



## **BASIC RULES OF TENNIS AND TENNIS ETIQUETTE**

### **FIRST RULE OF TENNIS**

#### **ALWAYS TREAT YOUR OPPONENTS WITH COURTESY AND RESPECT**

1. Server/ Receiver--Players stand on opposite sides of court. The person who delivers/hits the ball is the server and the other the receiver.
2. Spin of racket-- The player that wins the racket spin may choose or require the opponents to choose the right to serve or receive. The other side shall choose which side he (she) wants to start on.
3. Beginning--Server waits on receiver to be ready and stands behind the baseline to put ball in play. Receiver must allow ball to bounce in service box before returning. In delivering the service, server stands alternately behind right and left courts beginning every game from the right side. Ball served shall go over the net and land in service court which is diagonally opposite the server.
4. Faults--Service of a fault if server misses ball in attempting to serve, if ball does not land in proper court, or if ball touches anything before hitting ground.
5. Service after Fault--After a fault (if it is first serve), server serves again from the same side/place. If the second serve is also a fault, server loses the point.
6. Service Let--During service, a ball that touches the top of the net but lands in proper court is termed a let and counts for nothing. Serve is replayed. There is no limit to the number of lets.
7. Receiver becomes Server--At the end of the first game, the receiver becomes the server. Players change ends at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and subsequent alternate games.
8. Players lose point--Players lose the point if ball hits ground twice, if ball hits any object such as net post before landing inside lines, if player or racket touches the net, if ball touches anything other than player's racket.
9. Ball landing on the line is good. (**Repeat...BALL LANDING ON ANY PART OF THE LINE IS GOOD.**)
10. Scoring--If player wins 1<sup>st</sup> point, score is called 15 for that player and love [zero] for the other player. The server's score is always given first. On winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> point, the score is called 30. On winning the 3<sup>rd</sup> point the score is called 40. On winning the 4<sup>th</sup> point, the score is called game. If both players have won 3 points, the score is called Deuce (same as 40-40). The player that wins the next point in no-ad scoring wins the point.
11. Set--A player who wins 6 games wins the set, except the margin must be by 2 games over opponent. A 12 point set tiebreaker is played at 6 games all.
12. **THERE IS TO BE NO COACHING OR CALLING OF LINES BY PARENTS OR SPECTATORS DURING MATCHES** (except during regular season by agreement of both coaches.)

## **PLAYER, SPECTATOR AND TEAM ETIQUETTE**

Besides the rules of tennis there are also some important unwritten laws which come under the title of tennis etiquette. Tennis is a social game, a game involving simple politeness and consideration. Everyone will enjoy the game so much more if those standards are maintained. Here are some of the rules which are most important:

- Talk quietly when standing near tennis courts that are in use.
- Never walk behind a court when a point is still in play. Wait until the point is over and then cross as fast as possible.
- Always come prepared. Bring not only balls, but towels and water to drink when it is hot.
- Wear sneakers for tennis. Other shoes may wear out quickly, hurt your feet, or damage the court.
- When you're ready to play, put racket covers, ball cans, jackets etc., out of everyone's way.
- To see who serves first, spin your racket or toss a coin. If you win the toss, the choice is yours. You may serve first, or you may choose to receive first or to pick which end of the court you want to start playing on. As a third choice you may make your opponent choose first.
- When sending balls back to a neighboring court, roll them on to the back of the court. Never send them back while play is in progress.
- Retrieve balls for your partner and your opponent.
- Don't criticize your partner, offer encouragement.
- Call your own lines and let your opponent hear the call. If the ball is good say nothing and play on.
- Always respect the line calls of your opponent.
- If there is a disagreement, offer a let. In other words, replay the point, even if it was a second service.

### **COACHES, PLEASE INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:**

- Have both teams line up facing each other. Announce the players for each position, have them introduce themselves, shake hands and go to their court.
- Require that players shake hands with each other after the match with the loser(s) congratulating the winner(s) and the winners saying, "Nice Match".
- Thank the home team coach(es) and players for their hospitality.
- Sign the score sheet and losing team coach shake hands with and congratulate the winning coach---demonstrating the same sportsmanship required of your players. Be good role models.
- Thank you for all you're doing to create good tennis players AND good citizens!