

## **Tennis Etiquette and Rules**

### **What are the rules on clothing?**

- Team should dress the same. We wear black pants or shorts, a team jacket, and a red or blue team shirt. We will all wear the same team shirt (all red or all blue).
- Hats can only have NW writing. The manufacturer's logo cannot be taller than 1.5 inches.

### **What is cheating in tennis and how do you handle it?**

- Cheating is calling shots out that are actually good, serving when you know your opponent is not ready, calling the wrong score, etc.
- Always call the score out before every first serve.
- If your opponent is not calling the score or calling the wrong score, do NOT let him serve until you agree on a score.
- Make your line calls immediately.
- If you are not sure if it is in or out, you must call it in.
- In doubles, the call should be made by the person closest to the ball.
- The signal to show you are ready to start the point is eye contact.
- The only time it is legal to yell out while your opponent is trying to hit is to tell your partner to get back – example: you hit a short lob and your partner, who is standing at the net, is about to take an overhead in the chest. Violation of this is considered unsportsmanlike.
- There is a 3 step procedure if you opponent is cheating on line calls
  - Step 1: accept the call
  - Step 2: question the call
  - Step 3: request a line judge (home team assigns, not a parent)
- If you have a question about a rule, ask a coach immediately.
- If you have a disagreement about the score, you must describe each point in the match and return to the last agreed upon score.

### **What if you hit your opponent with the ball?**

- You win the point.
- Hold up your hand and say sorry.
- Do not catch balls out of the air.

### **What if you ball rolls onto another court?**

- Never walk onto another court while a point is being played or between a first and second serve. Wait for a break in action, then quickly retrieve your ball.
- Do not chase first serves.
- Always start your first serve with 2 balls so that a second serve can be attempted immediately.
- Clear stray balls from the playing surface. These will create sprained ankles. Hit them to the fence or net.
- If a ball rolls onto your court or someone runs onto your court that distracts you while you are trying to hit, then you can call a let and replay the point. You must do this while you are in control of the ball, NOT after an unforced error.

### **Who makes the call?**

- You call your opponents shots in or out.
- Anyone can call a let serve.
- Foot faults must be called by a coach or line judge (on or off the court). If you think your opponent is foot faulting, then notify a coach during crossover.
- Hitting the net with your racquet or body, crossing over the net to hit, being hit by the ball, and double bounces you must call on yourself.
- Note: the only time it is allowed to cross over the net to hit the ball is when it has landed on your side and then crosses back over the net due to spin or wind.

### **When can we talk to a coach?**

- On crossover (except the first of a set) and between sets.
- Signals or directions from a coach at any other time are illegal.

### **Can we take time outs?**

- Injury time: 5 minutes total.
- Bathroom breaks: as quickly as possible – you must ask the home coach to leave the court. Do this between sets when possible.
- Crossover should take 90 seconds.
- You get a short break between sets.
- Anything you need brought to court (water) should be retrieved on crossover. Exception: broken strings = get new racquet immediately.

### **Sportsmanship (see the back of this page)**

- No electronic devices on the court.