

# COMPETITION CODE OF CONDUCT

Players are reminded that they must in all interactions before, during and after an LTA Sanctioned Competition conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner, including but not limited to:

- (a) Players must not violently, dangerously, recklessly or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball, except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including warm up). For the purposes of this rule, abuse of balls includes (without limitation) hitting, kicking or throwing a ball: (a) intentionally or recklessly out of the enclosure of the court; (b) dangerously or recklessly within the enclosure of the court; or (c) with disregard to the consequences.
- (b) Players must not violently, dangerously, recklessly or in anger, hit, kick, or throw a racket or other equipment. For the purposes of this rule, abuse of rackets or equipment includes (without limitation) intentionally, dangerously, and violently hitting the net, court, umpire's chair, or other fixture during a match out of anger.
- (c) Players must not use an audible obscenity. Audible obscenity is defined as the use of words commonly known or understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard.
- (d) Players must not make obscene gestures of any kind. Visible obscenity is defined as the making of signs, gestures or movements by a Player with their body and/or with equipment such as racquets or balls that are commonly known or understood have an obscene meaning.
- (e) Players must not, at any time, physically abuse any official, Player, spectator or other person. For the purposes of this rule, physical abuse is the unauthorised touching (including through any instrument or equipment) or physical intimidation of an official, opponent, spectator, or other person which could reasonably be interpreted as in any respect abusive, offensive or intimidating.
- (f) Players must not, at any time, verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator, or other person. Verbal abuse is defined as any statement made towards or about an official, opponent, spectator, or any other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, offensive, insulting, threatening or otherwise abusive.
- (g) Players must not refuse to play within the allowed time for any unauthorised reason. In the case of delay due to a medical condition or treatment, or having left the court, such delay will be considered Delay of Game unless a Player has the appropriate permission and/or authorisation.
- (h) Players must not receive coaching during a match (including during the warm-up), except where play is suspended and the Players have left the court. 'Coaching' is to be interpreted widely, and communication of any kind, audible or visible, between a Player and a person off court (for example, a coach, relative, or representative) may be treated as coaching.
- (i) Players must, at all times, conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner with due regard to the authority of officials and to the rights of opponents, spectators and other persons. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any misconduct by a Player that is clearly abusive or offensive, or is detrimental to the success and/or perception of a tournament, the LTA, and/or the sport.
- (j) Any breach of the LTA Code of Conduct at an LTA Sanctioned Competition constitutes a breach of the Competition Code of Conduct and penalised under this provision. In addition, unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the giving, making, issuing, authorising, or endorsing any public statement having, or designed to

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have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interest of the tournament and/or the officiating thereof.

- (k) Players must use their best efforts during a match when competing in a competition.
- (l) Players must complete each match in progress and complete each event in which they are competing in accordance with these Regulations, unless they are reasonably unable to do so.
- (m) Players may leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) only with the permission of the Chair Umpire. Where no Chair Umpire is appointed, a Player may leave the court during a

match (including during the warm-up) only with the permission of the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor (except where the Referee is not on the court and the Player is calling for the Referee, pursuant to Regulation 29).

- (n) Players must be ready to play when their matches are called. Any Player not ready to play within 15 minutes after their match is called shall be defaulted unless the Referee, after consideration of all relevant circumstances, elects not to declare a default.
- (o) Players must comply with and not breach the LTA Code of Conduct.

## All other persons participating in any way in an LTA Sanctioned Competition (including officials, staff, medical staff and Player Support Personnel) must:

- (a) in all correspondence and communications relating to the competition, during all matches and at all times while within the competition site, competition transport and any official competition location (including designated residences or accommodation, facilities or locations of tournament functions or activities), conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner; and
- (b) refrain from making comments, including to representatives of the media or on social media or online, that attack, disparage, abuse or criticise Players, the Organiser/Organising Committee, officials, or staff of LTA Sanctioned Competitions and/or the LTA. Any such conduct may be treated as a disciplinary matter and dealt with under the LTA Disciplinary Code.

For the avoidance of doubt, the examples given in paragraphs 3(a) to 3(n) also apply to Player Support Personnel in the context of behaving in a professional and appropriate manner.

Any failure or refusal to comply may be treated as a disciplinary matter and dealt with under the LTA Disciplinary Code. In addition, a Player is responsible and accountable for the conduct of his/her Player Support Personnel; any failure or refusal by such a person to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner may also result in sanctions being applied to the Player, pursuant to Appendix Five (as if the Player had committed a Code Violation), and/or under the LTA Disciplinary Code.

For further information please refer to the Appendix 4 & 5 of the LTA Competition Regulations available at [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations)

LTA Competitions Team  
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