



# CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Revised July 2023

## **CONTENTS**

### **Part I – Application of the Policy**

1. Definitions
2. Purpose
3. General Principles
4. Application
5. Mutual Recognition

### **Part II – Administration and Procedure**

6. Interpretation and On-Site Administration
7. Disciplinary Process
8. Administration and Notification
9. Disciplinary Committees
10. Appeals
11. Penalties

### **Appendix List**

Appendix 1 – Match and Tournament Violations

Appendix 2 – Dress Code

# PART I

# APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Code of Behaviour provide the framework for dealing with event related breaches of discipline by players, coaches, parents/guardians and spectators who participate in or attend sanctioned events and team events in New Zealand.

## 2. Definitions

Event means a sanctioned tournament or weekly competition.

**"NZTE"** means New Zealand Tennis Entities and comprises TNZ, all Tennis Regions, all Tennis Associations, all Affiliates (each as defined in the Constitution of TNZ) and all member clubs, affiliates and sub-associations of each such Tennis Region, Tennis Association and Affiliate.

**"Official"** means an ITF Supervisor, Referee, Court Supervisor, Chair Umpire or Line Umpire.

**"Precinct"** means the event venue (e.g. courts and clubhouse) including its immediate surrounds (e.g. venue car park).

**"Region"** means the governing body for tennis in each area of New Zealand as defined in the Constitution of TNZ.

**"Tennis Association"** means a tennis association which is a member of, or is affiliated to, a Region.

**"Tennis New Zealand" or "TNZ"** means Tennis New Zealand Incorporated (215373).

**"Team Event"** means a team orientated tournament. Unless otherwise stated, teams represent Regions or areas of New Zealand. In some instances, other Tennis Federations are invited and therefore will also be represented.

**"Tournament"** means a sanctioned championship, tournament, team event or challenge match.

**"Weekly Competition"** means an organised competition which occurs over a series of weeks on a regular basis.

## 3. General Principles

- 3.1. The purpose of the Code of Behaviour is to ensure the game of tennis is played according to uniform rules and to a high standard. Players are entitled to respect from opponents and the protection from irresponsible behaviour from every person involved within the sport.

- 3.2. The Code of Behaviour is based on the principle that the best tennis is a product of concentration, discipline and enjoyment.
- 3.3. The Code of Behaviour is in addition to the Tennis Participant Protection Policy (TPPP). If anything in the Code of Behaviour is inconsistent with the TPPP, the applicable TPPP criteria take precedence.

## 4. Application

- 4.1. The Code of Behaviour applies to violations occurring during events in New Zealand or at officially sanctioned activities related to these events. This includes any ATP, WTA and ITF events held in New Zealand.

Note: ATP, WTA and ITF events have a specific Code of Conduct also.

- 4.2. Incidents of harassment, discrimination, physical or verbal abuse, and vilification as defined by the TPPP may be handled in accordance with the TPPP and not this Code of Behaviour.
- 4.3. In the case of ATP, WTA and ITF tournaments specifically where a New Zealand player commits a serious offence, including those processed as aggravated behaviour in the ITF Code of Conduct, Tennis New Zealand (TNZ) may elect to deal with this behaviour under this policy at the same time or subsequent to any ITF process. This matter may be referred directly to a relevant TNZ Tribunal for determination related to New Zealand domestic events. It also applies to instances of unacceptable behaviour (as deemed by TNZ) that may occur off-precinct during a tournament, which will be dealt with as per the TPPP.
- 4.4. Players and their coaches, parents/guardians and spectators are considered subject to the Code of Behaviour from midnight (12.01am) of the first day of the event, until midnight (11.59pm) of the last day of the event.

Note: elimination from or completion of an event does not release Players and their coaches, parents/guardians and spectators from the Code of Behaviour

## 5. Mutual Recognition

- 5.1. Any penalty imposed upon a player under this Code of Behaviour will be recognised and respected by all NZTEs. A player is not permitted to play any events during the time of any suspension imposed under this Code of Behaviour.
- 5.2. Other National Associations (including Tennis Australia) may be notified of any applicable penalty which may impact a player's ability to compete at events sanctioned by those National Associations.

## **PART II**

# **ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE**

## 6. Interpretation and On-Site Administration

6.1. All accredited Officials appointed by the tournament are empowered with the authority to interpret and determine match offences documented within these regulations and take appropriate action.

6.2. The Referee may declare a default for a single flagrant violation of this Code of Behaviour or continuous violations after the first offence.

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

6.3. The Referee is the final on-site authority regarding the interpretation of match and tournament offences within the Code of Behaviour.

Note: the ITF Supervisor is the final on-site authority for ATP/WTA/ITF events

## 7. Disciplinary Process

7.1. Players who breach the Code of Behaviour (detailed in Appendix 1) at an event will be subject to the following suspension points system:

Table 1: Match offence

Match Offence	Immediate penalty (During match)	Suspension points (Attracted post-match)
Verbal Warning	Verbal Warning	0
First Offence	Warning Code Violation	1
Second Offence	Point penalty	1
Third Offence	Game penalty	1
Fourth Offence	Game penalty* (See 7.5)	1

7.2. The Referee, after consultation with an Official, considering all the facts, may determine that a significant violation warrants an immediate match default without progressing through the above stages. In addition, after consultation with the Tournament Director it may be determined that the violation also warrants suspension from the remainder of the tournament.

7.3. Where any point penalty is applied in accordance with these regulations the player shall be notified immediately where a Chair Umpire is present or applied within the specific game by the relevant Official in the case of non-Chair Umpired matches.

7.4. If the point penalty cannot be issued during the specific game, a code violation second offence will still be issued.

7.5. The Referee must determine any default situation.

7.6. Any penalty awarded during a Doubles match shall be imposed against the team.

Note: suspension points will apply only to the offending player

- 7.7. For on-site violations reported by any Official, the Referee, after consultation with an Official, considering all the facts, will determine the relevant penalty which may include default from the remainder of the tournament.

## 8. Withdrawal Process

- 8.1. The Withdrawal Deadline for all New Zealand Junior Events: 11:59pm (local time), seven (7) days prior to the first day of the event.
- 8.2. All withdrawals must be submitted through the player's account in which they entered the event or in writing (via email). Events need not issue a refund if the withdrawal procedure is not followed. Withdrawals via SMS will NOT be accepted.
- 8.3. For processes regarding entry fee refunds, please refer to the TNZ Junior Event Regulations
- 8.4. Before the withdrawal deadline:  
No penalty, withdrawal done through player account or in writing (via email)
- 8.5. After the withdrawal deadline not before publication of the draw:  
Any withdrawal from a player accepted into the main draw or qualifying that occurs after the withdrawal deadline but before the publication of the draw shall be considered a late withdrawal and will be issued with a Late Withdrawal (Before the Draw) violation that will account towards one (1) accumulated withdrawal point, provided the withdrawal is received by the Event Director prior to the publication of the draw
- 8.6. After publication of the draw:  
Any withdrawal from a player after the publication of the draw shall be considered either a:
- Late withdrawal (After the Draw) violation, or
  - Failure to complete a Match or Event violation.
- 8.7. Medical Withdrawals:
- 8.7.1 Withdrawals due to medical illness or injury will still be submitted to the players accumulated withdrawal total.
- 8.7.2 A withdrawal is deemed excused when an event appointed Doctor/Sports Physiotherapist assesses the player onsite and verifies with the Tournament Director and referee that player is unfit to compete in the event.
- 8.7.3 If there is no appointed Doctor/Sports Physiotherapist and the Referee/Tournament Director is satisfied with the validity of the injury / illness onsite, then the withdrawal should also be excused.
- 8.7.4 If there is no appointed Doctor/Sports Physiotherapist and the player can provide medical certificate – written by a medical professional to the



tournament director/referee within 7-days of the injury occurring, then the withdrawal should also be excused.

#### 8.8 No Shows:

- 8.8.1 A No Show applies when no valid withdrawal is received before the match is called to the court. A player who does not appear for a scheduled match will be defaulted from that match.
- 8.8.2 Any player not ready to play within fifteen (15) minutes after his/her match is called shall be defaulted unless the Referee/Tournament Director in their sole discretion, after consideration of all relevant circumstances, elects not to declare a default.
- 8.8.3 For doubles it is essential to accurately record the actual player that does not appear, as the innocent partner will not receive any penalty points. Also, it is necessary to complete this within the code violation function within Tournament Planner.
- 8.8.4 The player must make contact with the Event Director or Referee/Venue Supervisors within one (1) hour of the scheduled match time on the day of the "no- show" in order to be permitted to play other draws. The player who makes contact within one (1) hour of the no show will be permitted to play both match play and singles/doubles in the event. All other players who committed no show offences must be taken out of all singles and doubles events, including match play.

#### 8.9 Accumulated Withdrawals

- 8.9.1 Any withdrawals or no shows will be reported directly to Tennis New Zealand by the Referee/Tournament director.
- 8.9.2 Once a player reaches 5 x accumulated withdrawals, they will receive a warning. On the 6<sup>th</sup> accumulated withdrawal from one player will count towards 2 suspension points.
- 8.9.3 Once a player has reached 6 x accumulated withdrawals, every 2 withdrawals after that point will count towards 1 x suspension point.
- 8.9.4 Where the correct withdrawal procedure is followed (found in the Tournament Regulations), this offence will not carry any suspension points.

Table 2: Accumulated Withdrawal Tournament Offences

Match Offence	Accumulated Withdrawal Points
Withdrawal from a tournament after withdrawal deadline	0
Withdrawal from a tournament after draws are published	1
Withdrawal during an event.	1
Default due to late arrival or no show for a scheduled match	1

## Administration and Notification

- a. On-Court – by an Official  
If a player commits an offence, an Official 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. Off-Court – by an Official  
If a player commits an offence, an Official will approach the player as soon as practical and notify the player of the Code Violation.
- c. Off-Site – by the Referee  
If a player commits an offence off-site, the Referee will report the breach to the Tournament Director, who will contact the player and notify the player of the Code Violation.
- d. Report  
The Official shall complete a Code Violation Report for TNZ, for each offence received by a player.
- e. Notification of Suspension Points  
TNZ will notify players of their current accumulation of suspension points, and any applicable penalties.
- f. Notification of Suspended Players  
TNZ will notify the following parties of any Suspended Players:
  - Suspended Player – via email to the last known address provided by the player to an event or the national membership database
  - TNZ High Performance Manager
  - TNZ High Performance Manager and Tournament Group representative of the Region the player resides
  - New Zealand Tennis Umpires Administrator
  - Event organiser of any events scheduled to commence within the suspension period
  - Any National Associations Tournament Representative deemed suitable by TNZ

## 10 Disciplinary Committees

- g. Any player that breaches the Code of Behaviour may be subject to further penalty as decided by a Disciplinary Committee appointed by TNZ.
- h. Disciplinary Committees may penalise players for gross breaches of the Code of Behaviour regardless of whether or not a formal Code Violation was issued in respect of that breach.

## 11 Appeals

- i. Any player issued with a Code Violation for an on-site offence may appeal to TNZ. The Notice of Appeal shall be filed in writing within five (5) days of being notified of the Code Violation.
- j. Any player issued with suspension points through accumulated withdrawals may appeal to TNZ. The Notice of Appeal shall be filed in writing within five (5) days of being notified of the Code Violation.
- k. For the purpose of clarity, the decision of the Referee at the event shall be final.
- l. Grounds for Appeal will rest only with the reversal of Suspension Points and/or penalties imposed by the Disciplinary Committee.
- m. 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.
- n. Upon receipt of such an Appeal, TNZ shall conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident.

## 12. Penalties

- o. Suspension points will be accumulated over a 12-month period and removed twelve (12) months after they are imposed.
- p. Players with the total number of Suspension Points will receive the following penalties:
  - i. Every six (6) points – a one (1) month suspension penalty from all events  
The dates of the suspension will be determined by TNZ and advised to the relevant player prior to the suspension commencing.
  - ii. Every twelve (12) points – a three (3) month suspension from all events  
The dates of the suspension will be determined by TNZ and advised to the relevant player prior to the suspension commencing.

Note: If an additional six (6), or twelve (12) points is collected, an additional one (1), or three (3) month suspension will be imposed, and the player will be subject to further suspension as determined by the TNZ Disciplinary Committee.

- iii. Balance of 16 points at any time – non-inclusion in any and all of the upcoming Tennis NZ Representative events/teams including but not limited to:
  - ITF Davis or Fed Cup

- ITF World Junior Teams Event
- Junior Davis/Fed Cup
- National Junior Teams Event
- WTA Future Stars
- Junior Masters Finals
- Any Australian events with a New Zealand selected team

Note: non-inclusion will commence for twelve (12) months from notification of Suspension Points balance.

### Match and Tournament Violations

#### 1. Application

- 1.1. This document applies to all events in New Zealand and should be utilised in conjunction with the discipline regulations contained in the Code of Behaviour.
- 1.2. The definitions that appear in the Code of Behaviour apply equally to this document

#### 2. Interpretation and On-Site Administration

- 2.1. All accredited officials appointed by the tournament are empowered with the authority to interpret and determine match offences documented within these regulations and take appropriate action.
- 2.2. The Referee may declare a default for a single flagrant violation of this Code of Behaviour or continuous violations after the first offence.

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

- 2.3. The Referee is the final on-site authority regarding the interpretation of match and tournament offences within the Code of Behaviour.

#### 3. On-Court Behaviour

- 3.1. Physical abuse  
unauthorized touching with intent of an official, opponent, spectator or other person.
- 3.2. Verbal abuse  
a statement directed at an official, opponent, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.
- 3.3. Audible obscenity  
the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane or offensive and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the chair umpire, spectators, lines persons or ball persons.
- 3.4. 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 impact to a reasonable person.

- 3.5. **Ball abuse**  
intentionally hitting a ball out of the court enclosure or hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of consequences.
- 3.6. **Racket and equipment abuse**  
players shall not violently, with anger or frustration, 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 in act of anger.
- 3.7. **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 other violation categories.
- 3.8. **Conduct unbecoming**  
a player who behaves in a manner considered to be detrimental to the best interests of the event and the sport.
- 3.9. **Line calling**  
if in the opinion of an Official an incorrect line call is a deliberately blatant action, the player will automatically lose the point and may receive a Code Violation.
- 3.10. **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.
- 3.11. **Unreasonable delay**  
play shall be continuous, and a player shall not unreasonably delay the match for any cause. The receiver shall play to the reasonable pace of the server.
- 3.12. **Time violations**
- |               |   |                          |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|
| Warm-up       | = | 5 minutes                |
| Changing ends | = | 1 ½ minutes (90 seconds) |
| End of set    | = | 2 minutes                |
- if a player receives a time violation and is still not ready to play within the allotted time, an Unreasonable Delay offence shall be issued.

Note: time violations on court during a match shall be subject to a warning on the first offence and a point penalty on the second and subsequent offences. Players cannot receive two-time violations 'back to back'.

3.13. Best efforts

a player shall always use best efforts when playing a match. The Referee will be the sole judge of penalties for not putting forth best efforts.

3.14. Leaving the court

a player may not leave the court area during a match without the permission of an Official. A player who violates this may be defaulted from the match by the Referee.

## 4. Off-Court Behaviour – Players

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.

4.1. Abuse of Officials

comments that attack, disparage, or criticise tournament organisers, Officials, staff or NZTEs.

4.2. Conduct unbecoming

a player who behaves in a manner considered to be detrimental to the best interests of the event and the sport.

4.3. Physical, verbal, racket and equipment abuse  
as determined by 3. On-Court Behaviour.

4.4. 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 or NZTEs.

## 5. Off-Court Behaviour – Spectators

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.

5.1. Violations by the players, a player's coach, parent/guardian 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.

5.2. Where a match is disrupted or interfered with by the action/s of a spectator who is part of a player's support group (i.e. parent/guardian, family member, coach, friend) the Official may at first instance attempt to address and eliminate the relevant offences or behaviour with the offending person and/or applicable player.

This discussion may include a warning to the player and the interfering spectator that any further interference by the spectator may result in:

- The match being suspended until the Official determines that the issue is resolved, and that play can continue without further disruption or interference;
- A Code Violation being issued in accordance with the standard Code Violation process

5.3. An Official may choose to suspend the match until the relevant disruption or interference, or the situation giving rise to that disruption or interference has improved or dissipated sufficiently so as to allow for the match to continue without disruption or interference

5.4. Disruption/interference is defined as including the following:

- Intimidation threatening or abuse of opponents
- Disrespectful or inappropriate comments or gestures directed towards players, Officials, Tournament Staff, coaches, other parents/guardians or other persons on-site
- Providing inappropriate instructions or comments to a player including both the spectator's own player or the opponent
- Any other inappropriate or unsportsmanlike conduct of any type as determined by the Official



### Dress Code

#### 1. All events

- 1.1. All players shall dress and present themselves in an appropriate manner for tennis. Customarily acceptable tennis attire shall be worn for matches including the warm-up.
- 1.2. Regional and local tennis centres are encouraged to allow all tennis attire for events, particularly at junior level, except where it is deemed unacceptable under (Dress Code 1.3).
- 1.3. Unacceptable clothing includes:  
Beach or rugby shorts, sweatshirts, skivvies or t-shirts, 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.
- 1.4. Footwear  
Shoes must have a sole designed for tennis and be of a type permitted on the court surface being used.
- 1.5. Racquet  
No inappropriate signage on racquet or strings
- 1.6. The Referee may deem any piece of attire inappropriate.

#### 2. National events

National events include New Zealand Championships, New Zealand Junior Championships, National Junior Teams Events and other TNZ run events.

In addition to 1. All events, the following commercial identification restrictions apply:

- 2.1. Shirt, shorts, skirts and dresses\*
  - Manufacturer's standard logo – Two (2) logos, must not exceed four (4) square inches (26 sq. cm)
  - Sponsors/Commercial logo – Two (2) logos, must not exceed three (3) square inches (19.5 sq.cm)

\* a dress shall be treated as a combination of a shirt and a skirt, dividing the dress at the waist

- 2.2. Socks/shoes, hats/caps/headbands and wristbands  
Standard logos of the manufacturer only, must not exceed two (2) square inches (13 sq.cm).
- 2.3. Racquet  
No inappropriate signage on racquet or strings
- 2.4. 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 if worn during a match.
- 2.5. Clothing bearing the name of a particular National or Regional tennis event / team event may only be worn during that specific event. Teams event uniforms are not to be worn at any National events.