



THE BAHAMAS LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION



PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT ("The Code")

1. Players are encouraged to participate in all BLTA sanctioned Tournaments, in particular the BLTA Jr. and Open Nationals
2. If Players want to represent the country they need to participate 4 sanctioned tournaments including the Nationals (Junior and Open Nationals)
3. Players also are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the ITF Welfare Policy (ITF.com) which will assist them with recognizing inappropriate behavior on the part of parents, coaches and officials.
4. **While in Competition, players are expected to maintain full control over their emotions both on and off the court. Rude and aggressive behavior like Fighting, Yelling, swearing, throwing balls and racquets and other similar behavior is absolutely unacceptable and will not be tolerated towards BLTA's officials, International officials or ANY person. Players should not stall, sulk, complain or try to intimidate an opponent before, during or after a match. In addition, players who are spectators and supporting other players must do so in a sportsmanlike manner. There should be no jeering, offensive calling, or overt clapping when players make mistakes, so as to intentionally intimidate the other player. Players exhibiting such behavior on the court will be cautioned once; if a second unacceptable event occurs, the player will receive a point penalty; a third unacceptable offense will result in the player receiving a game penalty. Players exhibiting this behavior off the court will have Sanctions for Breach of the Code of Conduct placed on them. This type of behavior will result in the player being defaulted from the Tournament and or sent home and formally reported by the BLTA to its disciplinary committee for further investigation and action.**
5. When players start to compete, they should show up for matches on time and be prepared to play at the scheduled time. Players will be defaulted 15 minutes after their match is called, if they are not present.
6. Once players have entered a tournament, players should honor their commitment to play. Defaults should occur only in cases of illness, injury or personal emergency. Players who default a match, for any other reason, will not be allowed to continue play in another age group or in doubles of the tournament and will only receive ranking points for the matches played. Players must ensure that all Tournament and Membership Fees are paid before the start of their first match.
7. Players must ensure that they have proper tennis attire and tennis shoes should be worn to all matches. The BLTA reserves the right to request a player to change if they feel the player is dressed inappropriately.
8. Players will have a five minute warm up time. This warm-up time is designed to prepare players for their match; balls should be fed appropriately to ensure opponents receive the maximum benefit of the warm up. It is inappropriate to go for winners during the warm up.
9. During the match, the server should announce the set score before starting each game and the game score before serving each point, clearly enough so that the opponent can hear it. The non serving player may ask the server to call out the score if the server fails to do so and the serving player should respond appropriately.
10. If the players cannot agree on the score, they should attempt to count the points played to reach agreement on the score. If agreement still cannot be reached, they should go back to the last score on which there is agreement and resume play from that point.
11. Players must call their own lines and do so in a fair and consistent manner. Balls that touch any part of the line are considered 'in' and must be played as such. If a player is in doubt about the call, the ball must be called 'in'. It is important to call any 'out' balls quickly and loudly so that your opponent knows you have called it out.
12. Players may request an umpire if they feel they have received consistently unfair line calls. Parents cannot request this on the players' behalf; it must come from the players. A player shall not enlist the aid of a spectator in making a call and shall also politely refuse any offer by a spectator to make calls.
13. Players may, with the permission of tournament officials, only leave the court after the completion of a set for bathroom breaks etc. (Exceptions may be made for emergency situations only). Players may not receive advice/coaching from parents, coaches or other players during the match or during approved breaks. Players leaving the court before the set is completed will be cautioned once; if a second abuse occurs the offending player will receive a point penalty; and any further abuse will result in the offending player receiving a game penalty and being formally reported by the BLTA to its disciplinary committee for further investigation and action.
14. Players should shake hands properly after a match. If applicable, players should thank the officials and shake hands with the officials. Game balls and match score should be given to Tournament official by the winning player.
15. Players should always represent themselves and the Country in a exemplary manner as an ambassador of their country