



ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT

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When clubs/players play in Waverley Tennis competitions and/or events, they **agree to abide by the Waverley Tennis By-Laws.**

Players also must comply with the Waverley Tennis Code of Conduct, which has been developed to align with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour – Weekly Competitions^[1].

Agreement to comply with the Waverley Tennis By-Laws and Code of Conduct applies to **both players and their supporters in attendance** at matches.

Any complaints arising from non-compliance with the Waverley Tennis Code of Conduct will be overseen by the Waverley Tennis Complaints Committee.

Definitions

"Complaints Committee" (CC) refers to the committee appointed by Waverley Tennis to administer complaints and disciplinary matters.

"Weekly competitions" refers to organised Waverley Tennis competitions which occur over a series of weeks on a regular basis.

"Events" refers to representative events and other events and tournaments either organised by Waverley Tennis or where Waverley Tennis is a participant.

Code of Behaviour Violations

The following violations amount to breaches of the Code of Conduct:

1. Commencement of play

A player is not ready to commence play at the appropriate time as stated in the competition by-laws.

2. Unreasonable delays

A player shall commence the match after the expiration of the established warm-up period. Thereafter, play shall be continuous as provided in the Waverley Tennis By-Laws for that competition, and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause.

[1] <https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/TA-Code-of-Behaviour-Competitive-Play-effective-1-Jan-2025.pdf> accessed July 31 2026





3. Verbal abuse

Players shall not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse any Venue Supervisor, opponent, spectator, or other person within the precinct of the match venue.

For the purpose of this rule, verbal abuse is defined as a statement about a Venue Supervisor, opponent, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting, racially or otherwise abusive.

4. Audible obscenity

Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the competition venue. For the purposes of this rule, audible obscenity is defined as the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the court Venue Supervisors or spectators.

5. Unsportsmanlike conduct

Players shall always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of the Venue Supervisor and the rights of opponents, spectators and others. For the purposes of this rule, unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any misconduct by a player, prior to, during or subsequent to a match that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport.

Any conduct that is disrespectful or offensive to a player's opponent/s, or to Venue Supervisors, competition managers, spectators or players on other courts is deemed to be Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

This may include failure to return the ball appropriately to the server, inappropriate or unsportsmanlike comments or gestures (on court or on-site at the venue), sledging, intimidating, threatening or abusive acts or omissions (whether verbal, in writing or otherwise), overt celebrations consistently directed at opponents, excessive noise disrupting the match venue, or any other unsportsmanlike acts or omissions that are inconsistent with commonly understood tennis etiquette.

6. Consistently Incorrect Line Calling

When a player is consistently making incorrect calls, this is deemed to be Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

7. Visible obscenity

A player makes offensive or obscene gestures during any match or within the venue. For the purposes of this rule, visible obscenity is defined as the making of signs by a player with their hands, body and/or racquet/balls that commonly have an obscene meaning.

8. Abuse of racquets or equipment

A player violently or with anger, hits, kicks or throws a racquet or other equipment, or in any way unreasonably interferes with any court fixtures and equipment within the venue.

For the purposes of this rule abuse of racquets or equipment is defined as intentionally and violently throwing, destroying or damaging racquets or equipment or intentionally and violently hitting the net, court, or other fixture during or after a match out of anger or frustration.





9. Abuse of balls

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the venue except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including warm-up).

For the purposes of this rule, abuse of balls is defined as intentionally hitting a ball out of the enclosure of the court, hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences.

10. Physical abuse

A player shall not physically abuse any Venue Supervisor, opponent, spectator, or other person within the venue. For the purposes of this rule physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of a Venue Supervisor, opponent, spectator or another person.

In certain circumstances the matter may also be referred to the Police for further investigation and subsequent possible action.

11. Coaching

Communication of any kind, audible or visible between a player and any other person may be construed as coaching and is not permitted while a match is in progress, a court is being serviced at the end of or during a set and players are still on court, or during a toilet break, or a bottle refill.

Coaching shall be permitted where there is an off-court break between sets or during interruptions to play caused by bad weather or light where players leave the court.

12. Failure to complete a match

A player must complete a match in progress unless he/she is reasonably unable to do so. A violation of this may subject a player to immediate default.

13. Spectator Interference

A player is deemed to be responsible for the behaviour and conduct of their entourage and support team who attend their matches (i.e. parent, family member, coach, trainer or friend).

Where a match is disrupted or interfered with by the action/s of a spectator who is part of a player's entourage (i.e. parent, family member, coach, trainer or friend) the Venue Supervisor may at first instance attempt to address and eliminate any spectator interference by discussing the relevant offences or behaviour with the offending person and/or applicable player. This discussion may include a warning to the player and the interfering spectator that any further interference by the spectator may result in the match being suspended until the Venue Supervisor determines that the issue is resolved and that play can continue without further disruption or interference;

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13. Spectator Interference

Notwithstanding the above, where matches are disrupted or interfered with by the actions of a spectator who is part of a player's entourage (i.e. parent, family member, coach, trainer or friend) the Venue Supervisor may also decide in their discretion, and without having first issued a warning, to make a complaint against the relevant player(s) whose entourage that spectator forms part of.

Disruption/Interference is defined as including the following:

- Intimidation, threatening or abuse of opponents;
- Making, or causing to be made, disrespectful or inappropriate comments or gestures towards Venue Supervisors, players, competition managers, coaches, other parents and other persons on-site at or involved with the venue;
- Providing inappropriate instructions, comments or direction to a player including both the spectator's own player or the opponent, of any type (this may also be considered as "Coaching"); and
- Any other inappropriate or Unsportsmanlike Conduct of any type as determined by the applicable Venue Supervisor.

The Venue Supervisor may also choose to suspend the match until the relevant disruption or interference, or the situation giving rise to that disruption or interference has improved or dissipated sufficiently to allow for the match to continue without disruption or interference.

