

Tennis NZ Player Code of Conduct

(as at 19/10/2006)

Please note: Amendments from the 2006 Code of Conduct are blocked out in red.

1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Tennis New Zealand Code of Conduct is based on the principle that the best tennis is a product of concentration, discipline and enjoyment.

The public is entitled to see the game of tennis played according to uniform rules and to a high standard and players are entitled to respect from opponents and protection from irresponsible behaviour. This code is designed to provide information for players, parents and coaches on the standards of conduct expected at the tournaments.

2 APPLICABILITY

This Code applies to all tournaments and competitions sanctioned by Tennis New Zealand, (except where specifically covered by all the codes for events under the control of ATP/WTA/ITF). Any variations to the Code at local level must be specified in the rules of the particular event. All players entered in all competitions shall, at all times, be subject to this Code.

3 ENTRY REGULATIONS

- (a) **Entry** - Players shall enter **tournaments** in writing by the due date and the appropriate fee shall accompany **the** entry. Tournaments are under no obligation to accept late entries.
- (b) **Payment** - All players shall settle their financial obligations to the tournament before the commencement of their first match.
- (c) **Withdrawal** - Withdrawals shall be made in writing. Players who withdraw more than six (6) days before the tournament commences shall have their entry fee refunded.
- (d) **LateWithdrawal** - Players who withdraw six (6) days or less before the tournament commences shall forfeit their entry fee, except where withdrawal is for medical reasons (medical certificate must be supplied) or bereavement.
- (e) **No Show** - Players who fail to show for their first match will forfeit their entry fee, be defaulted and be reported to the appropriate controlling authority.
- (f) **Playing another tournament** – no player who has entered and been accepted into a Tennis NZ National tournament shall play in any other tennis event during the period of the tournament unless prior authorisation has been obtained from Tennis NZ.

4 ON-COURT BEHAVIOR

Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, abide by the rules of tennis and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents and spectators.

(a) Commencement of play / reporting times

Matches shall follow the scheduled order of play, which may be changed only by the referee or tournament manager. Players not ready to commence within fifteen (15) minutes after their match is called **shall** be defaulted.

(b) Warm up period

Players shall commence play after the prescribed warm-up period (which shall not exceed five (5) minutes) has been completed. The toss shall be made before the warm-up commences.

(c) Pace of the Match

A maximum of twenty (20) seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play until the server tosses the ball for the first serve of the next point. The receiver shall play to the reasonable pace of the server. **In matches played without ball persons, players shall be given reasonable time to retrieve balls for the next point.**

(d) End change – rest period

There is no rest period at the end change after the first game of each set or after each six points in a tiebreak. At all other changes players shall take no longer than ninety (90) seconds from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game until the server tosses the ball in the act of serving the first serve of the next game.

(e) Set break

At the end of each set players are permitted a rest period not exceeding two **(2)** minutes. Players must remain on court. After the break players return to the same end unless the set was made up of an odd number of games or was a tie-break

(f) Toilet / Attire Breaks

A player is permitted to request and receive a suspension of play and permission to leave the court for a reasonable time for a toilet or change of attire break. Toilet breaks should be taken at the end of a set and can be used for no other purpose. Change of attire breaks are only allowed for female players and must be taken on a set break. Male singles players are entitled to one (1) toilet break per match. Female singles players are entitled to two (2) breaks per match. Doubles teams are entitled to two (2) breaks per match, if partners leave the court together it counts as one (1) of the team's authorised breaks. Any break taken after the warm up has started is considered one of the authorised breaks. Additional breaks will be authorised, but will be penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule if the player is not ready to play within the allotted time. No player is to receive coaching during a break.

(g) Medical Time Outs

In the event that a player sustains a medical condition during the match or warm-up or believes that medical diagnosis and treatment are required for a medical condition, the player may request a medical time out from the chair umpire or referee. The Sports Medicine Trainer, or in the absence of such a person, the referee, may authorise a one-time three (3) minute medical time-out for that condition to be treated. The player may make this request

at any time during a match or warm up. A player will be allowed only one medical time-out per match for any and all cramping conditions. Heat related physical conditions may only be treated at the discretion of the Sports Medicine Trainer or referee.

Players may not receive any treatment during the match for: (i) any illness or condition that cannot be appropriately treated or will not be improved by medical treatment; (ii) any pre-existing condition not aggravated during play or; (iii) general player fatigue.

If the medical time out is taken at a changeover or set-break, then the allotted time for the time-out remains three (3) minutes but this is only taken once the changeover or set break is completed. In such cases a player may therefore be treated for four (4) minutes or four and one half (4½) minutes respectively. As a guideline, further medical treatment following a medical time out should not exceed two changeovers.

(h) Withdrawals and Retirements

If a player withdraws or retires from a match due to illness or injury then, notwithstanding the respective rules or conditions of individual tournaments, in order for the player to play in a different event in the same tournament a medical certificate must be provided that, to the satisfaction of the Referee, states the player was unable to play the match from which he or she withdrew or retired but is fit to play in the subsequent event. The cost of obtaining such a medical certificate is the responsibility of the player.

(i) Umpiring

In matches that have a qualified chair umpire, the chair umpire shall be the final authority for matters of fact. In matches that are self umpired the Tennis NZ Self Umpiring Code shall apply.

(j) Coaching

Except where special provision is made for an event, players shall not receive coaching or advice from any person while a match is in progress.

(k) Withdrawal from a National Tournament Compass Draw

Players must not withdrawal from a match in a compass draw without the permission of the Referee.

5 OFF-COURT BEHAVIOUR

When in the tournament complex or environment players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of other players, spectators and the public. Inappropriate behaviour may in the first instance be liable to an official warning by the referee or tournament management and subsequent violations may lead to default from all events in the tournament and reporting to the appropriate controlling authority.

Damage to property or equipment or, physical or verbal abuse of persons in the tournament environs, may lead to immediate default from all events in the tournament. Such default will be decided by the tournament management and referee together, whose decision shall be final.

6 DRESS CODE

All Tennis New Zealand sanctioned events shall follow the dress code set down in rule 6. However, for **Group 2 and 3 open** events and **1 and 2 star** junior events rule 6 (b) "Commercial Identification" does not apply except when the tournament organisers specify that it does. It is the responsibility of the tournament organisers to inform players if this is required.

For the National Teams' Events, **Group A** and 1 events and National Junior Events **(3 star)** all conditions in rule 6 apply. Variations to these regulations may apply to certain ITF, ATP and WTA events.

Dress Code

All players shall dress and present themselves in an appropriate manner for tennis. Clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire shall be worn including during the warm-up.

a) Unacceptable attire

Unacceptable attire includes gym, beach or rugby shorts, sweatshirts, skivvies or T-shirts and any other attire deemed inappropriate by the referee or tournament management in consultation with the referee.

Players' footwear must have a sole designed for tennis and be of a type permitted on the court surface being used.

Tennis NZ gear is allowed to be worn at any Tennis NZ sanctioned tournament. This overrides the following Commercial Identification rules.

b) Commercial Identification

1) Clothing bearing the name of a particular tennis event or a team in that event may only be worn during that event and applies to teams events only.

2) *Shirt, Sweater or Jacket*

(i) Sleeves: One (1) commercial (non manufacturer's) identification for each sleeve, neither of which exceeds three (3) square inches (19.5 sq.cm) plus one (1) manufacturer's standard logo on each sleeve, **neither of which exceeds eight (8) square inches (52 sq.cm). If writing is used within the eight (8) square inch space then the writing cannot exceed four (4) square inches (26 sq.cm).**

(ii) Sleeveless (Female): Two (2) commercial (non manufacturer's) identification, neither of which shall exceed **three (3) square inches (19.5 sq.cm)** on the front of the garment. **The manufacturer's standard logos permitted on the sleeves above may not be placed on a sleeveless shirt.**

Sleeveless (Male): The commercial (non manufacturer's) identifications and manufacturer's standard logos permitted on the sleeves above, may not be placed on a sleeveless shirt.

- (iii) Front, Back and Collar: Total of two (2) standard logos of the manufacturer, neither of which exceeds two (2) square inches (13 sq.cm), or one (1) standard logo of the manufacturer not to exceed **four (4) square inches (26 sq. cm)** in any of the locations.

3) Shorts/skirts

Two (2) standard logos of the manufacturer, neither of which exceeds two (2) square inches (13 sq. cm) or one (1) standard logo of the manufacturer not to exceed **four (4) square inches (26 sq.cm)**. On compression shorts, one (1) manufacturer's standard logo not to exceed two (2) square inches (13 sq.cm) and which shall be in addition to the two (2) authorised logos on shorts.

4) Dresses

For the purposes of allowed identification, a dress shall be treated as a combination of a shirt and a skirt (dividing the dress at the waist).

5) Socks/Shoes

Standard logos of the manufacturer on each sock and on each shoe. The logos on the sock(s) on each foot shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) square inches (**13** sq.cm).

6) Racquet

No inappropriate signage on racquet or strings

7) Hats & Caps

The hat or cap is to be of a type specially designed for sport, be of a regular colour/design and may have on it the logo or name of a recognised tennis clothing manufacturer (front and back), or the name/logo of the event (or event sponsor) in which the player is taking part. Hat/caps with other wording or logos are not permitted.

8) Headbands and Wristbands

One (1) standard logo of manufacturer not to exceed two (2) square inches (13 sq. cm).

Note: From 1 January 2008 Tennis NZ will enforce the adidas '3 stripes' as a manufacturer's identification and all Referees will be required to ensure that the '3 stripes' are within the size limitation outlined above. Until 2008, there is no restriction on adidas "3 stripes" at Tennis NZ events. Please note: This rule is now in place at ITF and Grand Slam events

c) Warm-up clothing

Warm-up clothing (including tracksuits) may be worn during warm-up but not during a match unless the referee gives permission. Removal of warm-up clothing is to take place during the prescribed warm-up time to the match. Warm-up clothing must comply with all provisions of Rule 6 (b).

7 ON COURT BEHAVIOUR – OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

a) Offences

There are TEN code violation offences punishable by the full point penalty schedule:

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) Physical abuse | (6) Abuse of racquets/equipment |
| (2) Verbal abuse | (7) Unreasonable delay |
| (3) Audible obscenity | (8) Coaching |
| (4) Visible obscenity | (9) Not putting forth best effort |
| (5) Abuse of balls | (10) Unsportsmanlike conduct |

and THREE offences by particular parts of the schedule:

- (11) Time Violations
- (12) Dress Code
- (13) Leaving the court

b) Definitions of Offences

Below are the definitions of the TEN code violation offences punishable by the full point penalty schedule (see below):

1) Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of an official, opponent, and spectator or other person.

2) Verbal Abuse

Verbal abuse is a statement directed at an official, opponent, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

3) Audible Obscenity

Audible obscenity is the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the chair umpire, spectators, lines persons or ball persons.

4) Visible Obscenity

Visible obscenity is the making of signs by a player with his/her hands and/or racquet or obscene gestures that commonly have an obscene meaning or import to reasonable people.

5) Abuse of Balls

Abuse of balls is intentionally hitting a ball out of the enclosure of the court, hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences.

6) Abuse of Racquets and Equipment

Players **shall not** violently or with anger hit, kick or throw a racquet or other equipment within the precincts of the tournament site. For the **purposes of this rule**, abuse of

racquets or equipment is intentionally and violently destroying or damaging racquets, equipment or intentionally and violently hitting the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixtures during a match out of anger or frustration.

7) Unreasonable Delay

Play shall be continuous and a player shall not unreasonably delay the match for any cause. If a delay in excess of the times outlined in rule 4 (b) to (g) is the result of a medical condition or refusal to play after being ordered by the chair umpire or referee, a penalty shall be assessed in accordance with the point penalty schedule.

8) Coaching

Coaching is instruction or advice given verbally or visually by any person who is not a player in the match in question. The penalty for coaching is given against the player who is the recipient of the instruction or advice.

9) Not putting forth best efforts

A player shall always use best efforts to win a match. The referee will be the sole judge of penalties for not putting forth best efforts.

10) Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Players shall at all times act in a sportsmanlike manner and respect officials, spectators and others. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as misconduct that is clearly detrimental to the game but that may not fall specifically within any of the offences listed above.

Penalties

If a player commits any of the offences numbered 1 to 10 above, the offending player receives the following point penalties.

Number of offences per match	Description
First Offence	Warning
Second Offence	Loss of point
Third Offence	Loss of a game
Fourth and Subsequent Offences	Loss of a game or default as determined by the Referee

Below are the four code violation offences punishable by particular parts of the schedule:

11) Time Violations

Time violations on court during a match (violations of rule 4 (b) to (g)) shall be subject to a warning on the first offence and a point penalty on the second and subsequent offences. Players cannot, however, receive two time violations 'back to back'. If a player receives a time violation and is still not ready to play within another twenty (20) seconds an unreasonable delay offence shall be assessed.

Number of offences per match	Description
First Offence	Warning
Second Offence	Loss of point

12) Dress Code

Players who wear attire that does not comply with the dress code will first be subject to a warning by the referee and a request to change into appropriate attire. If a player is unable to change the referee may issue a code violation that will be considered the player's first offence for the match. The referee may default a player for flagrant breaches of the dress code or, after a first offence, for subsequent offences either in that match or following matches during the tournament or competition. The referee's decision on acceptable tennis attire shall be final and cannot be appealed.

Failure to comply with the dress code	Description
First Offence	Warning
Second Offence	Default

13) Leaving the Court

A player may not leave the court area during a match without the permission of the chair umpire or referee. A player who violates this section may be defaulted by the referee.

c) Defaults

The referee may declare a default for a single flagrant violation of this Code or continuous violations after the first offence. In all cases of default, the decision of the referee shall be final and cannot be appealed. In addition, any player who is defaulted as herein provided may be defaulted from all other events, if any, in that tournament, except when the offending incident involves only a violation of the Punctuality, Dress and Equipment, loss of physical condition or injury provisions set out in this Code.

The chair umpire will not declare a default without consultation with the referee.

d) Disciplinary Committees

Any player that commits an offence outlined in the Code of Conduct may be subject to further penalty as decided by a disciplinary committee appointed by the controlling association (Tennis New Zealand in the case of national events). Disciplinary committees may penalise players for gross breaches of the Code of Conduct regardless of whether or not a formal code violation was issued in respect of that offence.

8 SUSPENSION POINTS

Players who are penalised under the Code of Conduct at national junior and open events will be subject to the following suspension point system.

Breach of Code	Suspension points
First Offence (Warning)	1
Second Offence (Loss of point)	3
Third Offence (Loss of a game)	3
Fourth and Subsequent Offences (Loss of a game)	3
Fourth and Subsequent Offences (Default from match by the Referee)	3
Default from the tournament by the Referee for a single serious violation of the Tennis NZ Code of Conduct	10
Default by a player from any main draw round, except for reasons of health or bereavement.	3
Withdrawal from a tournament without notification after the withdrawal deadline	5
Default due to late arrival for match	3
If a player fails to show when scheduled to adjudicate	1
Any official warning given to parents for communicating with any player on court during a match (points given to the child)	3
Withdraw from a compass draw consolation match without the permission of the referee.	1

Accumulation of Points

Suspension points will be accumulated over a 12-month period and removed twelve (12) months after they are imposed. If a player accumulates twelve (12) or more points during a twelve (12) month period, **at the conclusion of the tournament at which the player accumulated his or her twelfth suspension point the following suspensions will be imposed.**

1. A three (3) month suspension from all events on the Tennis NZ Tournament Calendar or suspension up to and including the next National event for which the player would have been eligible to play, whichever is the lesser time.
2. A three (3) month suspension from all National Teams.
3. A three (3) month suspension from Tennis NZ sanction into ITF World Junior circuit tournaments.

When a player resumes playing after a suspension, twelve (12) points will be removed from the player's total.

Doubles Events

In doubles matches code violation penalties are assessed against the team but suspension points shall be applied to the offending player(s).

Team Events

In teams' competitions played over successive days suspension points will be accumulated from each match and added to existing accumulated points. In addition to a possible suspension as

outlined above, any player whose points total ten (10) or more from matches played in one teams' competition will not be permitted to play in any subsequent matches in that teams' competition.

9 NOTIFICATION OF CODE VIOLATION

On Court Code Violation

If a player commits an offence the referee is to approach the player as soon as practicable (at the end of a point or game) and notify the player of the code violation.

Report

The referee shall then complete a Code Violation Report to the appropriate committee for every offence resulting in a default or imposition of suspension points. Where required in the rules of Tennis New Zealand a report shall be forwarded to Tennis NZ within seven (7) days of the last day of the event.

Notification of Suspension Points

The tournament referee will post a list of players with suspension points on the tournament notice board and keep this up to date at all times. The tournament organisers are responsible for notifying the Regional and/or National Association of any code violations incurred by players. Tennis New Zealand shall keep a current file of all suspension points.

10 APPEALS

Any player issued with a code violation for an on-site offence may appeal to the controlling association. For national events the controlling association is Tennis NZ and the following procedure will apply. Notice of Appeal shall be filed in writing with Tennis NZ within ten (10) days of being notified of the code violation. Attached to and included with the Notice of Appeal shall be a statement by the player as to the facts and circumstances of such incident along with any other evidence that the player desires to submit. Upon receipt of such an Appeal, Tennis NZ shall conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident, and shall affirm or reverse in whole or in part the determination of the referee. In the event of a whole or partial reversal Tennis NZ shall remove the penalty from the player's record in accordance with the disposition of the Appeal.

11 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CODE

All tournaments will have an appointed Tennis New Zealand Registered Referee and may have a panel of roving referees to ensure proper conduct and smooth management of the tournament. Any member of the panel has the power to implement the Code of Conduct. When there is a panel of roving referees, only the Tennis New Zealand Registered Referee has the power to decide on a default. In tournaments where qualified or official umpires are officiating, the umpires will have the power to implement the Code of Conduct.

Disclaimer: Tennis New Zealand reserves the right to alter the Tennis New Zealand Code of Conduct