

Welcome to Haslemere Lawn Tennis Club

Club Rules & Court Etiquette

All members are required to abide by the Club Rules, which exist to safeguard the interests of the club and its members. We aim to make everyone feel welcome and trust this guidance will improve the playing experience for all.

Club Rules

1. Members are asked to behave in an appropriate and polite manner, use moderate language, show courtesy and consideration to other players and observe the LTA Code of Conduct.
2. Members must not bring the club into disrepute.
3. Members must not act against the best interests of the club.
4. Members may not use club facilities for commercial purposes (including coaching) without the express permission of the committee.
5. Members are encouraged to introduce new potential members to the club but must not facilitate the use of club courts and facilities by non-members.
6. Members may introduce guests to play at the Club and pay a court fee of £5 for adults and £2 for junior guests. Guests can play up to 3 times in any one year.
7. No chewing gum is allowed on court.
8. Appropriate tennis clothing should be worn on court and players are asked to wear tennis shoes with non-marking soles.
9. All members attending a Club Session or entering a Club Tournament must meet minimum standards of play. If in doubt please consult the Club Coach.
10. Juniors are allowed to attend Adult Club Sessions and Tournaments if they have been upgraded by the Club Coach.
11. Children remain the responsibility of their parents at all times.
12. Members are asked to vacate courts promptly if they have been booked by other members.
13. Please ensure the entry gate to the club compound is kept closed at all times. When using floodlights, members must ensure they are switched off before leaving club.
14. Mobiles should be turned off on court.
15. When moving between courts, please ensure all 4 player cross quickly and quietly together when play is not in progress.
16. Please keep conversations to the club house area; it is inconsiderate to keep your partner and opponents waiting and distracting for players on neighbouring courts
17. If your ball goes onto or behind a neighbouring court, do not interrupt their play by trying to retrieve the ball or calling out. Wait until they have finished playing their point and then request the return of your ball.
18. Members' belongings are brought to the courts at their own risk and should be placed on the benches at the side of the court, not the back.

19. Neither the Club nor the Committee will accept responsibility for any injuries which occur during any activity on court and members must arrange their own insurance cover if they believe it necessary.
20. The four upper courts are the property of, and are maintained by Haslemere Tennis Club. The Club accepts no responsibility or liability for the lower courts which are owned and maintained by Waverley Borough Council.
21. The Club committee reserve the right to revise and amend club rules as circumstances require.

Court Etiquette

22. When serving always ensure you have two balls; if your first serve goes out you can then take your second serve immediately without holding up the game. If you do not have pockets to hold a second ball ask your partner to hold one for you.
23. The server should check that the receiver is ready to receive the serve, especially if it is a second serve where they may have to recover their position.
24. If your first serve goes in and you are holding a second ball you should not throw it away, as it is distracting to other players. In the first instance your opponents can call a let and can claim the point for any subsequent reoccurrence.
25. A foot fault occurs when the server's foot touches the line before they have hit the ball. However, it is difficult to see and call this from the receiver position. If you believe your opponent is foot faulting, tell them when you change ends and that if it continues you will have to call it.
26. When a serve hits the net cord and then bounces into the correct serving box a let should be called and the serve retaken. Anyone can call a let. However, if the ball hits the net post and then bounces into the correct service box – this is a fault.
27. The server should call the score before each serve. If you lose track of the score, go back to the last score you can agree on and add the point you have just played.
28. If a service is taken from the wrong side of the court and is undetected, all play resulting shall stand but the server should correct their service station immediately for the next point.
29. If you are receiving serve and the serve goes out, do not return it. Put it in your pocket, roll it into the net or let it go past you. Returning it to the server slows down the game and means they have to check that the ball is out of the way before they take their second serve.
30. Players are responsible for calling a ball "in or out" on their side of the net but should not volunteer opinions on calls on the other side of the net. However if the receiver is not in a good position they should seek the opinion of their opponent who may have a better view. All calls should be made immediately after the ball has bounced.
31. The ball should be called "in" unless you can clearly see a space between the ball and the line. You should not ask to play a let because you can't make a decision. If in doubt the ball should call your opponent's ball in and uphold the spirit of the game.
32. Occasions arise where you will have to replay a point because of a hindrance on court, such as a ball rolling onto your court. You should call a "let" immediately and clearly. You can't claim a let if you have continued to play the point.
33. It is usual for the more experienced or stronger player to service first and also play on the left hand side, as they will face more points more break points. However, if one player is left handed they may well want to play on the left.

34. The position/sides of the receivers and also serving order can be changed at the start of each set.
35. If the order of receiving is inadvertently changed during a set, it should remain unaltered until the end of that game. The receivers should resume their original order of receiving in the next game.
36. When playing in club sessions you should aim to get the best balance of pairs i.e. not have the two strongest players playing together. It is usual to play a full set but at popular times when there are a considerable number of players sitting out a short set should be played (best of 7 games)
37. Play at Club sessions are usually in a mixed doubles format but occasionally a ladies or mens four can be played provided everyone is in agreement.