

Code of Conduct for Members of Reigate Priory Lawn Tennis Club

Reigate Priory Lawn Tennis Club (RPLTC) is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members.

RPLTC believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents/guardians should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have with the Chairman.

As a member of RPLTC you are expected to abide by the [club rules](#) and the following code of conduct:

All members

- All members must **play within both the [club rules](#) and those set out by the LTA and respect officials and their decisions**
- All members must **respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity ([see rule 12](#))**
- Members should **keep to agreed timings for training and competitions**, or inform their coach or team captain if they are going to be late
- Members must wear **suitable and appropriate sports kit**
- All members should **respect club property, the clubhouse and playing areas**. It is **everyone's responsibility** to keep the courts, grounds and clubhouse tidy. **This includes returning balls, glasses, cups and any equipment to the designated place in the clubhouse after use.**
- Members must pay any fees for training or events promptly
- Members should **only consume alcohol purchased from the bar** unless given express permission by the committee. This relates to the conditions of the bar licensing.
- **Smoking is only permitted outside of the clubhouse** and smokers should be considerate of other members when smoking.
- The **taking of any illegal drugs of any kind on the premises is strictly forbidden** and will result in immediate disciplinary action by the committee and possible police involvement.
- Members should ensure that they are **ambassadors for the club at all times** and not behave in a manner that is likely to threaten the reputation of the club or bring it in to disrepute.

Juniors

- Junior members are **not allowed to smoke on the premises** or whilst representing their team at competitions
- Junior members are **not allowed to consume alcohol or drugs** of any kind on the premises or whilst representing their team

Parents

- **Encourage your child** to learn the rules of tennis and play within them
- **Discourage unfair play** and arguing with officials
- **Help your child to recognise good performance**, not just results
- **Never force your child to take part in sport**
- **Set a good example** by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all
- **Never punish or belittle a child** for losing or making mistakes
- **Publicly accept judgements made by officials**
- **Support your child's involvement** and help them to enjoy their sport
- **Use correct and proper language** at all times
- **Be patient** – steady progression is unusual in children; peaks and plateaus are common
- **Your first question following any match should be: "Did you enjoy it?"** not "Did you win?"
- **At no stage should you communicate with your child** or interfere with the on-court helpers and referees during a match – just enjoy the game and let officials take care of the rules!

Court Etiquette

The following is an extract from British Tennis website on court etiquette which reflects a positive approach to play in our club:

- Please do not walk behind players whilst a game, a rally or coaching is in progress, this is to avoid distracting other members and most importantly to avoid any potential accidents on court.
- If you are trying to cross a court please wait until you are invited to and it is safe to do so.
- If a stray ball comes onto your court don't knock it back immediately, wait until the owners are ready and then hit it to the server's end.
- During play and particularly between games, keep the amount and volume of conversation down to a minimum necessary to play and enjoy your own games. Too much chatter can be disturbing to those playing nearby and, in between games, can hold up play for people waiting.
- Line calls can be a problem and we recommend the use of what the Americans call the 'honour system'.
- Only call the lines on your side of the net.
- Call clearly and firmly what you see and what you honestly believe to be correct.
- If you are not absolutely certain or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball was IN and must be given in the opponents favour.
- If occasionally you have serious doubts as to your opponent's eye-sight, ask politely if they are certain as to the accuracy of their call. If they say that they are, get on with the next point.
- If you feel your opponents regularly have difficulties making correct calls, start looking for different opponents!
- If in social friendly matches there is some doubt over a line call, offer to play the point again rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting.
- Do not criticise your partner or opponent, be positive and offer encouragement instead.
- Overall, use your best judgement and we all want to be competitive but don't let your emotions get on top of you!

Respect and Behaviour

All Club members and Club officials must show tolerance, courtesy, good manners, fairness, honesty and integrity in their dealings with Club members, officials, Club members' guests, playing and social visitors.

Equality

The Club is opposed to discrimination in any form. All Club members have a responsibility to make everyone feel welcome and to ensure that membership of the club is a positive experience.

Safety and Responsibility

All Club members will act responsibly and look to protect and ensure the safety of everyone at the Club at all times and particularly to consider the well-being and care of junior players and visitors.

Fair Play

All Club members will respect the rules of the sports of tennis and cricket and address disputes with dignity and appropriate language.

Club Reputation

All Club members should endeavour to protect and further the Club's good reputation at all times. When representing the Club, all players and officials will observe the principles in this Code of Conduct.

Resolving Differences or Issues within the community of the club. The key principles for this are underpinned by [Rule 9 from the RPLTC Tennis Club Rules](#):

- 1** •Resolution achieved between the parties
- 2** •By reference to the appropriate Club Chair, Junior Tennis Coordinator, or the Club Welfare Officer who will determine the course of action to be followed.
- 3** •By reference to the appropriate Section or member of the Club Committee.
- 4** •Where reference is made to a member of the Committee and the difference remains unresolved further reference may be made to the Club's Committee. At this point a member will be informed by the Club Chair, or other member of the committee deputising for the Chair, of the issues relating to their behaviour or complaints made against them and given the right to share their perspective or make decisions about their future in the club.
- 5** •The Chair shall have the power to suspend any of members' playing or membership rights and may suspend such rights for up to four weeks to allow further investigation and, if required, a sub-committee to be formed to resolve the issue. Should the matter not be fully resolved any suspension beyond four weeks or recommendations as to expulsion must be approved by the Club General Committee.
- 6** •The removal of a Club or Section Officer or Committee Member shall require an EGM of the Club or Section as appropriate.
- 7** •All disciplinary action pursuant to this code shall be subject to a right of appeal to an Appeals Committee. This Appeals Committee shall comprise of three individuals appointed by the General Committee. The majority verdict of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding