

Greenacres Tennis Club

MEMBER EDUCATION GUIDE

Welcome to Greenacres Tennis Club! We are delighted to have you as a member of our tennis community. To ensure that everyone enjoys their time on the court, it is important to understand and uphold certain standards of etiquette, rules, scoring and commitment to your team. Through this guide, our aim is to educate our Dragon players with the information that may be needed to make your tennis experience at and through Greenacres Tennis Club enjoyable and rewarding.

Tennis Etiquette - Players

- **Respect for Others:** Treat fellow members, opponents, etc with courtesy and respect. Remember that sportspersonship is a fundamental aspect of tennis.
- **Noise and Distractions:** Keep noise to a minimum during play on any court near you. A quiet environment contributes to a more focused and enjoyable game.
- **Attire:** Wear appropriate tennis attire and non-marking shoes when on the court. This helps maintain the quality of the playing surface.
- **Ball Retrieval:** After a point is played, promptly retrieve and return both balls to the appropriate end and side of the court, preferably by rolling the ball under the net where possible. This helps maintain a smooth flow during the game. If a ball has crossed over to another court, wait until their point is finished before encroaching on their play space or ask a player from that court to return your ball(s). Likewise, if a ball from another court has come to your court, gently return the ball in a safe manner. Ensure that there are NO balls on the court before starting a point, not even your own second service ball. It is the receiver's choice to decide whether to remove the ball from fault one.
- **Scoring Announcements:** Keep score at all times and monitor its announcement to ensure clarity and avoid disputes. Generally, the server calls the score before they serve, but if the server does not call the score, the receiver can.
- **Dispute over the Score:** If at any time, either you or your opponent do NOT agree on the score, all players should meet at the net to discuss and work through the points that have been played in that game/tie-break. If the score cannot be agreed on/remembered, the score will need to go back to a point in the game where the score was agreed on.
- **Conclusion of Match:** At the conclusion of each match, it is common for players to tap racquets/shake hands at the net and exchange pleasantries such as "good game" or "well played".

Commitment to Your Team

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance at practices and matches is crucial. Consistent participation contributes to team cohesion and performance.
- **Communication:** Keep open lines of communication with your teammates and team captain. Notify at least your captain/them in advance if you are unable to attend a scheduled match as it can take some time to find a fill-in, obtain approvals from Tennis SA etc.
- **Team Spirit:** Foster a positive and supportive team environment. Encourage your teammates, celebrate successes, and learn from setbacks as a team.
- **Respect Team/Club/Association Policies:** Adhere to policies provided by the club/team captain regarding conduct, uniform and any other guidelines established by the team leadership. Policies can also be found at <https://www.greenacrestennisclub.com/newsletters>

Rules of Tennis

Tennis is governed by a comprehensive set of rules to ensure fair play and consistency across matches. Here is a summary of some key rules in tennis:

1. The Court:

TENNIS COURT

DOUBLES COURT

Furthest outside lines on the court

SINGLES COURT

Inner sideline on court



2. Serving:

- Players take turns serving, starting from the deuce court, on the right, and alternating between points.
- The server must stand behind the baseline, between the centre mark and within the singles or doubles lines, and hit the ball into the opponent's service box diagonally. Once the serve motion has started, the server is allowed to make small foot adjustments but cannot take a step. Coming off the ground is allowed as long as the ball is struck before any part of the body lands in the court. This avoids foot-faults.
- Underarm serves - Although unconventional, the rules allow for underarm serving in tennis and is a legal shot. As long as the ball is hit with the racquet prior to hitting the ground e.g. the ball must not hit the ground before hitting it.

3. Faults and Lets:

- A fault occurs if the server fails to get the ball into the opponent's service box.
- If the ball hits the net cord during a serve and lands in the correct service box, it is considered a let, and the serve is replayed.
- A let is called if a point needs to be replayed due to external interference e.g. a ball rolling near a player during a point, a player from another court running on to your court during play, loud talking. Do not take advantage of this rule.

4. Double Fault:

- If a server commits two consecutive faults from the same side, they lose the point.

5. In and Out:

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

6. Change of Ends:

- Players change ends after every odd-numbered total of games in each set e.g. 1, 3, 5, 7 etc., at the end of each set and after every six points in a tie break.

7. All things NET:

- You and your racquet cannot touch or cross the net, below or above, during play. The point is over and the ball is dead when the ball has bounced twice. If you run towards the net for a ball, and touch the net with your racquet or any part of your body, the point is awarded to your opposition, unless the ball is "dead". delete
- The ball must come over to your side of the net before you hit it. You cannot reach over the net early to hit a ball otherwise you lose the point. The only time you CAN reach over the net to hit a ball is if your opponent has hit the ball, it has landed on your side of the net but then spins/blows back over the net to your opponent's side. You can lean over the net to hit the ball but must not touch the net or have your feet go onto your opponent's part of the court.

8. Line Calls, Double Bounce Calls etc

- Each player is responsible for the calls on your own side of the court. It is very important that you make honest calls. Unless you are on the court, you should not be making line calls or comments that can be heard by the players on court.
- Out calls: If you see the ball land out on your side of the court, make sure you say "out" right away. If you did not see where the ball bounced, or not sure, you must give the benefit of the doubt to your opponent and play the ball as IN. Do NOT replay the point
- Double-bounce calls: If the ball bounces twice before you hit it, you must stop the point. This is your opponent's point.
- Contact with the tennis ball: If any part of your body or clothing touches the ball during a point, you must stop the point. This is your opponent's point.
- Contact with the net: If your racquet or any part of your body or clothing touches the net during a point, or if you reach over or under the net, you must stop the point. This is your opponent's point.
- Ensure the ball has landed before calling out even when it is obvious that the ball will go out.
- 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 otherwise it is your opponent's point.

Scoring

- **Points:** Players earn points in the sequence of 15, 30, 40, game. If the score gets to 40-40 (deuce), the advantage score comes in to play. From Deuce, a player must win two consecutive points to win 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 set reaches a 6-6 tie or 8-8 tie, a tie-break may be played.

A tie-break in tennis is a method used to decide a set that has reached a certain score, usually 6-6 or 8-8 (depending on format). The tie-break is played instead of continuing with regular game scoring. – delete sentence Here's how a tie-break is scored in tennis:

Scoring in a Tie-Break:

- **Starting the Tie-Break:**
 - A tie-break is typically played until one player/team reaches 7 points, with a two-point margin.
 - The player or team who is scheduled to serve first in the tie-break, based on being the next to serve in the set, starts by serving one point from the deuce court (right side).
 - The opponent then serves two points, starting from the ad court (left side).
 - The order of serving then alternates every two points.
- **Scoring System:**
 - Points are counted as 1, 2, 3, and so on, up to 7.
 - The first player or team to reach 7 points with a margin of at least 2 points wins the tie-break.
 - The tie-break score is often announced as the server's score first, followed by the receiver's score (e.g., 3-2, 6-7).
- **Changing Ends:**
 - After every six points, the players or teams change ends. It is not a rest break like changing ends; keep the movement fluent, grabbing a quick drink on the way. If returning to the court after the tie-break for a new set, change ends from the end of the tie-break.
- **Winning the Set**
 - If a player or team wins the tie-break, they win the set with a score of 7-6 or 9-8 depending on format.

Example: If the tie-break score reaches 7-5, the player or team with 7 points wins the tie-break and hence, the set. If the score reaches 7-6, play continues until one side has a two-point advantage (e.g. 9-7).

Remember, tennis is not just a sport; it's a community. By adhering to these guidelines, you contribute to a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone at and through Greenacres Tennis Club. Enjoy your time on the court, and may your tennis journey be filled with fun, improvement and camaraderie!