

LTA CODE OF CONDUCT

1. In respect of all LTA Official Competitions, each Player must, during all matches and at all times while within the competition site and any official competition residence, conduct him/herself in a professional and appropriate manner. Without prejudice to the generality of the previous sentence, each Player:
 - a. may leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) only with the permission of the Chair Umpire. Where no Chair Umpire is appointed, a Player may leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) only with the permission of the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor (except where the Referee is not on the court and the Player is calling for the Referee pursuant to paragraph 5.54 of the Regulations);
 - b. must not refuse to play or fail to be ready to play within 15 minutes of his/her match being called or within the allowed time due to a medical condition or treatment or having left the court with appropriate permission;
 - c. must use his/her best efforts to win each match in which he/she participates;
 - d. must complete each match in which he/she participates unless he/she is not reasonably able to do so;
 - e. must not use an audible obscenity and/or make an obscene gesture of any kind;
 - f. must not at any time verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person;
 - g. must not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person;
 - h. must not violently, dangerously or in anger, hit, kick or throw a tennis ball, racket or other equipment;
 - i. must not receive coaching during a match (including during the warm-up) except where play is suspended and the Players are off court. 'Coaching' is to be interpreted widely, and communication of any kind, audible or visible, between a Player and a person off court (for example, a coach, relative or representative) may be treated as coaching; and
 - j. must at all times conduct him/herself in a sportsmanlike manner with due regard to the authority of officials and to the rights of opponents, spectators and other persons.
2. Subject to paragraph 3, below, and the discretion of the Chair Umpire, Court Supervisor, Referee or assistant Referee, as the case may be (see paragraph 6, below):
 - a) any violation of paragraph 1, above (a **Code Violation**), that takes place during or in relation to a match will result in the immediate imposition of the following sanctions (in addition, Code Violation Points will be imposed as set out in Appendix Seven of the Competition Regulations):
 - **first Code Violation:** warning (i.e. the Player will receive a verbal warning)
 - **second Code Violation:** point penalty (i.e. the Player will lose a point)
 - **third Code Violation:** game penalty (i.e. the Player will lose a game)
 - **fourth and subsequent Code Violations:** game penalty or default (i.e. the Player will lose a game or the match)

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Explanatory note: A game penalty awarded during a game, for example, when the score is at 30-40, means the loss of that game. A game penalty awarded at the end of a game means the loss of the next game.

- b) Any Code Violation that is not sanctioned pursuant to paragraph 2(a), above, including, without limitation, a Code Violation committed after the conclusion of a match (an off-court Code Violation), will incur Code Violation Points as set out in Appendix Seven.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, above, if a single Code Violation (including an off-court Code Violation) is sufficiently serious, the Player may receive an immediate default. An immediate default must be reported to the LTA Disciplinary Officer within 48 hours of the date on which it is imposed.

Explanatory note: Examples of conduct that might be sufficiently serious include, without limitation, racial abuse, verbal abuse; physical abuse; lewd or obscene gestures or behaviour; intimidating or inappropriate behaviour towards a child; ball or racket abuse where the ball or racket hits, injures or is aimed at another person; and spitting at or near another person. For the avoidance of doubt, these examples are for illustration purposes only and are entirely without limitation.

4. If a Player is defaulted pursuant to paragraphs 2 or 3, above, the Player will be defaulted from all events at that competition (i.e. he/she will not be permitted to play in any other matches in that competition).
5. The powers set out in paragraphs 2 to 4, above, will be exercised by the Chair Umpire, Court Supervisor, assistant Referee and/or Referee (save for default, which may only be imposed by the Referee or, in exceptional circumstances, his/her designee). Subject to Appendix Seven, any such decisions will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge such decisions.
6. All other persons participating in any way in an LTA Official Competition (including officials, staff, coaches, representatives, agents, medical staff, relatives and associates of a Player, a Player's entourage and spectators) must, during all matches and at all times while within the competition site and any official competition residence, conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner. Any failure or refusal to do so may be treated as a disciplinary matter and dealt with under the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures. In addition, a Player is responsible and accountable for the conduct of his/her coaches, representatives, agents, medical staff, relatives, associates, entourage and/or spectators; any failure or refusal by such a person to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner may also result in sanctions being applied to the Player pursuant to paragraph 2 to 5, above (as if the Player had committed a Code Violation), and/or under the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.
7. All persons participating in any way in an LTA Official Competition (including Players, officials, staff, coaches, representatives, agents, medical staff, relatives and associates of a Player, a Player's entourage and spectators) must refrain from making comments, including to representatives of the media or through social media, that attack, disparage or criticise Players, organisers, officials or staff of LTA Official Competitions and/or the LTA. Any failure or refusal to do so may be treated as a disciplinary matter and dealt with under the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.