

GREENACRES TENNIS CLUB INC.

‘HOME OF THE DRAGONS’

Member Education Guide



as at March 2025

MEMBER EDUCATION GUIDE

Welcome to Greenacres Tennis Club! We are delighted to have you as part of our tennis community. To ensure that everyone enjoys their time on the court, it's important to uphold standards of etiquette, understand the rules, and commit to your team. This guide equips our Dragon players with the information they need to make their tennis experience enjoyable and rewarding.

TENNIS ETIQUETTE

- **Respect for Others:** Treat fellow members, opponents, and officials with courtesy and respect. Good sportsmanship is a fundamental part of tennis.
 - **Noise and Distractions:** Keep noise to a minimum during play. A quiet environment contributes to a focused and enjoyable game.
 - **Attire:** Wear appropriate tennis attire and non-marking shoes to maintain the quality of the playing surface.
 - **Ball Retrieval:** Return balls promptly and safely to the correct court. If a ball crosses onto another court, wait until their point finishes before retrieving it. Ensure there are no loose balls on the court before starting a point.
 - **Scoring Announcements:** The server should call the score before each point. If they forget, the receiver may do so.
 - **Score Disputes:** If there's a disagreement, all players should meet at the net to reconstruct the points played. If no agreement is reached, revert to the last agreed-upon score.
 - **End of Match:** It is customary to tap racquets or shake hands at the net and exchange pleasantries such as "good game" or "well played."
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COMMITMENT TO YOUR TEAM

- **Attendance:** Regular participation in practices and matches is crucial for team cohesion and performance.
 - **Communication:** Notify your captain/team manager/junior coordinator well in advance if you can't attend a scheduled match. Finding a substitute and obtaining Tennis SA approvals can take time.
 - **Team Spirit:** Foster a positive and supportive team environment by encouraging teammates, celebrating successes, and learning from setbacks. When possible, please stay for all your team to complete their matches. Don't just play and leave.
 - **Respect Club Policies:** Adhere to all expected player and spectator behaviours (Members Handbook).
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RULES OF TENNIS

1. Serving

- Players take turns serving, starting from the deuce court (right side) and alternating.
- The server must stand behind the baseline between the centre mark and the singles/doubles sidelines.
- The serve must be struck before landing inside the court.
- Underarm serves are legal if hit before the ball touches the ground.

2. Faults and Lets

- A fault occurs if the server fails to land the ball in the opponent's service box.
- A let is called if the ball clips the net but still lands in the correct service box or if there is external interference.

3. Double Fault

- Two consecutive faults result in the loss of the point.

4. In and Out

- A ball landing on any part of the lines is in. If it lands outside, it is **out**.

5. Change of Ends

- Players switch ends after every odd-numbered total of games (e.g., 1, 3, 5, 7) and after every six points in a tiebreak.

6. Net Rules

- Players and their racquets must not touch or cross the net during play.
- The ball must cross to your side of the net before you hit it unless it spins/blows back, in which case you may reach over to hit it without touching the net.

7. Line Calls and Fair Play

- Players are responsible for making honest calls on their side of the court.
- **Out Calls:** If a ball lands out, call "out" immediately. If unsure, give the benefit of the doubt to your opponent and play the ball in.
- **Double Bounce Calls:** If the ball bounces twice before you hit it, stop play; the point goes to your opponent.
- **Ball Contact:** If the ball touches your body or clothing during a point, stop play; the point goes to your opponent.
- **Do NOT catch a ball before it bounces, regardless of whether it is in or out.**
- **Do NOT return a serve unless it has bounced first.**

SCORING

- **Points:** The sequence is 15, 30, 40, and game. If the score reaches 40-40 (deuce), a player must win two consecutive points to secure the game.
- **Games:** To win a set, a player or team must win six or nine games (depending on format) with a margin of at least two games. If the score reaches 6-6 or 8-8, a tiebreak may be played.

Tiebreak Scoring

- A tiebreak is typically played to **7 points**, with a **two-point margin** required.
 - The player due to serve next begins the tiebreak with **one serve** from the **deuce court** (right side).
 - The opponent then serves **two points**, starting from the **ad court** (left side).
 - After every **six points**, players switch ends. This is a quick turnaround.
 - The first player or team to reach **7 points with a two-point advantage** wins the tiebreak and the set.
 - Example: If the score reaches 7-5, the player with 7 points wins. If it reaches 7-6, play continues until one side leads by two points (e.g., 9-7).
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FINAL THOUGHTS

Tennis is more than just a sport; it's a community. By following these guidelines, you contribute to a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone at Greenacres Tennis Club. Enjoy your time in court, and may your tennis journey be filled with fun, improvement, and camaraderie!