

Tennis Tips: Tennis Etiquette

While tennis etiquette won't necessarily improve your serve, your forehand or your movement around the court, it will ensure that both you and your opponent have an enjoyable game of tennis.

There are several things that we should all remember when taking the court, whether it be for a friendly match against friends or a competitive match within a Tournament or Competition.



Before the game...

- To decide who will serve first, toss a coin or spin a racquet. The person who wins the toss can either choose to serve or receive, pick which end of the court they would like or even make their opponent choose.
- Warm ups should be kept to 5 minutes.

When serving and receiving...

- The server should call the score before each serve, loudly enough for your opponent to hear.
- Ensure that you have two balls when serving. Players should collect the balls on their side of the net and return them to the server at the end of each point.
- Players should take no longer than 20 seconds between points.
- The receiver should not return the first service if it is an obvious fault – let it go by or ground it.
- A service 'let' may be called by either player/team.

When calling the ball 'Out'...

- Each player is responsible for all calls on their side of the net.
- All "out" or "fault" calls should be made promptly after the ball has bounced and loudly enough for the opponent to hear.
- Players should always vocally call the ball out. Pointing your finger is not a valid call.
- If a match is played on a clay court, players can check the mark on their opponent's side of the court, only when invited to do so.

Do the right thing...

- 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.
- Do not sulk, complain or scream loudly when losing a point. Instead move on and focus on doing your best to win the next point.
- Apologise to your opponent if you win a lucky point or accidentally hit them.
- Focus on your match. You should not chat to spectators or chat to the person on the next court when changing ends.
- When changing ends, you are allowed no longer than 90 seconds.

At the end of a match...

- Shake hands and congratulate your opponent. Ensure you are courteous regardless of the result.

See you on the courts!

Tennis Victoria Tennis Tips Team.