

TENNIS TIPS: COURT COURTESY

Note that the following come from USTA

Play is more fun when all people at the courts exercise courtesy toward players while they're in a match. Try not to interrupt or distract them. It is also more fun when players try to maintain a reasonable "pace of play".

1. Don't walk along the back or side of a court while a point is being played.
2. Warm-ups should be 5-10 minutes long. Warm-up is different than practice. Each player should make a special effort to hit shots directly to the opponent.
3. When you're ready, put water bottles, etc. on picnic tables and hang tennis bags or place them away from picnic table and bench.
4. Talk quietly when you're near a court that's being used.
5. Keep the game moving. Don't stall and waste time between points. If a ball goes out of your court, call "ball in court" if players occupy that court, or, if the court is empty, let the ball go until your game is over.
6. Don't distract your opponent on purpose by unnecessary movement or talking.
7. You must hit the ball on your side of the net, but you can reach over the net with your follow-through. Neither you nor your racquet can touch the net until the point is over.
8. When receiving a serve, if it is out, don't return it unless you can't avoid doing so. Just tap it gently into the net or let it go behind you.
9. Talking between partners when the ball is coming toward them is allowed. Partners should not talk when the ball is moving toward the opponent(s).
10. Service calls should be made by the receiver's partner, except side lines.
11. Spectators never make calls.

12. Adjust the visible score only when changing sides.
13. Players make calls on their own side of the net. A ball that cannot be called out is good. A ball that is called "out" by one partner and "in" by the other partner shall be considered "in".
14. Keep a positive outlook throughout the match. Remember you're playing for the fun of it.
15. Approach the net at the match's end and let your opponents know you appreciated the match and your time with them.

Contributed by Jim Kelso