

GDTA: Conduct of Junior Matches

To be read in conjunction with the GDTA Match Administration Rules. This document is aligned with Tennis Australia's Code of Conduct.

Team Supervisor Responsibilities

The Team Supervisor is the club designated person in charge of players, score sheets and order of play for that team.

- On arrival at the match venue, opposing Team Supervisors are required to introduce themselves to each other.
- Team Supervisors are required to understand all the match rules and procedures herein and the GDTA Rules.
- Team Supervisors are to sit outside of the court enclosure during matches.
- In the event that players have an issue they cannot resolve between themselves, the Team Supervisors (of both teams) may be required to enter the court enclosure to help in the process of resolving the matter.
- Where very young and inexperienced players need lots of direction, let common sense prevail to allow mutually agreed, on- court support by a parent.

Venue Supervisor Responsibilities

The Venue Supervisor is a club designated person who wears a highly visible vest or identifiable clothing; directs teams to allocated courts and is the on-site authority for any incidents or disputes.

- Endeavour to meet all Team Supervisors prior to commencement of matches
- In the event an incident escalates and cannot be resolved by players and Team Supervisors, the Venue Supervisor will be the final on site authority.

Role of an Adjudicator

In the event that players are either continually disagreeing on line calls or in the event that one player feels aggrieved about their opponents line calls, a Court Adjudicator, a person mutually agreed to by both Team Supervisors, can be asked to the court. The role of an Adjudicator is-

- Stand at the net and keep track of the score.
- Players will continue to call all lines and call the score; however, the Adjudicator will intervene in the case that a clear error has been made (refer to 1. In Rules for non-umpired matches below).

Expectations of parents (when not acting as a Team Supervisor)

- Not to enter the court enclosure at any time
- Do not get involved in resolving scoring issues (e.g. no calling out disagreeing with calls)
- No coaching of players – no use of hand signals or verbal instructions.

- Respect, support and cooperate with supervisor decisions and not to use bad language, abuse or harass players, parents or other spectators.
- Applaud, cheer or otherwise support play after the point is complete and lead by example in applauding both your team's and opposition team's performances.
- Observe and apply the tennis code of conduct to any comment or interaction with various forms of social media.

Rules for non-umpired matches

All players should be aware of the following basic principles when playing a match without a Chair Umpire:-

1. Each player is responsible for all calls on his/her side of the net.
However it should be noted that an on-court Adjudicator is permitted to reverse an incorrect line call. On the first occasion where this occurs the point will be replayed (regardless of whether it was point winning shot or not) and for subsequent incorrect calls the player loses the point.
2. If in the opinion of the Adjudicator an incorrect line call is a deliberate action, the offending player will automatically lose the point.
3. All 'out' or 'fault' calls should be made promptly after the ball has bounced and loudly enough for the opponent to hear.
4. If in doubt, the player must give the benefit of the doubt to his/her opponent. If a player incorrectly calls a ball 'out' and then realises that the ball was good, the point should be replayed, unless it was a point winning shot or unless that player made an incorrect 'out' call earlier in the match. In these circumstances, the player who called 'out' loses the point.
5. A service 'Let' may be called by either player/team.
6. Foot faults may only be called by an official standing on court or by a chair umpire. The receiver may not call a foot fault against the server. Players may be requested to correct their foot faulting problem by an on-court Adjudicator, who will require the player to make an effort during the match to rectify the problem.
7. The receiver must play to the reasonable pace of the server.
8. The server should call the score before each 1st serve, loudly enough for his/her opponent to hear. Likewise with the game score before starting a game.
9. If players cannot agree on the score, they should calmly discuss the points/games that are disputed. All points or games which the players agree on stand and only those in dispute should be replayed i.e. two players cannot agree on whether the score is 40-30 or 30-40 and disagree only on who won the first point in the game. The game shall continue from 30-30, since both players agree that they have won

two points each. When the game score is in dispute the same principles applies i.e. two players cannot agree on 4-3 or 3-4, and disagree only on who won the second game. The match shall continue from 3-3, since both players agree that they won three games each. The player who received in the last game that was played will serve in the next game.

10. When a player has created an involuntary hindrance (ball falling out of pocket, hat falling off, etc), the first time a 'let' should be called and any similar hindrance thereafter will be ruled deliberate.
11. Any hindrance caused by a player that is ruled deliberate by the relevant official will result in the loss of a point.
12. Where a ball interrupts play, either by rolling/bouncing onto the court, and/or creating a visible interruption behind the court a let should be played. Either player can call a let in these circumstances provided they do so in a timely manner. Where this is between a 1st and 2nd serve, a second serve only should be played.
13. In a situation where a ball is lying on the court at the commencement of the point it will be deemed to be part of the court during the rally. Movement of this ball during the rally does not constitute hindrance. Players are entitled to request the opponent to remove the ball from the court prior to the commencement of the point.
14. If a player needs to leave the court during the match for a toilet break they must inform their opponent. Toilet breaks should preferably be taken at change of ends.
15. If at the completion of a match, the players involved realise that the scoring format used is incorrect, the match result shall stand provided all players have left the court enclosure. If the mistake is realised before the players have left the enclosure, the correct scoring format should be used to finalise the match. If this is not possible (i.e. the match has progressed beyond the point where the correct scoring format can be implemented), then the score based on the incorrect format stands. (Refer to correcting errors in the Rules of Tennis)
16. If a player is unhappy with his/her opponent's actions or decisions, he/she should call the Team Supervisors to court. This may include any disputes regarding Lets, Foul Shots or Not Up situations where players cannot reach agreement.

Player Etiquette

1. When ball persons are not available, all balls on your side of the net are your responsibility, to pick up and, where appropriate, return directly and respectfully to the server.
2. The receiver should not return the first service if it is an obvious fault – let it go by or ground it.
3. Do not enlist the aid of spectators, including parents, coaches in making line calls, or attempting to determine the score or other on-court matters.
4. To avoid controversy over the score, the server should call the game score before starting a game and the point score prior to serving for each point.
5. Wait until a point is over before walking behind a court where a match is in progress.
6. To retrieve a ball from another court or to return a ball to another court, wait until the players have completed a point.
7. Do not stall, sulk, complain or be unfair.
8. Screaming regularly and loudly, whether in relation to winning and/or losing a point is likely to cause interference to the opponent or play on nearby courts and can be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.
9. Overt celebration directed at an opponent may be considered intimidation, and therefore unsportsmanlike conduct.
10. In doubles, when returning service, the partner of the receiver should generally call the service line for him/her. The receiver should generally call the centre and side service lines. The call needs to be loud enough to stop their opponents/partner playing.

Team supervisors should speak to players who exhibit continued unsportsmanlike behaviour and remind them, at a change of ends, of what is appropriate behaviour.

In no way, does the GDTA condone spectator behaviour that is not mindful and positively supportive of players from either team.

Continued contraventions of conduct by either players or spectators will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance to Section 14 of Match Administration Rules (Junior Competitions section).