



## PLTC Playing Guidelines – June 2018

*Members should take note of the following guidelines to playing with respect and consideration to others. Some points may seem obvious, but they are issues that occur regularly - ignoring them can irritate others and reduce the pleasure of playing the game.*

**Show respect and courtesy to your opponent(s) and partner.** Do not criticise your partner or opponent - be positive and offer encouragement. There will inevitably be disagreements at times - these should be handled with grace and politeness. Abusive or threatening behaviour is totally unacceptable and is proscribed both by the PLTC Committee and by the LTA under their 'Play, Respect & Enjoy' policies. Penalties for repeated infringements can be severe, both for the individual and the club.

**Keep noise on court to a reasonable level.** Do not disturb players on adjacent courts; avoid extended conversations with people on or off your court; leave your mobile off-court or turn it off.

**Do not disrupt play on an adjacent court.** Do not collect a ball from an adjacent court while a point there is in progress, or about to start. Do not open or enter court gates while play is in progress, or about to start. When a match is being played, don't even walk behind or beside the court while a point is in progress.

**Line calls.** Only call the lines on your side of the net - and call clearly. If the ball is good, say nothing and play on. When you are not certain (i.e. if you cannot categorically say you saw a gap between the line and the ball), then the ball is IN and must be given in favour of your opponent(s). If you have serious doubts about the accuracy of your opponent's call, ask politely if they are certain. If they say they are certain, that concludes the matter - get on with the next point. In social/friendly matches, when there is some genuine doubt over a line call, offer to play the point again to avoid undue aggravation and time-wasting.

**Keep score.** The server should announce the score at the start of the second and each subsequent point. If there is disagreement, go back to the last agreed score and go from there.

**Ball management.** Don't take more than 4 balls onto court. Return all balls to the racks after use. Retrieve balls from outside the netting at the end of a game. Collect played balls and return them to the server efficiently. The server's partner should retrieve a stray ball from a failed first serve. The server should not have to stoop, chase or dodge a returned ball - slamming a ball in the general direction of the server is rude and dangerous. If you receive a serve that is OUT, do not play a return shot - it is disturbing to the server and dangerous to the net player.

**Safety.** Wear recognised tennis clothing and shoes; ensure ball cans, jackets, bags, etc. are out of everyone's way. Do not start a point if there are stray balls on the court. Do not run onto the adjacent court to retrieve a wide shot. Do not play if you feel unwell.

**Be a 'good club member'.** Turn floodlights and other club lights off, if not about to be used by others; clear up after yourself on court and in the clubhouse. Use the car park with thought for others - don't block others in, but equally, don't park at the front, if you want to leave early.

*Serious and/or sustained breaches of this guidance harm the club and may be subject to a formal complaint to the PLTC Committee, who have the authority to take appropriate action. See the Complaints Policy on the website or contact a committee member*