

# Highbury Tennis Club – Code of Conduct

## January 2024



All players are expected to familiarise themselves with the LTA's Code of Conduct and to observe this at all times.

### **Some key extracts from the LTA Code applied to every day tennis:**

#### **Line Calls**

- You can only call the lines on your side of the net. If you see the ball go out, your opponent must accept your call.
- If you are unsure, the ball is treated as **IN**.
- You may challenge your opponent's call by asking if they're certain. If they are not certain, the point is yours. If they stand their ground, you must accept it. Move on.
- In social and friendly matches, if there is doubt over a line call, it's better to play the point again rather than causing aggravation and wasting time. Usually you would not be this flexible in a Middlesex League match but, sometimes, it pays to preserve a civil atmosphere on the court and you might decide to be generous in this way. As a general rule, people will sometimes make wrong calls but it is not done out of malice. Subliminal "wishful thinking" can be powerful and there are also spec-savers moments. Don't waste energy getting het up. Press on and do your best to win. You'll never win by arguing. You will win by playing.

#### **Interrupted play**

- If play is interrupted in any way e.g. a ball from an adjacent court rolls onto your court mid-point, play is stopped and the point is started afresh. Even if you are playing a point on a "second serve", the server starts again with a first serve.

#### **Keeping Score**

- This is the server's partner's responsibility in doubles. Announce the score before each serve.
- If there is a score dispute, track back the points. If you can't reach agreement, you should go back to the last point both sides agree on.

#### **Need to let off Steam**

- However tense you feel, do your best to keep shouting to a minimum and you should not swear.
- Remember to treat others the way you would wish to be treated. This applies equally to your partner as to your opponents. I.e. Never criticise others, be positive and offer encouragement instead. Tennis is competitive but it is only a game and we do it for fun.

#### **General**

- Please check and learn all the weird things like how to play a tie-break and whose service game this counts as.

## **Additional Requirements for Highbury Tennis Club Members**

If you are invited to a session, whether it's team training or social tennis, reply promptly to say if you can come. If you are confirmed, you must attend and on time even if you think on the day itself that it's going to be too wet or slippery to play. As a participant, it is not your decision. Only the coach or organiser can take that decision and it is surprising how often a bleak forecast and early rain clears and full play is possible. Very few players understand the full raft of behind-the-scenes work that goes into organising play and we should treat the amazing club members and coaches who facilitate sessions with huge respect.

If you cannot attend at the last minute e.g. serious illness in the family etc., you are still responsible for paying for the session.

If you become aware a day or so in advance that there's a chance you won't be able to attend, tell the organiser. With more warning, they stand a better chance of finding a substitute. Even if you are prepared/obliged to pay for your missed session, this is scant compensation for players who have to play as a Three because you didn't give enough notice – this is particularly irksome if they have made the effort of, for example, getting up for an early Sunday morning booking.

If you have confirmed that you are available for a Middlesex League match, you absolutely must make sure that you remain available. Subsequent social invites should take second place. If anything completely unavoidable emerges (that invitation to Buckingham Palace), it is your responsibility to tell your captain immediately. However, as a rule, players should never drop out once they've said they are available in the run up to a match (as opposed to the more general availability reply earlier in the season) unless it is a truly exceptional interruption. Obviously, illness and injury are exceptions to this rule - and sympathised with.

**The LTA requires that club members show tolerance, courtesy, good manners, fairness, honesty and integrity in their dealings with other club members, park officials, tennis coaches and playing visitors.**

Please bear this in mind. We are so very lucky to be able to enjoy the facilities at Highbury Fields to pursue our sport - with its majestic trees, rare open space and so many lovely club members on hand. And the facilities are funded by Islington Council not by us as a club.

We are lucky indeed, in spite of the few irritations we face working with a municipal authority, so let's behave with good grace and generosity in all our dealings.

Players who break our Code of Conduct above, will be warned and ultimately sanctioned. It seems hard to imagine that anyone would not wish to be fully committed as described above so, I hope as Chairman, that we will never need to trigger any sanctions.

[https://www.highburytennisclub.com/uploads/1/2/9/2/12920550/highbury\\_tennis\\_club\\_constitution\\_september\\_2018.pdf](https://www.highburytennisclub.com/uploads/1/2/9/2/12920550/highbury_tennis_club_constitution_september_2018.pdf)

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