# **Court Etiquette**

While Tennis has its official rules, we would like to remind you that it’s also important to be aware of court etiquette. These are set of unofficial rules that fortify good tennis sportsmanship and help towards an enjoyable game for all players.

 We encourage you to take the time to read and follow these guidelines.

Tennis is a social game, a game involving simple politeness, consideration and respect.

 *Here are some etiquette guidelines we would like you to follow:*

* Talk quietly when standing near tennis courts that are in use.
* Mobile phones are not permitted on the court. If you have to use them do so in the car park or patio area quietly.
* When moving onto the court do so as a group to avoid interrupting other courts, ensure the gates are closed securely behind you.
* Never walk behind a court when a point is still in play. Wait until the point is over and then move quickly across the centre of the court.
* If people are playing on your court, try not to disturb them until their time is up.
* Before play if the court has debris on the surface remove using the drags provided at the side of the court, place debris beneath the notices & cover neatly with drag.
* Always come prepared. Bring not only balls, but towels and water.
* Anything you take onto the court please take away at the end of your game including any litter.
* Non marking trainers are required for tennis. Inappropriate shoes can be dangerous, hurt your feet, or damage and mark the court.
* When ready to play, place your equipment safely at the side of the court, rackets, ball cans, jackets. Alternatively use the coat hooks provided on the fence.
* Try to warm up quietly so as not to disturb other players on surrounding courts.
* When returning balls back to a neighbouring court. Never send them back whilst play is in progress, roll gently to the back of the court
* Return the balls to the servers end it helps the server and encourages continuity of the game.
* Swearing shouting or loud commentary during your game is unnecessary and impacts on other players on adjacent courts.
* The throwing of equipment or hitting balls outside of a rally could endanger other players or damage the court surface and fixtures this is unacceptable.
* Criticism of your partner is never helpful, try to offer encouragement or say nothing.
* Line calls, give your opponents the benefit of the doubt unless you can clearly see the ball outside the lines the ball is in and you play on
* Do your utmost to respect the line calls of your opponents they are best placed to make the decision on their side of the net.
* If there is a disagreement, discuss quietly at the net. If necessary, play a let and replay the whole point.
* If a ball goes over the fence retrieve the ball when possible, most perimeters are accessible using the gate on court three.
* On completion of your game try to leave the courts as you would like to find them.
* Drag surface if necessary, if wet avoid dragging this removes the top dressing.
* On completion of your game, if the courts are vacant lock the gates securely.
* The key to good etiquette is to respect your opponents and other users around you which helps to ensure that each individual enjoys their time on the court.

The Match and Tournament committees aim is for all members to appreciate a positive experience when playing tennis at Headstone. We would encourage you to learn these guidelines.

If you come across players who are unfamiliar with tennis etiquette, politely refer them to these guidelines which will be displayed on the clubs notice board.

 Thanking you for your co operation

 M & T Committee

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