

Code of Conduct, Etiquette For SVLTC 2024-25

We are a fun, friendly and inclusive club. We aim to keep it that way, so please help us by agreeing to the following rules and code of conduct:

General behaviour

1. Respect for our members

Be respectful and show courtesy towards all other members of the club whoever they are, irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or playing ability. Be sensitive to the feelings of others and seek not to cause offence.

Hate speech and racist comments in person, on social media or on the club's whatsapp groups are not acceptable..

Gossiping in its varying forms is bullying and is not permitted at our club.

Be aware Social Media (including club WhatsApp groups) can be seen by many people, both members and non-members. Do not use it to bring the club into disrepute, any complaints should be sent to the appropriate person internally. Any offensive, racist, negative or unkind posts or anything involving gossip or using judgemental labels (i.e. hate speech), will be removed without notice.

The writer may be removed from all of the club's Social Media platforms including all club WhatsApp groups. This will be decided by the committee taking into account the current rules of whatsapp and the club whatsapp policy. The committee's decision is final.

2. Respect for our staff and volunteers

Be respectful to all those who work on the club's behalf. The club can only function through people volunteering their time and energy, so your cooperation and support is very welcome. The management committee is responsible for making the decisions for the club for the long term benefit of the club.

3. Respect for our neighbours

Be mindful that the club is in a residential area and show courtesy to our neighbours.

If you need to park in Sanderstead Court Avenue, please do so considerately without blocking driveway access.

Please try to keep noise levels down and avoid making excessive noise.

If you hit a ball over the fence, be sensitive to the possibility that someone or something may have been on or near the flightpath of the ball. Please react

courteously to neighbours if this happens.

4. Respect for our premises and facilities

Treat the premises and facilities as if they were your own. Many members give up their time to clean the clubhouse and cut the grass which is appreciated. Leave the courts, clubhouse and grounds as you would expect to find them. Clear away any litter; wash up and tidy away any cups etc.; put away chairs and tables, etc.; and clear up any mess you make.

The floodlights must be switched off by 10pm Mondays-Saturdays, and by 9.30pm on Sundays.

If you are the last to leave, please make sure the floodlights, clubhouse lights and radiator are switched off and the door is fully locked.

Radiator management: please be mindful of the cost of running the radiator to the club, do not put it on before club sessions start, as people will be playing tennis when they arrive. Check it is turned off when you leave, the cost of it being left on can involve a few days of electricity being used. Please ensure there are no obstacles, chairs etc in front of the radiator and do not sit in front of it or act in a way that prevents the heat flowing around the clubhouse and reaching other members.

Check that the gates to the courts are closed and locked. If you are a keyholder and others are still at the club when you leave, ensure that one of them has a key and can lock up, otherwise this is your responsibility.

Use of New Tennis Balls For Club Play.

New tennis balls are supplied by the club for club play, we also keep balls that are in good condition on the "ball table." Members must check the suitability of these balls for play by observation and by bouncing them and must use them if they are suitable for club play before opening a brand new tin.

The club is a family, friendly community club, with the addition of two hiring toddler play groups which help the club both financially and with raising awareness of the club's existence. Members are requested to accept that sometimes the grounds and clubhouse will show signs of such family-friendly activities.

On court

1. Appropriate footwear and dress must be worn. Players should wear non-marking shoes, with good grip and of enough quality to play safely.

2. Do not assume that others will provide tennis balls. Players who are not full club members should bring balls to play with them. We recycle old tennis balls past their playable life and there are used balls in the hopper members can use for private play and practice.

3. Be aware of play on other courts. Avoid going onto another court in use. Wait for a suitable break in play before going behind another court, using the court gates or retrieving stray balls.

4. Play fairly, resolve close line calls amicably, offer encouragement rather than criticism to other players. If there is any doubt, always call the opponent's ball in.

5. Avoid shouting, swearing and blaspheming and do not direct foul or offensive language towards another player, for any reason. Do not hit a ball aggressively outside of a point in play, and do not take frustration out aggressively on a racquet, net, fence, wall, ball, or any other equipment.

6. If someone is hit by a ball, slips or suffers any kind of injury, pause to check that they are OK, offering an apology if necessary.

7. First aid kits are available on the premises and in the event of a serious accident, call 999. There is an Accident Book in the first aid box on the book shelf in the clubhouse, which should be completed following an accident. Play is at your own risk and the club does not assume any liability for accidents or injury.

8. If you are knowingly unwell, please do not come to the club to play or to sit in the clubhouse.

General Rules

1. Court booking: All sessions of play must be booked through our booking systems no more than 8 days in advance. Club sessions, organised coaching, matches and tournaments have priority over private bookings.

2. Visitors may attend if playing with a full member up to three times in a membership year. The guest fee should be paid at the time of playing.

3. The club management may from time to time close the courts and other facilities for maintenance and will seek to give fair warning in advance.

4. The club may otherwise at short notice introduce or adjust rules to comply with regulatory and legislative requirements, improve health and safety, or any other measures necessary for the wellbeing of the club and its members.

Breach of the Code of Conduct and Club Rules

The club will normally hope to see issues resolved informally and amicably.

If they cannot be resolved the Disciplinary Procedure will be followed.

In the event of a serious breach of the Code of Conduct, Club Rules, the Law of England or if the conduct of a member otherwise is in the opinion of the Committee of the club injurious to the character of the club, or objectionable in any respect, that member may be asked to resign their membership or otherwise be expelled.

In the event of expulsion the club offers an appeal process as stated in section 7 of the Club rules.

Effect of Resignation or Expulsion

Any person ceasing to be a member forfeits all right to and claim upon the club, its property and its funds, and they have no right to the return of any part of their subscription.