

Tennis Ireland Code of Conduct

The provision of this Code applies to all official Tennis Ireland Tournaments and Events.

CLOTHING

Unacceptable Attire: -

Clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire shall be worn and as set out in the Prospectus.

Visible Identification: - No visible identification shall be permitted on a player's clothing, products or equipment except as stated in the Regulations.

ETIQUETTE

Leaving the court:

A player shall not leave the court area during a match (including warm-up) without the permission of the Umpire or Referee.

Failure to complete a match:

A player must complete a match in progress unless (s)he is reasonably unable to do so.

Ceremonies:

A player participating in the finals of a tournament must attend and participate in the finals' ceremonies, unless reasonably unable to do so.

Media:

Unless injured and physically unable to appear, a player must be available to the Media within 30 minutes of the end of any match, whether the player be winner or loser.

Scoreboard: -

Players must change the score on a scoreboard, when provided and if nobody else is assigned the task, at each change of the ends. If the scoreboard is placed at either end of the court it will be the responsibility of the player or pair approaching that end after a change of ends to update the score.

PUNCTUALITY

Players must be ready to play their match at the designated time and / or in accordance with the order of play.

Any player not ready to play 15 minutes after his / her match has been called, shall be scratched from the event, unless the Referee, after consideration of all relevant circumstances, decides not so to do.

CONDUCT

Best efforts: -

A player shall use best efforts to win a match.

Unreasonable delays:

Play should be continuous, and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause.

At all times the Receiver must play to the reasonable pace of the Server and must be ready to receive when the Server is ready to serve.

The time between the ball going out of play at the end of one point to the time the ball is served for the next point shall not exceed 30 seconds. Where ball persons are used in Official Tournaments, this time shall not exceed 25 seconds.

When changing ends, a maximum of 90 seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of one game to the time the ball is served for the first point of the next game.

At the conclusion of each set, there shall be a set break of a maximum of 120 seconds from the moment that the ball goes out of play at the end of the set to the time the ball is first struck for the first point of the next set.

At the conclusion of the first game in each set, and during a tiebreak, play shall be continuous, and players shall change ends without a rest period.

The first violation of this section shall be penalised by a warning and each subsequent violation shall be penalised by the assessment of a point penalty.

Excessive repeated delays may lead to penalties being applied under unsportsmanlike behaviour.

Audible Obscenity:

Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the precincts of the tournament site.

Coaching: -

Players shall not receive coaching during a tournament match. Communications of any kind, audible or visible, between a player and any other person may be construed as coaching although encouragement is allowed.

Players shall also prohibit their coaches and other members of their team:

1. from using audible obscenity within the precincts of the tournament site,
2. from making obscene gestures of any kind within the precincts of the tournament site,
3. from verbally abusing any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site,
4. from physically abusing any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site and
5. from giving, making, issuing, authorising or endorsing any public statement within the precincts of the tournament site having, or designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of the tournament and/or of the officiating thereof.

Violation of this Section shall subject a player to three (3) suspension points for each violation. In addition, if such violation occurs during a match (including the warmup), the player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule hereinafter set forth.

In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, or are singularly egregious a single violation of this section shall also constitute the Major Offence of "Aggravated Behaviour" and shall be subject to the additional penalties hereinafter set forth therefore and the Referee may order the Coach of the team to be removed from the site of a match or the precincts of the tournament site and upon his failure to comply with such order may declare an immediate default of such player.

For the purposes of this Rule, a "coach" shall also include any member of the player's team.

Visible Obscenity:

Players shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the precincts of the tournament site.

Abuse of Ball:

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger, hit, kick, or throw a tennis ball within the precincts of the tournament site.

Abuse of Rackets or Equipment:

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger, hit, kick, or throw a racket or other equipment within the precincts of the tournament site.

Verbal Abuse:

Players shall not at any time verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator, or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

Physically Abuse:

Players shall not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator, or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

Players shall always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others.

DISCIPLINE

The Penalty Point Schedule to be used for violations of the above is:

	During the match	Suspension points
First Offence	Warning	1 Penalty Point
Second Offence	Point	2 Penalty Points
Third Offence	Game	3 Penalty Points
Fourth Offence	Default	4 Penalty Points

Penalty points may be accumulated over the course of a tournament. Chair Umpires must notify the Referee immediately of any offences incurred and penalty points issued. Court Supervisors can issue warnings but point penalty onwards must only be issued by the Referee. Only the Referee may declare a default for either a single violation of this code or pursuant to the Penalty Point Schedule.

If a player is defaulted during a match for conduct reasons, he shall be defaulted from all other events at that tournament.

When a penalty has been imposed under the Code of Conduct, the offending player will be reported to Tennis Ireland.

AGGRAVATED BEHAVIOUR

Definition: One violation that is flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament.

A series of two or more violations of this code within a 12-month period which singularly do not constitute "Aggravated Behaviour" but when viewed together establish a pattern of conduct that is collectively detrimental or injurious to Tennis Ireland sanctioned tournaments, to be decided upon by the Provincial Council or Discipline Committee of Tennis Ireland.

Aggravated Behaviour Violations shall subject a player to a fine and / or suspension from play in Tennis Ireland sanctioned tournaments or events.

Only Tennis Ireland, and/or the Referee in consultation with Tennis Ireland, may decide to initiate the Aggravated Behaviour Procedure and bring it to the attention of the Discipline Committee of Tennis Ireland to be decided upon.

INTEGRITY OF THE GAME

If a player has at any time behaved in a manner severely damaging to the reputation of the sport, he may be deemed by virtue of such behaviour to have engaged in conduct contrary to the integrity of the Game of Tennis and be in violation of this Section.

Integrity of the Game Violation shall subject a player to a fine and / or suspension from play in Tennis Ireland sanctioned tournaments or events.

SUSPENSION

When a Player accumulates ten Penalty Points within any rolling 12-month period he/she will receive an automatic suspension of:

1. two tournament weeks, for a first application; or
2. four tournament weeks, for the second application in relation to the same 12-month period;
3. five tournament weeks, for the third application in relation to the same 12-month period; and
4. six tournament weeks, for subsequent applications in relation to the same 12-month period

The player will be notified by email including information on the appeal process and suspended from entering any tournaments during that period.

Only weeks where tournaments take place for the given age group are considered tournament weeks. Example: a week in the winter season with an U18 weekend event only does not count as a tournament week for an under 12 player.