

Histon Tennis Club code of conduct and disciplinary procedure

HISTON TENNIS CLUB has adopted a code of conduct to be followed by all members of the club. The code sets out the behaviour expected by all members and visitors to the club.

The aim of this policy is to:

1. ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect
2. inform members about the standards of behaviour and etiquette expected so that the right playing environment for individuals and the club is created
3. help create a welcoming and friendly environment for members and visitors
4. outline the complaints procedure so that, where there is a shortfall in behaviour, this can be addressed.

Standards of behaviour

The Club is responsible for setting standards and values to apply at every level.

All members must treat other members, visitors, employees, coaches and officials with respect. There must be no actions, behaviour, comments or physical contact which may cause offence, mental or physical anxiety, or hurt to any individual.

Inappropriate actions include:

- racquet throwing
- swearing
- being abusive or aggressive
- intimidating behaviour
- questioning another person's integrity over line calls or other actions
- causing danger or harm to other players through your play
- ignoring the club's order of play.

Respect and courtesy

Tennis etiquette covers those actions and behaviours which are traditionally considered acceptable on and around the tennis court.

- Opponents, partners, and others on or near the courts should always be shown respect and consideration.
- Criticism and/or coaching of partners' or opponents' play should be avoided.
- During periods of social doubles, players taking part are expected to mix in and take into consideration the level of the other players on the court.

Walking onto or behind courts, balls and turning off floodlights

- Members should wait for players to finish a game, or minimally a point, before walking onto a court where play is taking place.

- When crossing a court to reach another court or when leaving the courts, players should wait until a game is finished and then cross as quickly as possible.
- If a stray ball comes onto a court, before returning it, players must wait until the owners are ready and then hit it to the server's end. If your point is interrupted a let should be played.
- Whenever possible, members should walk around the perimeter of the courts to reduce disruption to coaching sessions, tournament, matches and other play.
- When finished using a court, unless another member is coming on to use your court, floodlights should be turned off
- At the end of playing, the court nets should be lowered unless other players are about to use the court.
- Club balls should be collected and returned to the clubhouse.

Line calls

- Only call the lines on your side of the net.
- Call clearly, immediately and firmly what you see and what you honestly believe to be correct.
- If a player is not absolutely certain about a line call or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball was in and must be given in the opponent's favour. When a player genuinely doubts an opponent's call, the player may ask: "Are you sure of your call?" If the opponent reaffirms that the ball was out, the call shall be accepted. If the opponent acknowledges uncertainty, the opponent loses the point. There shall be no further delay or discussion. Ultimately those players on the side of any disputed call have the final say.
- If in social friendly matches there is some doubt over a line call, it is polite to offer to play the point again rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting.

Mobile phones

Unless absolutely vital, all mobiles phones and other communication devices should be switched off or set to silent mode as these can disrupt play.

Keeping the club room and courts clean and tidy

- Members should always tidy up their dishes and cups and not leave these for others to do. No food should be left behind after matches.
- Empty cans, can tops, old tennis balls or other items of rubbish should be removed from the court when play has finished.
- Rubbish should be disposed of in the bins on the Rec or in the Club room.

Car park and Recreation Ground

- No dogs are not permitted at the Recreation Ground
- To protect the court surfaces, only soft-soled shoes are to be worn on any of the courts

- No wheeled vehicles, including cycles and scooters, are to be taken on to any of the courts.
- Members should always cycle or walk to the club whenever possible, but if arriving by car, must respect any parking restrictions set out by the Parish Council.
- When the weather or other factors mean the courts are unplayable, this will be advised on a board displayed by the groundsman. The groundsman's judgement is final.
- Club members have the right to use the courts at specified times only, either for club-organised sessions (coaching, matches, tournaments, social play sessions) or by booking through Clubspark. Members wishing to use the courts at any other time must contact the Parish Council office and pay the requisite hourly fee.
- Any anti-social behaviour on the courts during club-specified times will be addressed through the club's disciplinary process (see below). Anti-social behaviour on the courts at any other time can be reported to the groundsman or the Parish Office, who will take appropriate action.

Who to contact to make a complaint?

Complaints or concerns about any aspect of the club, including members' behaviour, should be notified to a member of the Committee or sent to histentennisclub@gmail.com so that decisions can be made about what action, if any, needs to be taken.

Disciplinary process

When members or guests fail to behave according to the required code of conduct the following stages will be followed:

Stage 1: Informal verbal discussion with Club Chair or delegated committee member

Stage 2: Formal written warning from the Committee

Stage 3: Suspension agreed by the Committee

Stage 4: Expulsion

Stages in the process may be skipped if warranted by the seriousness of the disciplinary issue. To ensure a fair hearing, committee members will be asked to abstain from the process if they have any personal involvement linked to the complaint.