

## 2017 Player Code of Conduct (September update)

### 1. General Principals

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 via the online process by the due date. Tournaments are under no obligation to accept late entries
- b. Payment – All players shall make payment of the applicable fee at the time of entry, or before the commencement of their first match
- c. Withdrawal – Withdrawals shall be made via written email only, and be accompanied by a medical certificate
- d. Refunds – Withdrawal received:
  - i. six (6) days after the entry closing date: shall receive a full entry fee refund without a medical certificate
  - ii. before the release of the draw: shall receive a full entry fee refund if accompanied with a medical certificate
  - iii. after the draw, but before the commencement of tournament: shall receive a 50% refund, or full refund if accompanied with a medical certificate
  - iv. after the commencement of the tournament: shall receive no refund
- e. No Show – Players who fail to show for their first match will forfeit their entry fee and be subject to penalties detailed below
- f. Playing two tournaments – players are not permitted to withdraw from one tournament to participate in another, unless all playing commitments have been fulfilled to the first tournament. This may be waived with express permission by Tennis NZ to enter an ITF event in the same time period

4. On-court Behaviour

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

Players must report to the tournament desk at least 15 minutes before their scheduled match time. Players not ready to play within 15 minutes after their match is called shall be defaulted, unless the Referee in their sole discretion, after consideration of all relevant circumstances, elects not to declare a default. At the discretion of the Referee or Tournament Director, the player may be allowed to play in subsequent matches on the same day or subsequent days. Defaulted players will be subject to receiving a Code Violation as per below

b. Warm-up period

Players may have a maximum five (5) minute warm-up before each match. Due to weather and scheduling, this warm-up period may be modified at the discretion of the Referee. 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 responsible time to retrieve balls for the next point. Any deliberate act of hitting a ball further away than reasonably expected, even within the confines of a court area, could be assessed as a deliberate wasting of time and subject to penalty as per below

d. Rest periods

i. End change – there is no rest period at the end change after the first game of each set or any time during a tiebreak. All other end changes 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

ii. Set break – at the end of each set, players are permitted to a rest period not exceeding two (2) minutes). Players should remain on court

e. Toilet / attire break

A player is permitted to request a suspension of play and permission to leave the court for a reasonable time for the following only:

i. Toilet break – should be taken at the end of a set.

Authorization for a toilet break during any other part of the match can only be authorized by an official and should only be taken under urgency

Male players – allowed 1 toilet break per match

Female players – allowed 2 toilet breaks per match

Doubles teams – allowed 2 toilet breaks per match (as a team)

ii. Attire change break – must be taken at the end of the set

Players are not to receive coaching during a toilet/attire break

f. Medical time out

In the event that a player sustains a medical condition during the match or warm-up or believes that a medical diagnosis and treatment are required for a medical condition, the player may request a medical time out from an Official. The Sports Medicine Trainer, or in the absence of such a person, the referee, may authorize 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. A player will be allowed only one medical time-out per match for any and all heat related physical conditions and/or cramping.

Players may not receive 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
- iii. general player fatigue
- iv. any medical treatment requiring intravenous injections (except diabetic insulin shots that the player normally takes, or the use of an epipen)

If the medical time out is taken during a rest period, then the allotted time for the time-out shall commence at the conclusion of the allotted time for that rest period. The treatment times shall not include the time it takes for the medical trainer to assess the treatment required. Treatment may be moved off-court for privacy. Once treatment is complete, reasonable time is allowed to put on shoes, socks or clothing that has been removed for treatment.

Should a trainer be unavailable, a player may request supplies be brought to court to self-treat, or the player may nominate another person to treat them under direct supervision of the Referee. No coaching is allowed during this time.

A player who is bleeding cannot continue to play, and the Referee may authorize a five (5) minute medical time out to stem the bleeding. If the bleeding cannot be stopped in this time, the player must be withdrawn from the match. Blood that has been spilt on court must first be removed before play can continue.

Should a player continue to play with an injury, but in the Referees opinion the player is unfit to compete and continuing the match would not be in the best interest of competitive tennis or the players' welfare, then the Referee may withdraw the player from the match. The player will have no right of appeal to this withdrawal and the Referee decision is final

g. Withdrawals and retirements

If a player withdraws or retires from a match due to illness or injury, one of the following will occur:

- i. withdraw from all remaining matches of the tournament
- ii. obtain a medical certificate that, to the satisfaction of the Referee, states the player was unable to play the match from which they withdrew/retired but is fit to continue playing subsequent matches. The cost of obtaining a medical certificate is the responsibility of the player
- iii. a withdrawal received before the commencement of a match shall be subject to penalty as detailed below, unless a medical certificate is received. This includes any matches that are officially scheduled by the tournament

h. Umpiring

Matches that are self-umpired shall be conducted under the Tennis NZ Self Umpiring Code. Matches that have a qualified chair umpire, the chair umpire shall be the final authority for matters of fact

i. Coaching / electronic devices

Players shall not receive coaching or advice from any person while a match is in progress.

No player may use an electronic device including but not limited to a cell phone, smart watch or tablet, or any other developed technology capable of sending/receiving messages, once the warm-up has commenced, unless used to call the Referee to court. A player may use written material during normal rest periods if brought on-court at the start of the match or returning from a rain delay/suspended match

5. Off-court Behaviour

When in the tournament complex or environment, players, coaches, parents and support persons 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.

- a. Violations by the players, a player's coach, parent and supporters  
Will in the first instance be levied against the player. Any subsequent behaviour may result in the player being defaulted from all events in the tournament, and/or the removal of relevant persons from the tournament venue
- b. Damage to property or equipment, physical or verbal abuse of persons  
May lead to immediate default from all events in the tournament. Such default will be decided by the Tournament Director and Referee together, whose decision shall be final
- c. Social media platforms  
All persons participating in any way in the tournament must refrain from making comments on any social media platform, that attack, disparage or criticise other players, tournament organisers, Officials, staff, Tennis New Zealand, Regions or Associations. Any such behaviour may result in the player being defaulted from all events in the tournament, possible suspension or other relevant disciplinary action as determined by Tennis New Zealand

6. Dress Code – Regional events (including Tier 2 and Tier 3 Junior Masters, and all other events adopting the Code of Conduct)

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.

Regional and Local Tennis centres are encouraged to allow all tennis attire for events, particularly at junior level, except where its excluded under rule 6 a). This should be clearly stated on the entry form or published by the Regional centre prior to the event via their website or other forum available to the players, coaches and parents.

Variations to these regulations may apply to certain ITF, ATP and WTA events

- a. Unacceptable clothing  
includes gym, beach or rugby shorts, sweatshirts, skivvies or t-shirts,

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clothing bearing the name of another sport, or specifically designed for another sport, or hats bearing the names or logos of sports teams other than tennis and any other attire deemed inappropriate by the Referee or Tournament Director, in consultation with the Referee.

b. Footwear

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

### 7. Dress Code – National events (including NZ Championships, National Junior Teams Events, National Junior Championships and other Tennis NZ run events)

#### Commercial Identification

a. 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

b. 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) shall be permitted. If written identification is used within this eight (8) square inches (52 sq cm) area on either side or both sleeves, such written identifications may not exceed four (4) square inches (26 sq. cm) per sleeve
- ii. Sleeveless - 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
- 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

c. 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

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addition to the two (2) authorised logos on shorts

d. 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

e. 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).

f. Racquet

No inappropriate signage on racquet or strings

g. 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. National flag caps are permitted

h. Headbands/wristbands

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

i. 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 above commercial identification standards

### 8. Code Violations – offences and penalties

First offence – warning – 1 suspension point (1 total)

Second offence – loss of point – further 3 suspension points (4 total)

Third/subsequent offences – loss of game – further 3 suspension points

Default as determined by the Referee – 10 suspension points

a. Physical abuse (PhA)

unauthorized touching of an official, opponent and spectator or other person

b. Verbal abuse (VA)

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

c. Audible obscenity

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

- d. Visible obscenity  
the making of signs by a player with their hands and/or racket or obscene gestures that commonly have an obscene meaning or import to a reasonable person
- e. Ball abuse  
intentionally hitting a ball out of the court enclosure, hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of consequences
- f. Racket and equipment abuse  
players shall not violently or with anger hit, kick or throw a racket or other equipment within the precincts of the tournament site. Abuse of equipment is intentionally and violently destroying or damaging rackets, equipment or intentionally and violently hitting the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixtures during a match out of anger
- g. Unreasonable delay  
play shall be continuous and a player shall not unreasonably delay the match for any cause
- h. Coaching  
instruction or advice given verbally or visually by any person who is not a player in the match. This penalty is given against the player who is the recipient of the coaching
- i. 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
- j. Unsportsmanlike conduct (UnC)  
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
- k. Time Violations  
time violations on court during a match shall be subject to a warning on the first offence and a point penalty (if receiving) on the second and subsequent offences. Players cannot 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) second, and unreasonable delay offence shall be issued
- l. 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



may be defaulted from the match by the Referee

m. Withdrawing from a match

players withdrawing from a scheduled match (as outlined in 4g.), which was advertised by the tournament as being compulsory

9. Defaults and Disciplinary Committees

a. 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 Punctuality, Dress and Equipment, loss of physical condition or injury provisions set out in this Code.

A Chair Umpire may not declare a default without consultation with the Referee

b. 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 NZ in the case of National events). Disciplinary committees may penalize 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

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### Appendix 1 – Suspension Points table, notification of CV, appeal

#### ***Suspension Points table***

Players who are penalized under the Code of Conduct at a tournament on the Tennis NZ calendar will be subject to the following suspension points system:

<b><i>Breach of Code</i></b>	<b><i>Suspension points</i></b>
First Offence (Warning) VA, PhA, UnC are automatic 1 suspension point. Other codes at discretion of Referee	0-1
Second Offence (Loss of point)	3
Third Offence (Loss of game)	3
Fourth Offence (Default from match by the Referee)	10
Withdrawal from a tournament other than as described in 4. g.	4
Default due to late arrival or no show for a scheduled match	5
Any official warning given to parents, coaches or support persons for communicating with any player on court during a match (points given to player)	3

#### ***Accumulation of Points***

Suspension points will be accumulated over a 12-month period and removed twelve (12) months after they are imposed.

Penalties for players with the total number of suspension points will receive the following:

- a. Every 4 points – a Grade Win penalty
- b. Every 12 points\* – a three (3) month suspension from all events on the Tennis NZ Tournament calendar
- c. 16 points – non- inclusion in the upcoming Tennis NZ Representative events/teams, including National Junior Teams Event, selection for Tennis NZ Teams including ITF World Junior Teams, Junior Davis/Fed Cup, WTA Future Stars, Junior Masters Finals and Australian events

\* every 12 points collected within a 12-month period will result in an additional (3) month suspension, and subject to further suspension as determined by Tennis NZ Disciplinary Committee

### ***Notification of Code Violation***

- a. On-court – Referee/Court Supervisor  
If a player commits an offence, the Referee or Court Supervisor will approach the player as soon as practical and notify the player of the Code Violation. If an intervening point or points have been played this will not deem the code to be undeliverable
- b. Report  
The Referee or Court Supervisor shall complete a Code Violation Report to Tennis NZ, for each offence received by a player
- c. Notification of Suspension Points  
Tennis NZ will notify players of their current accumulation of suspension points, and any applicable penalties

### ***Appeals***

Any player issued with a Code Violation for an on-site offence may appeal to Tennis NZ. The Notice of Appeal shall be filed in writing within five (5) 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 desired to submit.

Upon receipt of such an Appeal, Tennis NZ shall conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident. Notwithstanding the decision of the Referee at the tournament shall be final. Grounds for Appeal will rest only with the reversal of Suspension points and/or penalties imposed by the Disciplinary Committee

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### Appendix 2 – Changes to playing conditions under heat rules

*These rules are only to apply to junior matches under the TNZ Code.*

Should the conditions of play breach the following temperature and humidity ratings then the Referee in conjunction with the Tournament Director should implement the changes to playing conditions as listed below, measured by mobile phone weather app or barometric weather station onsite. (Refer to the heat index table below for referencing ambient temperature)

Player ambient temperature at the Tennis Centre as indicated in the table below:

Temp	Level A		Level B		Level C	
	Humidity	Temp	Humidity	Temp	Humidity	Temp
26	70%	28				
27	50%	28	85%	32		
<b>28 °C</b>	40%	28	70%	32	100%	35
30			60%	32	70%	35
<b>32 °C</b>			40%	32	50%	35
33			30%	32	40%	35
34			15%	32	30%	35
<b>35 °C</b>					20%	35
36					10%	35

TEMP	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
<b>LEVEL A</b>	10min Break	All matches in progress or about to start are allowed to have a 10 minute break after the second set. Players are allowed to leave court and go to the changing room, they are allowed to shower, change their attire, go to the toilet, and fill drink bottles. A player can request medical treatment during this break but are not to exceed the allocated 3 minute medical time out and must return to court on time. Players are not able to receive coaching during the heat break. This break can only be taken in the presence of an official, players returning late from this break are subject to back to back time violations. If one player requests this break then it must be taken.
<b>LEVEL B</b>	Delay Matches	All matches on court continue but no new matches should be sent to court. Extra Medical Time out for heat related conditions can be authorised even if a player has previously been treated for heat related conditions. Court Supervisors to watch for signs of heat stress
<b>LEVEL C</b>	Suspend matches	All matches on unshaded courts shall be suspended at a natural break in play and should happen at an even number of games or Set break. This break is classified as a suspension of play and players are allowed to access Locker rooms and receive coaching. Play should not resume until the temperature goes below Level A.