitions as provided for in their regulations.

13. A Player shall not at any time physically abuse any other Player, official, spectator or other person.

14. A Player shall at all times conduct himself in a sportsmanlike manner with due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others.

15. Violations of paragraphs 7-14 of this Code of Conduct (known as a "Code Violation") in any one match shall be punishable in accordance with the point penalty schedule ("Point Penalty Schedule") as set out below:

- First Offence = Warning
- Second Offence = Point Penalty
- Third Offence = Game Penalty
- Fourth and subsequent Offences = Game Penalty or Default.

After a third Code Violation, the Referee shall determine whether each subsequent offence shall constitute a default. The Referee may declare a default for either a single Code Violation ("Immediate Default") or as outlined above. In all cases of default, the decision of the Referee is final and cannot be appealed. A Player may be defaulted immediately for a single Code Violation where such Code Violation is flagrant and/or is particularly injurious to the tournament and/or the Game of Tennis. If a Player is defaulted during a match for conduct reasons, he shall be defaulted from all other events at that tournament. If a Player commits any offence after the conclusion of his match, it shall be recorded as a post-match Code Violation and be taken into consideration for the purposes of paragraph 17 of the Code of Conduct below.

16. In matches where there is no Chair Umpire, the penalties in paragraphs 6 and 15 may be applied by the Referee, Assistant Referee as appointed under Regulation 3.3.2 or Court Supervisors except for default which can only be declared by the Referee.

17. A Player who breaches this Code of Conduct, these Regulations and/or the LTA Rules including but not limited to the provisions of the LTA Anti-Doping Programme at Appendix 4 and the Regulations concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting at Appendix 6 (www.LTA.org.uk/AboutUs/LTARules) may have further disciplinary action taken against him by the LTA in accordance with the provisions of the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out in Appendix 3 to the LTA Rules.