

## **Bromsgrove Tennis Club**

Code of Conduct for all members

Bromsgrove Tennis Club aims to provide a tennis venue that is safe, inclusive and has a positive atmosphere so that everyone is able to enjoy playing tennis at this Club.

Our code of conduct is designed to support this aim.

The Code of Conduct sets out minimum standards of behaviour, which all members are expected to follow, and seeks to avoid any serious issues arising. So we expect everyone to respect all members, visitors and spectators regardless of:

- age
- gender
- gender re-assignment
- sexual orientation
- race
- nationality
- ethnic origin
- religion or belief
- ability or disability

And that all members will:

- not permit aggressive, offensive or abusive language or behaviour either on court or in the clubhouse
- encourage fair and safe play
- discourage deliberate hitting a ball hard at another player from close range in social tennis
- discourage disputes over calls
- wear suitable attire including non-marking trainers which have a good grip and are clear of mud/debris
- wait until a suitable break in play to walk behind a court
- wait until a suitable break in play to enter or leave a court
- clear any rubbish from the courts before playing or put in the bins provided
- leave the courts and the Clubhouse as we would hope to find them
- switch mobile phones to silent
- talk quietly when play is in progress
- Welcome new members and players to the Club irrespective of their experience of the game and their level of play
- Not smoke or use vapes whilst on the court
- Follow all COVID-19 guidelines identified by the LTA at all times and note any impact they have on any of the identified codes of conduct. These can be found on the link below:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/tennis-news/news-and-opinion/general-news/2020/march/coronavirus-covid-19---latest-advice/>

In addition, Bromsgrove Tennis Club expects that:

- All Bromsgrove Tennis Club members and club officials show tolerance, courtesy, good manners, fairness, honesty and integrity in their dealings with fellow members, club officials, club members' guests, visiting players and social visitors.
- All Club members respect those using the club house and follow any appropriate rules set out by the venue whilst using.
- Represent the club in a positive manner when playing matches or representing the club in any tournaments
- All Club members respect the work of the coaches, treat the coaches with tolerance, courtesy, good manners, fairness, honesty and integrity, and do not intrude or interrupt their work unnecessarily. [\*]
- All Club members bring any disputes or disagreements regarding members or management of Bromsgrove Tennis Club to the attention of the Bromsgrove Tennis Club committee for resolution in a fair and orderly manner.

[\*] All coaches working at Bromsgrove Tennis Club, including assistant coaches, are expected to be LTA qualified, and to follow the LTA Code of Conduct as described **here**.

### **Code of conduct for children/young people**

#### **THE TENNIS PLAYER WILL:**

- Play fairly and have fun
- Abide by the rules set down by team managers when travelling to away events
- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing the game of tennis into disrepute
- Respect officials and accept their decisions
- Talk to the club Welfare Officer if you have concerns
- Respect opponents and always shake hands at the end of a match, if appropriate (please refer to the latest COVID-19 guidelines)
- Use his/her best efforts in competitive matches
- Refrain from the use of bad language and inappropriate gestures
- Refrain from ball / racquet abuse
- Refrain from the use of coaching during competition
- Never use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage on or off the court
- Never use bullying tactics to isolate another player
- Never pass on gossip about another player or adult
- Never keep secrets about anyone who has caused you harm
- Win with grace and lose with dignity

#### **EVERY CHILD / YOUTH MEMBER HAS THE RIGHT TO:**

- Be safe
- Be listened to
- Be respected
- Privacy
- Enjoy your sport in a protective environment
- Be protected from abuse by other members
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to your ability
- Experience competition and the desire to win
- Be believed
- Ask for help

## **COMPLAINTS AND SANCTIONS**

- If any member(s) believes that they have experienced either a breach of the Code of Conduct or a serious breach of court etiquette then they should report it to the Bromsgrove Tennis Club committee. It should be reported to the Club Welfare officer if they feel it is a safeguarding issue.
- A Sub-Group of the Bromsgrove Tennis Club Committee will arrange a meeting with member(s) who bring forward matters to discuss the issue. The Sub-Group may also arrange a meeting with the person or people who are the subject of the complaint.
- In considering the complaint, the Bromsgrove Tennis Club Committee will take into account any background information they consider relevant, including as to the personal circumstances of the person who is the subject of the complaint, together with any external advice or guidance available to them which may be appropriate.
- After the Bromsgrove Tennis Club Committee has deliberated and decided on a course of action with regards to the complaint, the Sub-Group will offer feedback to the member(s) concerned.
- In the event of any complaint being upheld, the Bromsgrove Tennis Club Committee will investigate and make a decision in line with the Code of Conduct and Rules of Bromsgrove Tennis Club.

If a member found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct or in serious breach of court etiquette, any one or more of the following sanctions may be imposed :-

- a warning as to future conduct;
- disqualification from any event or tournament in which the breach has taken place;
- suspension of a member from membership;
- exclusion of a member and/or a guest from the club's premises;
- expulsion of a member from the club.

If the matter is a safeguarding issue, then the appropriate line of action will be taken in accordance with the clubs safeguarding policy and procedures.

### **Bromsgrove Tennis Club Committee**