Aughton Lawn Tennis Club
a tennis club for everyone

Code of Good Conduct (Etiquette)

1.0 Introduction

This Code of Good Conduct (Etiquette) was agreed by committee on 26th January 2021.

It sets out what members may expect from one another and provides guidance to new members.

2.0 Respect and Behaviour

We trust all our members to behave well and to look after everything that belongs to our Club.

We expect members to treat other members and all visitors with dignity, courtesy and respect, and refrain from behaviour, comments or physical contact causing harm or offence.

The Club has a policy on equality and diversity, which is available on its website, and all members are expected to adhere to it and to avoid all forms of unfair or unpleasant discrimination.

3.0 Dress

The Club's rules require that tennis attire (as distinct from running or football kit), together with tennis shoes, should be worn while playing tennis. A covering tracksuit in cold or wet weather is also acceptable.

Tennis shoes must be worn on court, as other sports footwear can damage the court surface or leave marks.

4.0 Court Etiquette

4.1 Distractions

Whilst a game, a rally or coaching is in progress (including between 1st and 2nd serve), do not:

- walk behind or beside a court, or
- seek to retrieve balls from an adjacent court, or
- open or close a gate behind the court, or
- seek to cross a court (e.g. in order to access or leave another court), or
- walk along a pathway behind the court.

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.

When entering and leaving courts, please ensure you are not interfering with anyone else's game.

Please ensure that gates to the courts are kept shut.

4.2 Undue Noise

Keep your voice down and confined to your court as much as possible, so as not to disrupt players on adjacent courts.

When arriving at or leaving the club, especially at night, respect our neighbours and avoid making any excessive noise.

4.3. Line Calling

Only call the lines on your side of the net.

Call clearly and firmly what you see and what you honestly believe to be correct.

Do not call before the ball has bounced. Also, do not seek to catch the ball before it has bounced, unless you are sure that your opponents have no objection.

If you are not absolutely certain, or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball was IN and should be given in the opponent's favour.

If occasionally you have serious doubts as to your opponent's eye-sight, 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 (and consider finding a new opponent next time!).

If (notwithstanding all of the above) there is still some disagreement or bad feeling over a line call, offer to play the point again, rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting."

4.4 Racquet or ball abuse

Serious racquet or ball abuse is unacceptable (don't give in to the red mist when it descends!)

4.5 Audible obscenities

Audible obscenities and foul language are unacceptable (no matter how colourful or creative!).

4.6 Abusive behaviour

Abusive behaviour is not acceptable on or off court.

Examples of abusive behaviour would include being abusive, aggressive or intimidating, questioning another person's integrity over line calls or through other actions, or causing danger to other players through your play.

4.7 Playing doubles

Always support your partner. He/she is 50% of your team!

Never blame your partner if you lose. You win or lose together as a team.

5.0 Lowering nets, Locking Clubhouse and Closing the Main Gate

Remember to lower the tennis net (unless other members are playing immediately afterwards) and take away any litter (including ball cans and lids) when you leave a court.

If you use the Clubhouse, please ensure that you leave it tidy. If you opened the clubhouse, you are responsible for ensuring that it is locked when you leave, or if you are last to leave the Club following an organised session.

Remember to close the main gate and check that it is locked, if you are last to leave the Club.

6.0 Match Play When Representing ALTC

All members must endeavour to protect and further the Club's good reputation at all times.

When representing the Club, all players must observe the principles in this Code of Good Conduct.

Members must at all times respect and support the decisions of the relevant Team Captain.

7.0 Social Media

Harmful bullying or offensive behaviour on social media, particularly on any of the various WhatsApp groups through which members arrange tennis (including Club sessions), is unacceptable.

Examples can include posting rumours, threats, sexual or lewd remarks, sharing a victim's personal information, libellous remarks, highlighting playing ability or belittling others, foul or rude language or using judgemental labels (i.e. hate speech).

8.0 Visitors and Children

All members must ensure that their visitors, and any children or juniors for whom they are responsible, observe the principles in this Code of Good Conduct.

9.0 New Members

New members will receive a copy of this Code of Good Conduct, together with their welcome letter.

10.0 Complaints

No one is perfect and we all have lapses occasionally. As a friendly club, we expect for most cases of poor etiquette or behaviour to be resolved through an amicable word or reminder.

However, the Club's complaints procedure is available to members for serious or persistent cases. A copy of this can be found in the policy file situated in the Clubhouse.

Date Agreed: **26th January 2021**
Date for Review: **January 2024**