

Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play

NATIONAL POLICY

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CODE OF BEHAVIOUR: COMPETITIVE PLAY

PART I - INTRODUCTION

1. Purpose

- 1.1. Tennis Australia (**TA**), together with all Australian Tennis Organisations (**ATOs**), is committed to providing all members of the Australian tennis community with a welcoming, safe and inclusive tennis environment that promotes the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of all Participants.
- 1.2. The Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play (**Code of Behaviour**) sets out the standards of behaviour expected of players, coaches, parents/guardians and any other spectators when participating in or attending Tournaments and Competitions in Australia.
- 1.3. The Code of Behaviour seeks to:
 - (a) promote fair sporting conduct among players, coaches, parents/guardians and spectators, and respect for the spirit of tennis;
 - (b) establish a framework for violations of behaviour standards;
 - (c) put in place processes to manage incidents at Tournaments and Competitions involving players, coaches, parents/guardians and spectators;
 - (d) increase public confidence by consistently and efficiently dealing with behaviour incidents; and
 - (e) protect the image, reputation and integrity of tennis in Australia.
- 1.4. The behaviours adopted by all Participants can assist in connecting more people to tennis. All Participants are encouraged to contribute to a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all and maintain standards of respect, fairness, humility and integrity at all times.
- 1.5. This is the case not only for competing players, but for all members of the tennis community (coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, etc). Poor spectator and sideline behaviour is considered as serious as poor player behaviour.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. Please be aware when reading this Code of Behaviour that you may come across terms that are capitalised (for example "Tournaments", "Competitions", "Officials", etc). Capitalised terms have the following meaning in this Code of Behaviour:

Australian Tennis Organisation (ATO) includes TA, Member Associations, Affiliated Organisations, Regional Associations and Affiliated Clubs as defined in TA's [Member Protection Policy](#);

Code Violation means a penalty issued as a consequence for a breach of this Code of Behaviour.

Competition means a Team Competition and/or a Weekly Competition.

Disciplinary Review Panel (DRP) means the panel referred to in section 12 which reviews and determines penalties for breaches of the Code of Behaviour.

Entourage means any coach, trainer, parent, guardian, relative, family member, friend, attendee or support person or spectator at the Venue associated with a player.

Member Association (MA) refers to the governing body for tennis in each state/territory in Australia as defined in the TA Constitution.

Member Association Panel (MA Panel) means the panel referred to in clause 10.3 which reviews and triages reports of breaches of the Code of Behaviour.

Official(s) means the person performing the role of referee, assistant referee, court supervisor, court monitor, line umpire, chair umpire and other related Competition or Tournament officials involved in the regulation of the game of tennis appointed by an ATO whether paid or voluntary, and/or any person who holds a TA officials' membership.

Participant(s) refers to all registered or entered players, coaches, parents, guardians, spectators, Tournament directors and other competitive play organisers and ATO members.

Referee means the onsite Official with responsibility for ensuring a Tournament is conducted in accordance with all relevant rules and standards, and anyone who performs substantively the same function at a Competition.

Team Competition means any tennis team orientated event or competition with which an ATO is associated and in which individual players compete as representatives of a club, association, school, region, state or territory of Australia, or Australia, and which may or may not include other international tennis federations.

Tennis Australia (TA) means Tennis Australia Limited, the governing body for tennis in Australia, and all of its subsidiaries and affiliates, including, but not limited to, Padel Australia Limited and the Australian Tennis Foundation Limited.

Tournament means an event, championship, tournament, team event or challenge match that consists of one or several draws (for example draws for different age groups, genders and/or formats (i.e. singles, doubles, mixed doubles)) at which tennis matches are played. It also refers to any other exhibition event organised by an ATO as well as any event sanctioned by the PTT, ATP, ITF or WTA that is held within Australia.

Tribunal means a tribunal set up and constituted in accordance with this Code of Behaviour to hear matters referred to it as well as appeals from decisions of the DRP.

Venue means the physical site where a Tournament or Competition is held, including all facilities. A reference to a Venue will also include within the vicinity of the site (i.e. the site's car park and entrance), and all Tournament/Competition hotels, transport, facilities, functions or other related Tournament/Competition locations.

Weekly Competition means an organised tennis competition with which an ATO is associated and at which tennis matches are played and which occurs over a series of weeks and/or on a regular basis and where players compete either individually or as part of a team.

- 2.2. Capitalised terms not otherwise defined in this Code of Behaviour have the meaning given to them in TA's Member Protection Policy.

3. Application

- 3.1. The Code of Behaviour applies to all Participants, not just those competing on court, during, as well as before and after, a Tournament or Competition.
- 3.2. The Code of Behaviour also applies to conduct and activities related to a Tournament or Competition. The key factor to determine whether this Code of Behaviour applies is whether there is a clear connection between the conduct in question and the Tournament or Competition. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) social media activity related to the Tournament or Competition;
 - (b) official activities, meetings or functions of a Tournament or Competition; and/or
 - (c) official social gatherings related to the Tournament or Competition.
- 3.3. This Code of Behaviour does not take precedence over any ITF, ATP or WTA tournament rules and regulations, which will primarily govern events run by these bodies. However, where appropriate, this Code of Behaviour may apply in addition to those rules and regulations (for instance, if a player is suspended by the ITF, the conduct in question may be considered under this Code of Behaviour in accordance with clause 19).
- 3.4. The Code of Behaviour operates in conjunction with any ATO competitive play rules that may be in place. For example, an Affiliated Club or Regional Association may have separate rules that govern their state, regional or club level Competition or Tournament. If there is an alleged breach of this Code of Behaviour and the relevant ATO competitive play rules, action may be taken under this Code of Behaviour and/or the local ATO Competition rules.
- 3.5. The Code of Behaviour operates in conjunction with all of the TA National Policies (which include the Member Protection Policy and Disciplinary Policy). A full list of TA National Policies is available at <http://www.tennis.com.au/about-tennis-australia/reports-and-policies/policies>. If there is an alleged breach of the Code of Behaviour and another TA National Policy, action may be taken under this Code of Behaviour and/or any other applicable TA National Policy.
- 3.6. The Code of Behaviour does not override or supersede any laws of any State or Territory and any allegation which gives rise to potential criminal conduct may be referred to the relevant State or Territory authority / enforcement body (i.e. the Police, ACCC, etc).

PART II – EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS

4. What you must do at Tournaments and Competitions

4.1. Everyone involved in Tournaments and Competitions, whether they are players, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators or other stakeholders, are custodians of the sport of tennis, and responsible for upholding the spirit of tennis. This requires an ongoing commitment to:

- (a) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others;
- (b) Act with honesty, integrity and humility;
- (c) Compete to the best of your ability at all times and promote fair play over winning at all cost;
- (d) Take responsibility for your own actions;
- (e) Read, understand and comply with this Code of Behaviour, any other applicable ATO competitive play rules or regulations and TA's National Policies as amended from time to time. If you have queries, ask someone;
- (f) Respect yourself, your Entourage and all other Participants, including your opposition and other spectators;
- (g) Act as a positive role model and lead by example for other Participants, particularly children and young people;
- (h) Promote the sport in a positive light;
- (i) Contribute to a safe, welcoming and inclusive tennis environment and a respectful culture which is accepting of individual differences;
- (j) Respect the role of Officials whose job it is to ensure that Tournaments and Competitions are conducted fairly and according to the rules;
- (k) Respect the role of anyone who assists in the administration and/or delivery of the sport of tennis, in particular the volunteers who give up their valuable time.

4.2. These values and behaviours represent the spirit in which tennis is to be played and spectated in Australia. In applying this Code of Behaviour, these values and behaviours will be taken into account, and how they can best be promoted and upheld.

5. What you must not do at Tournaments and Competitions

This section outlines the behaviours that are prohibited. Participants may be issued with a Code Violation and/or other penalty when they or a member of their Entourage commit one of the Code Violations listed below. For information on penalties that are attached to Code Violations, please refer to Part III.

[Code Violations during a match and onsite](#)

The following is a list of prohibited conduct during a match (including the warm-up), and/or at a Venue during a Tournament or Competition:

5.1 Audible Obscenity

- (a) A Participant shall not use an audible obscenity.
- (b) An audible obscenity is the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane (whether in English or any other language) and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by an Official and/or other Participant(s).

5.2 Visible Obscenity

- (a) A Participant shall not make obscene gestures of any kind.
- (b) A visible obscenity is the making of signs by a player with their hands, a racquet, tennis balls or any other equipment, that are commonly understood to have an obscene meaning.

5.3 Ball Abuse

- (a) A Participant shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the precincts of the Venue except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including the warm-up).
- (b) Ball abuse includes:
 - i. the intentional or reckless hitting of a ball out of the enclosure of the court;
 - ii. hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court; and/or
 - iii. hitting a ball with apparent disregard of the consequences.

5.4 Abuse of Racquets or Equipment

- (a) A Participant shall not violently or with anger hit, kick or throw a racquet or other equipment.
- (b) An abuse of racquets or equipment includes:
 - i. intentionally and/or violently destroying and/or damaging a racquet or other playing equipment;
 - ii. intentionally and/or violently destroying or hitting of the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixture; and/or
 - iii. intentionally or recklessly throwing of a racquet or other equipment, whether on or off court.

5.5 Verbal Abuse

- (a) A Participant shall not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse any Official, opponent, sponsor, spectator or other person within the Venue.
- (b) Verbal abuse includes a statement about an Official, opponent, sponsor, ATO, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

5.6 Physical Abuse

- (a) A Participant shall not at any time physically abuse any Official, opponent, spectator or other person.
- (b) Physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of another person.

5.7 Coaching

- (a) A player must not receive coaching during a match (including the warm-up).
- (b) Coaching is permitted when a match has been formally suspended by the Referee, or his or her representative.
- (c) Communications of any kind, audible or visible, between a player and their Entourage may be construed as coaching.

* TA may permit coaching at a specific Competition or Tournament, in which case Participants will be advised accordingly in advance.

5.8 Best Efforts

- (a) A player must always compete to the best of their ability and use their best efforts during a match.

5.9 Dress and Equipment

- (a) A player shall dress and present themselves for play in clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire. A player who violates this provision may be ordered by the relevant Official to change their attire and/or equipment immediately. Failure by a player to comply with such an order may result in an immediate default.

*Note, a player must be given the opportunity to change their clothing or equipment in order to comply with this provision. At the discretion of the relevant Official, a maximum period of 10 minutes may be allowed in order for a player to change attire and/or equipment (this period of time is separate to the 15 minutes referred to in clause 5.16). A direction to improve a player's dress and/or equipment before the next Tournament/Competition day may also be given by the relevant Official. Players should not be defaulted from matches and/or issued any disciplinary points due to clothing breaches except in exceptional circumstances. However, failure to meet dress regulation requests may be reported to the MA Panel. A breach of this provision is not subject to the point penalty schedule.

5.10 Time Violation / Delay of Game

- (a) A match shall commence after the expiration of the warm-up period. Thereafter, play shall be continuous and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match as provided for in the [International Tennis Federation Rules of Tennis](#).
- (b) A violation of this provision shall be penalised by a *Time Violation*.
- (c) The first *Time Violation*, as either server or receiver, shall be penalised by a *Time Violation - Warning* and each subsequent violation, as either server or receiver, shall be penalised as follows:

- i. *Server*: the Time Violation shall result in a “fault”;
- ii. *Receiver*: the Time Violation shall result in a “point penalty”.

Note that *Time Violations* are not subject to the point penalty schedule and do not incur any disciplinary points.

- (d) A Code Violation (Delay of Game) shall be assessed and penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule where a match is delayed due to a player:
 - i. having a medical condition and the player failing to recommence play after any permitted medical time out or evaluation associated with the medical condition;
 - ii. refusing to play; or
 - iii. not returning to the court to recommence play within any permitted or prescribed times.

5.11 *Leaving the Court*

- (a) A player shall not leave the court area during a match (including the warm-up) without the permission of an Official.
- (b) A breach of this section may subject a player to an Immediate Default.

5.12 *Spectator Misconduct*

- (a) Any person spectating a match or attending a Venue must not engage in any of the following:
 - i. intimidating, threatening or abusive behaviour toward players, coaches, parents/guardians, other spectators, or persons at the Venue, Officials, competitive play organisers and/or any other Participant;
 - ii. causing a disruption to a Tournament or Competition or a match in progress;
 - iii. making, or causing to be made, inappropriate comments (in English or any other language) and/or gestures towards Officials, players, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators and other persons on-site or involved in the Tournament or Competition;
 - iv. providing inappropriate instructions, comments or direction to a player including both the spectator’s own player or the opponent, of any type (*Note, this may also be considered as “Coaching” in accordance with clause 5.7 above); and
 - v. any other inappropriate behaviour as determined by an Official, MA Panel or the DRP.

For the purpose of this provision, any reference to “inappropriate” includes anything that is, or may be perceived to be, disrespectful, derogatory, insulting and/or slanderous.

5.13 *Unsportsmanlike Conduct / General Misconduct*

- (a) This provision prohibits the following:

- i. any conduct which may reasonably be regarded unfair, unacceptable or unsporting;
 - ii. failing to give due regard to the authority of Officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others;
 - iii. blatant and/or repeated incorrect line calling on purpose;
 - iv. any conduct which has the effect or potential to prejudice or be detrimental to the reputation of a Participant, the Tournament or Competition, an ATO or the sport of tennis generally;
 - v. any conduct which has the effect or potential to bring a Participant, the Tournament or Competition, an ATO or the sport of tennis into disrepute;
 - vi. conduct that does not meet the standards of acceptable behaviour prescribed in clause 4.1 of this Code of Behaviour.
 - vii. any conduct that is abusive, threatening or intimidating toward another Participant;
 - viii. making, authorising or endorsing any public statement that has, or is designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of a Tournament or Competition, or its officiating and/or administration; and
 - ix. consuming alcohol and/or another intoxicating substance and being disorderly at a Venue during a Tournament or Competition.
- (b) This provision is not limited to conduct occurring at a Venue and may encompass other conduct that is covered by this Code of Behaviour in accordance with clause 3.2.

[Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Code Violations](#)

5.14 Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete

Late Withdrawal (Before the Draw)

- (a) A player must not withdraw from a Tournament after the withdrawal deadline i.e. four (4) days before the publication of the draw.
- (b) Any withdrawal by a player after the withdrawal deadline will be deemed a Late Withdrawal (Before the Draw) violation and will receive disciplinary points in accordance with clause 6.3 (i.e. one (1) disciplinary point).

Late Withdrawal (After the Draw)

- (c) A player must complete a match or Tournament after the publication of the draw.
- (d) A player that fails to complete a match or Tournament after the publication of the draw will be deemed to have committed a Late Withdrawal (After the Draw) violation and will receive disciplinary points in accordance with clause 6.3 (i.e. two (2) disciplinary points).

Failure to Complete

- (e) A player must complete a match or Tournament once it has commenced.
- (f) A player that fails to complete a match or Tournament that is in progress will be deemed to have committed a Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violation and will receive disciplinary points in accordance with clause 6.3 (i.e. two (2) disciplinary points).

Incursion of disciplinary points and appeals

- (g) A player's first four (4) disciplinary points incurred for Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violations in a twelve (12) month rolling period will not be included when calculating the accumulated disciplinary points total (as set out in clause 6.4).
- (h) Any subsequent Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament will result in a Code Violation against the player and the incursion of disciplinary points (as set out in clause 6.3).
- (i) A player may appeal a Late Withdrawal or Failure to Complete violation if they have a legitimate reason (i.e. medical reasons, emergencies, death of a loved one, etc.) and evidence is provided. Any appeal must be made within 48 hours of the Code Violation being issued, otherwise it is not appealable. The decision to accept the appeal is at the sole discretion of TA.

5.15 Playing two Tournaments (Concurrency)

- (a) A player is prohibited from playing two Tournaments at the same time, unless permission has been granted by and received from the TA Professional Events and Competitive Play Team in accordance with the Regulations.
- (b) A breach of this section may subject a player to an Immediate Default.

5.16 Punctuality ('No Show')

- (a) A player must be ready to commence play within 15 minutes of their match being called at a Tournament.
- (b) A breach of this section may subject a player to an Immediate Default unless the Referee, in their sole discretion, after consideration of all relevant circumstances, elects not to declare a default.

PART III – PENALTIES

6. Disciplinary point system

- 6.1. When a Code Violation is issued on-site by an Official, disciplinary points are imposed against the player.
- 6.2. Disciplinary points are imposed on the day on which the Code Violation occurred.
- 6.3. The following disciplinary points are automatically imposed for a Code Violation under this Code of Behaviour:

Code violation	Disciplinary points
Serious Code Violation*	Three (3) disciplinary points
Punctuality (No Show)	Two (2) disciplinary points
Playing Two Tournaments (Concurrency)	Two (2) disciplinary points
Failure to Complete Violation	Two (2) disciplinary points
Late Withdrawal (After the Draw) Violation	Two (2) disciplinary points
Late Withdrawal (Before the draw) Violation	One (1) disciplinary point
All other Code Violations	One (1) disciplinary point

* A 'Serious' Code Violation is one that, in the opinion of the Referee, warrants an immediate default from a match or, in the case of conduct not related to play during a match, exclusion from the Tournament.

- 6.4. Once imposed, disciplinary points are tallied on a twelve (12) month rolling basis, with penalties attaching to the accumulation of disciplinary points as follows:

Disciplinary points accumulated in a 12-month rolling period*	Outcome	Notes
1st point accumulated	Notification of Code Violation being issued	N/A
2nd point accumulated	Notification of Code Violation being issued	N/A
3rd point accumulated	Warning	N/A
4th point accumulated	1-month suspension	1-month suspension to be served
5th point accumulated	1-month suspension	Cumulative suspension to be served is 2-months*
6th point accumulated	2-month suspension	Cumulative suspension to be served is 4 months and/or referral to the DRP at TA's discretion*
7 or more points accumulated	Referral to the DRP for consideration.	DRP can impose a maximum six-month suspension. DRP to refer matter to a Tribunal if further suspension is sought

*See Appendix I for examples of how the accumulation of disciplinary points works in practice.

7. Additional penalties

7.1. There are circumstances where a Participant may be referred to an MA Panel, the TA Disciplinary Review Panel (**DRP**) and/or a Tribunal to consider if the Participant has committed a Code Violation(s). If the MA Panel, the DRP and/or a Tribunal determine that a Code Violation has occurred, they may impose disciplinary points (in accordance with above) and/or other penalties. Note that:

- (a) *If referred to an MA Panel:* the maximum number of disciplinary points is two (2) and the maximum suspension the MA Panel can impose is a period of four (4) weeks.
- (b) *If referred to the DRP:* the maximum number of further disciplinary points is five (5) and the maximum suspension the DRP can impose is a period of six (6) months.
- (c) *If referred to a Tribunal:* no maximum number of disciplinary points. The maximum suspension a Tribunal can impose is a period of two (2) years.

More information on when an MA Panel, the DRP and/or a Tribunal may impose penalties is set out in Part IV of this Code of Behaviour.

7.2. An MA Panel, the DRP or a Tribunal may impose any one or more of the following penalties on a Participant either in addition to, or instead of, disciplinary points and/or a suspension period:

- (a) Ordering the player or member of their Entourage attend a behaviour change program, and where ordered to do so, the person will present proof of having attended such a program before they can re-commence playing or attending Tournaments/Competitions;
- (b) Ordering the player or member of their Entourage to complete education, and where ordered to do so, the person will present proof of having completed such education before they can re-commence playing or attending Tournaments/Competitions;

Only the DRP or a Tribunal may impose:

- (c) A monetary fine (see Appendix II for an Assessment Matrix to be used by the DRP or a Tribunal as a guide when issuing a monetary fine);
- (d) Remove Ranking or Competition points; and/or
- (e) Any other additional penalty deemed appropriate.

7.3. If a Participant is suspended, the MA Panel, the DRP or a Tribunal has the option to:

- (a) extend the suspension to prohibiting participation in any other events, squads, tours, programs or other ATO activities, including training, for a specified period of time not exceeding the length of the suspension;
- (b) commence the suspension at any time it deems appropriate;
- (c) split the period of suspension into periods (i.e. a two-month suspension may be split into 2 x one-month suspensions); and/or
- (d) identify specific Tournaments and/or Competitions at which the Participant is prohibited from participating in/attending as part of the suspension.

8. Review of automated penalties

- 8.1. The Disciplinary Point system set out in clause 6.4 may result in an automatic suspension being imposed against a Participant that:
- (a) relies on tennis to substantially generate an income and/or would be disproportionately affected if sanctioned with a suspension;
 - (b) has already received a penalty by another tennis body (i.e. ITF, ATP or WTA) for the same conduct that triggered an automatic suspension, resulting in the Participant being double penalised; and/or
 - (c) a suspension will not have the intended disciplinary effect, and the automated penalty requires review (i.e. education would be a more appropriate penalty).
- 8.2. If any of the circumstances set out in clause 8.1, the TA Integrity Team, at its sole discretion, may refer the matter for review to the DRP. See Section 12 for more information about the DRP process.

PART IV – ADMINISTERING CODE VIOLATIONS

A summary of the process for which Code Violations are administered is depicted in the diagram set out in Appendix IV – Code of Behaviour Flowchart.

9. On-site administration of the Code of Behaviour

- 9.1. Officials are responsible for the on-site administration of the Code of Behaviour. It is preferable that any breach or alleged breach of this Code of Behaviour is dealt with as soon as practicable on-site.
- 9.2. In relation to conduct occurring on-site, Officials have the power to:
- (a) issue a verbal warning for conduct that may constitute a Code Violation;
 - (b) issue Code Violations for conduct while a match is in progress;
 - (c) issue Code Violations for non-match conduct;
 - (d) direct Participants to leave the Venue;
 - (e) suspend or cancel a match in progress; and
 - (f) refer any matter to the relevant MA and/or TA (who will in turn decide whether further action is required in accordance with this Code of Behaviour).
- 9.3. The Referee is the final authority regarding all Code Violations and allegations of breaches of this Code of Behaviour during a match and/or at the Venue. Any such decisions made during a match and/or at the Venue are not appealable, with the exception of Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violations.
- 9.4. The Referee may declare a default for either a single violation of this Code (Immediate Default) or pursuant to the Point Penalty Schedule set out in clause 9.5. In all cases of default, the decision of the Referee shall be final and unappealable. Any player who is defaulted may be subject to default from all other

events/draws, if any, in that Competition/Tournament with the following exceptions:

- (a) the player or team was defaulted for a violation of the Punctuality or Dress and Equipment provisions; or
- (b) the player or team was defaulted as a result of a medical condition; or
- (c) the player's doubles partner committed the Code Violation which caused the default.

Code Violations (during a match):

9.5. While a match is in progress, Code Violations by players or their Entourage are penalised according to the following Point Penalty Schedule:

Match offence	Immediate penalty (During match)	Disciplinary points for each Code Violation
First Violation	Official issues Code Violation – Warning	1 disciplinary point
Second Violation	Official issues Code Violation - Point Penalty (point awarded to opponent)	1 disciplinary point
Third Violation	Official issues Code Violation - Game Penalty (game awarded to opponent)	1 disciplinary point ^{^^^}
Any Subsequent Violation	Official issues Code Violation - Game Penalty (game awarded to opponent) OR Referee issues Code Violation - Default (player disqualified and match awarded to opponent)	
Serious Code Violation	Referee issues Code Violation Immediate Default	3 disciplinary points ^{^^^}

^{^^^} The maximum number of disciplinary points that can be issued against a player during a match is four (4). Once four (4) disciplinary points have been issued during one single match, whether the player has been defaulted or not, the matter is to be referred to the relevant MA Panel or the DRP for further consideration.

9.6. As set out in the table above:

- (a) Any Official may issue a Code Violation for an offence during a match that does not lead to a match default;
- (b) Subject to clause 9.8, only the Referee may issue a Code Violation which results in a match default (**Match Default Code Violation**).

9.7. The Referee may also determine that a breach of the Code of Behaviour by a Participant warrants the disqualification of the relevant player from other draws of the same Tournament (for example if the player has entered multiple age groups, or a doubles/mixed doubles draw in the Tournament).

9.8. The Referee has discretion to delegate the power of issuing a Match Default Code Violation to another Official (for example an Assistant Referee or Court Supervisor). A delegation may be done informally.

- 9.9. A player that is issued a Code Violation during a match shall be notified as soon as practicable (even if this is only possible after the start of the next game of a match or at some later time).
- 9.10. For any Code Violation awarded during a doubles match, on-court penalties shall be imposed against the relevant team. Officials (or the DRP if considered sufficiently serious to warrant a referral) may subsequently determine whether one or both members of the team should be awarded the Code Violation individually.
- 9.11. After the completion of a match, the Referee has discretion to review or further investigate incidents alleged to have occurred during the match and subsequently impose any penalty outlined in paragraph 9.15.

On-Site Violations (breaches at the Venue but not during a match)

- 9.12. For incidents not related to play during a match, the Referee may still issue a Code Violation. The Referee may consult other Officials but has ultimate discretion to determine if a breach has occurred.
- 9.13. For non-match related conduct, an Official may take the following action:
- (a) Issue a Code Violation;
 - (b) Remove a player from the Tournament or a specific draw of the Tournament (in which case, for the purposes of this Code of Behaviour the player is to be treated as having received a Code Violation Immediate Default); or
 - (c) Refer the incident to the the relevant MA and/or TA (who will in turn decide whether further action is required in accordance with this Code of Behaviour).
- 9.14. If a Code Violation is issued on-site, the Referee shall take reasonable steps to ensure the Participant is informed as quickly as possible when the Code Violation has been issued against them.
- 9.15. For on-site matters, Code Violations by players or their Entourage are penalised according to the following schedule:

On-Site Offence	Immediate penalty (During match)	Disciplinary points Recorded for each Code Violation
Code Violation	Official issue Code Violation	1 disciplinary point
Serious Code Violation	Default	3 disciplinary points

- 9.16. In addition, the Referee may also direct a Participant to leave the Venue for the remainder of the day or all remaining days of the Tournament/Competition. Failure to abide by such a direction may be referred to the the relevant MA and/or TA for review.

Powers of Officials in relation to Spectator Misconduct

- 9.17. Spectator Misconduct is defined in clause 5.12 of this Code of Behaviour.
- 9.18. A player is deemed to be responsible for the behaviour and conduct of their Entourage. If an Official

determines that a member of a player's Entourage has engaged in Spectator Misconduct, they may issue a Code Violation against the relevant player.

9.19. In addition, an Official has discretion to take any other action they consider appropriate to de-escalate the situation, as well as to remove the risk of further interference for the remainder of the Tournament/Competition (provided such action is reasonable and proportionate) including:

- (a) suspending a match until the Official determines that the issue is resolved and that play can continue without further disruption or interference;
- (b) attempting to address and eliminate the misconduct in question by discussing the relevant behaviour with the offending person and/or applicable player. This discussion may include a warning to the player and the misbehaving spectator that any further interference by the spectator may result in the suspension of the match or the issuing of Code Violations;
- (c) cancelling a match and issuing the player whose Entourage caused the interference a Code Violation Immediate Default for Spectator Misconduct (TA has discretion as to whether the issuing of the Code Violation attracts the requisite disciplinary points);
- (d) suspending the player from the event;
- (e) directing a person to stop watching a match, leave the Venue and/or not attend the remainder of the event;
- (f) issuing a single Code Violation for Spectator Misconduct;
- (g) referring the matter to the relevant MA and/or TA (who will decide whether further action is required in accordance with this Code of Behaviour); and/or
- (h) any other action deemed necessary to defuse the situation.

10. Administration of the Code of Behaviour following a Tournament or Competition

10.1. There may be circumstances where a Participant has committed a breach of this Code of Behaviour, and a Code Violation was not issued by an Official on-site. This is commonly as a result of the following circumstances:

- (a) the Tournament or Competition was not officiated by an Official(s);
- (b) the Official was not present and/or did not see the conduct that constitutes a Code Violation occur; or
- (c) the Official decided not to issue a Code Violation at the time to avoid inflaming a situation.

10.2. In the circumstances described above, the conduct of the Participant that may constitute a Code Violation must be reported (Post Event Report) within seven (7) days of the completion of the event. The Post Event Report must detail any conduct for which no action on-site was taken by an Official but which may warrant further consideration. The Post Event Report should be completed by an Official, but in the absence of an Official a report can be made by a player, parent/guardian, spectator or other Participant.

- 10.3. The Post Event Report should be sent to the relevant MA. It is then the responsibility of the relevant MA Panel to review the report. The MA Panel is made up of the following staff members from the respective MA:
- (a) The Competitive Play Lead;
 - (b) The Integrity Lead; and/or
 - (c) The Officiating Representative.
- 10.4. The MA Panel has discretion to:
- (a) determine that no further action is required (i.e. in instances where the conduct does not amount to a Code Violation or require further management);
 - (b) consider issuing a penalty in accordance with clause 7.1 and 7.2 (i.e. impose a maximum of two (2) disciplinary points, a suspension period of four (4) weeks and/or an education requirement);
or
 - (c) refer a matter to a representative of the TA Integrity Team for further investigation.
- 10.5. In the exercise of this discretion, the MA Panel may have regard to the following non-exhaustive list of factors:
- (a) the nature of the conduct in question;
 - (b) the impact, damage or harm caused by the conduct on other persons, TA, MAs or the sport of tennis in general;
 - (c) the intent of the Participant in committing the conduct in question;
 - (d) the need for general and specific deterrence;
 - (e) the complexity (or lack thereof) of the circumstances surrounding the conduct in question;
 - (f) previous disciplinary action or outcomes related to the Participant;
 - (g) previous conduct and/or any relevant prior history of the Participant;
 - (h) the number of disciplinary points the Participant has currently accumulated and the Code Violations for which those disciplinary points were incurred; and
 - (i) fairness and consistency in dealing with matters generally.
- 10.6. The MA Panel should only consider issuing a penalty in circumstances where after having regard to the factors listed in clause 10.5 the conduct is considered minor.
- 10.7. Before issuing any penalty, the MA Panel must take reasonable steps to obtain a version of events from the Participant that has allegedly committed a Code Violation.
- 10.8. The Participant must be notified of the MA Panel's decision under clause 10.4.

- 10.9. In circumstances where the MA Panel have imposed a suspension period, a Participant may appeal this decision to the DRP. A Participant must notify the relevant MA Panel in writing of their intention to appeal the decision within 72 hours of the MA Panel delivering their decision.
- 10.10. For any appeal referred to the DRP in accordance with clause 10.9, the DRP will be provided with the same material that was available to the MA Panel, and has the discretion to either:
- (a) Find in favour of the Appellant in that the decision of the MA Panel was unreasonable and/or excessive. In this case, the DRP must make a new decision as it considers appropriate;
 - (b) Affirm the decision of the MA Panel. In this case, the DRP must impose the original penalty imposed by the MA Panel; or
 - (c) Impose additional penalties on the Participant, but the maximum length of suspension that can be imposed by the DRP is six (6) months.

11. Investigations

- 11.1. In circumstances where a matter has been referred to the TA Integrity Team, a member of the TA Integrity Team or delegate (Nominated Investigator) may conduct an investigation.
- 11.2. At the commencement of an investigation, the Nominated Investigator must notify the Participant who is the subject of the investigation in writing that:
- (a) this Code of Behaviour applies to the Participant, and the nature of the alleged breaches of the Code of Behaviour under investigation (a copy of this Code of Behaviour to be provided);
 - (b) the Participant may provide a statement responding to the alleged breach(es) within seven days, or such other period determined by the Nominated Investigator;
 - (c) failure to provide a statement responding to the alleged breaches may result in (i) the matter being referred to the DRP without a response from the Participant and (ii) the DRP making a decision with respect to the matter without a response from the Participant; and
 - (d) the DRP, or Tribunal (as applicable), is able to impose penalties in accordance with this Code of Behaviour and provide details of those penalties,

(Notice of Alleged Breach of Code of Behaviour).

- 11.3. The investigation process conducted by the Nominated Investigator may or may not include any one or more of the following additional steps:
- (a) Collecting witness statements;
 - (b) Conducting interviews;
 - (c) Collecting any other information, which may include video footage, photos, recordings etc. that the Nominated Investigator deems necessary; and/or
 - (d) Requesting a written response from any other parties involved in or related to the report.

- 11.4. The Participant must provide their response within the timeframe stipulated in the Notice of Alleged Breach of Code of Behaviour. The Nominated Investigator has absolute discretion to determine whether to extend the time by which a Participant may respond. Failure to provide a response within the timeframe stipulated may result in the matter being referred to the DRP without a response from the Participant.
- 11.5. Following the investigation, the Nominated Investigator may either:
- (a) take no further action; or
 - (b) refer the matter to the DRP or a Tribunal for consideration.
- 11.6. If the Nominated Investigator takes no further action and does not refer the matter to the DRP, the original decision of the Official (if any) will stand and the Participant does not have a right to refer the matter to the DRP or the Tribunal.
- 11.7. The Participant must be notified of the Nominated Investigator's decision under clause 11.5 as soon as practicable.

12. Tennis Australia Disciplinary Review Panel (DRP)

Composition

- 12.1. TA will appoint a panel of members who may sit on the DRP. The panel will be made up of personnel from TA's Professional Events and Competitive Play, and Legal teams.
- 12.2. The DRP is to be constituted by:
- (a) a minimum of two (2) members and a maximum of three (3) members; and
 - (b) panel members from different departments/teams within TA.
- 12.3. The DRP may meet informally, or deal with matters on the papers, but any decision or action is only valid if clause 12.2 has been complied with.

Reviews of matters referred to the DRP

- 12.4. The DRP must review any matter referred to it by the Nominated Investigator or the TA Integrity Team.
- 12.5. The DRP must consider all of the material made available to it and determine whether a breach of the Code of Behaviour has occurred.
- 12.6. The DRP is not bound by decisions of Officials.
- 12.7. The DRP may:
- (a) take no further action;
 - (b) if a Code Violation was not issued on-site, determine that a Participant has committed a breach of this Code of Behaviour and:
 - i. impose a penalty in accordance with Part III; and/or

- ii. refer the matter to a Tribunal (if it believes a greater penalty than what it is permitted to impose is appropriate);
- (c) if a Code Violation was issued on-site:
 - i. re-classify the Code Violation issued by an Official (for example: an Audible Obscenity may be re-classified as Verbal Abuse); and/or
 - ii. impose an alternate or additional penalty in accordance with Part III; and/or
 - iii. refer the matter to a Tribunal (if it believes a greater penalty than what it is permitted to impose is appropriate).

12.8. If the DRP is constituted by two panel members, decisions of the DRP must be unanimous. If the DRP is constituted by three panel members, decisions of the DRP may be made by majority.

[Penalties the DRP may impose where it has found a breach of the Code of Behaviour](#)

12.9. The DRP has broad discretion to impose penalties it deems appropriate, having regard to the particular circumstances, facts and context of the individual matter.

12.10. The role of the DRP is to consider whether, having regard to all the relevant circumstances and information available to it, a Code Violation has occurred and if so, whether the conduct in question warrants the issuing of a penalty. The DRP may have regard to the following non-exhaustive list of factors when considering if any penalties should be imposed:

- (a) the nature of the conduct in question;
- (b) the impact, damage or harm caused by the conduct on other persons, TA, MAs or the sport of tennis in general;
- (c) the intent of the Participant in committing the conduct in question;
- (d) the need for general and specific deterrence;
- (e) the complexity (or lack thereof) of the circumstances surrounding the conduct in question;
- (f) previous disciplinary action or outcomes related to the Participant;
- (g) previous conduct and/or any relevant prior history of the Participant;
- (h) the number of disciplinary points the Participant has currently accumulated and the Code Violations for which those disciplinary points were incurred; and
- (i) fairness and consistency in dealing with matters generally.

12.11. If the DRP considers it appropriate having regard to the above factors, it may:

- (a) impose penalties as outlined in Part III; and/or

- (b) refer the matter to a Tribunal for further consideration which will be constituted and conducted in accordance with Part V.

Concessions for early acceptance of decisions of the DRP to impose further disciplinary points

12.12. If the DRP has decided to impose disciplinary points or some other form of penalty (i.e. a suspension), it may offer a Participant a concession for accepting the decision without appeal. The decision to offer a concession, and the size of any concession offered, is discretionary.

Notification of DRP decisions

12.13. As soon as practicable after the DRP makes a decision, the Participant must be notified of the following:

- (a) The DRP decision;
- (b) The penalty being imposed (i.e. the amount of disciplinary points and/or other penalty (if any));
- (c) Details of any suspension being imposed; and
- (d) Any discounts/concessions offered for not contesting the DRP decision, where applicable.

12.14. TA may directly notify any affected party of a DRP decision and the penalty imposed (for example, TA may notify a ATO or Tournament Director that a Participant has been banned from entering a particular event and/or is suspended for a period of time).

13. Appeals to a Tribunal

13.1. The following first instance decisions of either the DRP, or a Tribunal (as applicable) can be appealed:

- (a) A decision that involved the imposition of a total of three (3) or more disciplinary points to a Participant (before any discount/concession is applied); and
- (b) A decision that involved the imposition of a suspension of three (3) months or more, where that suspension is not merely the outcome of a player accruing the requisite number of disciplinary points in a twelve (12) month period.

13.2. The Participant must, within seven (7) days of the DRP delivering their decision, give written notice of their intention to appeal to the TA Integrity Team.

13.3. A decision captured by clause 13.1 above can be appealed only on the following grounds:

- (a) the decision was so unreasonable that no person acting reasonably, with regard to all the material before it, could have come to that decision; and/or
- (b) the penalty imposed by the DRP was manifestly excessive taking into account the factors set out in clause 12.10.

13.4. Tribunal hearings shall be constituted and conducted in accordance with Part V.

13.5. If a Participant appeals a decision of the DRP and is unsuccessful, the Participant will not receive the benefit of any discount/concession offered by the DRP.

PART V – TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES

The following provisions apply to a direct referral to a Tribunal under this Code of Behaviour and appeals of DRP decisions captured under clause 13.1.

14. Composition and administration of Tribunal

- 14.1. The TA Integrity Team, an MA or the Nominated Investigator will be responsible for the administration of the tribunal process under this Code of Behaviour including notifying the Participant of the Tribunal, advising tribunal members and scheduling hearings.
- 14.2. The Tribunal shall be appointed by the ATO that is administering and coordinating the hearing, and shall comprise of the following persons:
- (a) A lawyer, or if after reasonable attempts have been made to obtain one without success, then a person with considerable experience in the legal aspects of a disciplinary tribunal (who shall be chairperson);
 - (b) A person with a thorough knowledge of tennis;
 - (c) One other person of experience and with skills suitable to the function of a disciplinary tribunal.
- 14.3. The following persons cannot be Tribunal members:
- (a) A person who is a member of the Board of Directors of TA or an MA;
 - (b) A person who is a member of the DRP;
 - (c) A person who would, by reason of their relationship with the player, or otherwise, be reasonably considered to be other than impartial.
- 14.4. All parties shall bear their own costs.
- 14.5. Each member of the Tribunal shall be indemnified by the ATO appointing the Tribunal from any claim or action for loss, damages or costs made against them arising out of or in connection with their function as a member of the Tribunal.

15. Notification of Tribunal Hearing

- 15.1. The Nominated Investigator (or a member of the TA Integrity Team) must notify the Participant and the Tribunal Members, of the following:
- (a) Details of the violation(s);
 - (b) Confirmation that the Code of Behaviour applies;
 - (c) The date, time and place of the Tribunal hearing giving at least seven (7) days' notice, except in the case of Weekly Competitions where the ATO administering the Competition will determine the timing of any Tribunal hearing;

- (d) That if the Participant is unsuccessful in their appeal, the Participant will not receive the discounted penalty offered by the DRP and that the Tribunal must impose the original penalty imposed by the DRP (if applicable); and
- (e) Contents of all report forms and any other written material provided to the DRP (if applicable); and
- (f) Any reasons provided by the DRP for its decision (if applicable).

15.2. The Participant may be represented at the hearing by any person who is not a legal practitioner. The Tribunal may give leave for the Participant to be legally represented where it considers it is necessary in accordance with the principles of natural justice. The ATO may be represented by its nominee at the hearing who may be the Nominated Investigator.

15.3. The Tribunal shall hear and determine the matter in whatever manner it considers appropriate in the circumstances (including by way of teleconference or otherwise) provided that it does so in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

15.4. The purpose of the hearing shall be:

- (a) *If the matter is an appeal of a DRP decision:* to determine whether the relevant decision of the DRP was so unreasonable that no DRP acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to all the material before the DRP; or
- (b) *If the matter is a direct referral to the Tribunal:* to determine whether there was a breach of the Code of Behaviour, and if so, the appropriate penalty to be imposed.

15.5. Where a Participant elects to rely on written submissions only, the Tribunal will convene as soon as practicable to determine the matter.

15.6. If within 30 minutes of the notified time for commencement of the hearing, the Participant is not present, the Tribunal will consider the matter closed and make a decision in accordance with this Code of Behaviour.

16. Outcome of Tribunal Hearing

16.1. The Tribunal shall give its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing and will deliver a statement of its written reasons to the ATO and the Participant.

16.2. The Tribunal may do one or more of the following:

- (a) If the matter is an appeal of a DRP decision:
 - i. Find in favour of the Appellant in that the decision of the DRP was so unreasonable that no DRP acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to all the material before the DRP. In this case, the Tribunal must make a new decision as it considers appropriate;
 - ii. Affirm the decision of the DRP. In this case, the Tribunal must impose the original penalty imposed by the DRP (that is, the penalty pre discount (if any)); or
 - iii. Impose additional penalties on the Participant but the maximum length of

suspension that can be imposed by the Tribunal is two (2) years.

(b) If the matter is a direct referral to the Tribunal:

- i. Find in favour of the Participant, in which case no penalty will be issued; or
- ii. Find in favour of the ATO, in which case it must impose a penalty / penalties on the Participant, but the maximum length of suspension that can be imposed by the Tribunal is two (2) years.

16.3. The Participant must be informed in writing by the ATO of the outcome of the Tribunal hearing, including the dates to which any suspension applies.

16.4. The ATO shall also notify other bodies of any penalty imposed.

16.5. All decisions of a Tribunal may be published on TA's Competitive Play Website.

16.6. A decision of a Tribunal which is an appeal of a decision of the DRP is final and there is no right of appeal with respect to that decision.

16.7. A decision of a Tribunal which has determined a matter at first instance is subject to a right of appeal. The appeal shall be on whether a breach of this Code of Behaviour occurred and/or penalty issued. The grounds of appeal are as follows:

- (a) *in relation to an appeal against whether there was a breach of this Code of Behaviour*: the only ground of appeal is that on the balance of probabilities the alleged conduct did not occur;
- (b) *in relation to an appeal against penalty*: the only ground of appeal is that no Tribunal acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to all the material before it. If the Tribunal finds that this ground of appeal has been established the Tribunal may impose a different penalty.

16.8. An appeal of a Tribunal decision made at first instance must be constituted and conducted in accordance with Part V of this Code of Behaviour.

16.9. The decision of a Tribunal made pursuant to clause 16.7 is final and there is no further right of appeal.

PART VI – MISCELLANEOUS

17. Notices

- 17.1. Any notice required to be sent to a Participant under this Code of Behaviour may be sent in writing via email to the email address provided by the Participant as part of their MyTennis player ID and/or their Tournament account information.
- 17.2. It is the responsibility of the Participant to advise TA and any relevant ATO of any change in their email address details.
- 17.3. An email sent to the email address outlined in clause 17.1 above will be deemed received by the Participant for the purposes of this Code of Behaviour.
- 17.4. Any notice to a child or person in recognised care should also be sent to the parent, guardian or carer.

18. Publication of decisions

- 18.1. Decisions made by an MA Panel, the DRP or a Tribunal may be published on the TA Website or otherwise.
- 18.2. Decisions may be published:
 - (a) to encourage role model behaviour;
 - (b) to deter breaches of this Code of Behaviour;
 - (c) to enable members of the tennis community to see that action is being taken in relation to poor behaviour; and
 - (d) to enable ATOs to uphold any suspensions issued in accordance with this Code of Behaviour.

19. Reciprocation of decisions

- 19.1. TA recognises that Participants may compete in tennis events in Australia and overseas, run by varying tennis governing bodies. In circumstances where a Participant has a suspension imposed against them in one jurisdiction, they may avoid that suspension by participating in different jurisdictions, which may undermine the intended purpose of the sanction.
- 19.2. TA acknowledges that by upholding and reciprocating the disciplinary outcomes of other tennis governing bodies, TA can ensure integrity is consistently applied across the tennis community in Australia. Similarly, TA intends to work with other tennis governing bodies to share any disciplinary outcomes the DRP and/or a Tribunal impose to ensure they have the intended effect.
- 19.3. In instances where TA is informed by other tennis governing bodies (i.e. ITF, ATP or WTA) of a disciplinary outcome, this information will be referred to the DRP to consider the issue of reciprocation. The DRP may have regard to the following factors when determining whether they should reciprocate the decision:
 - (a) was procedural fairness afforded to the relevant Participant;
 - (b) does the conduct constitute a Code Violation under this Code of Behaviour;

- (c) is the penalty proportionate; and
- (d) is it relevant for TA to reciprocate the penalty i.e. by not enforcing the penalty, would there be a real impact on the integrity of tennis in Australia.

19.4. The DRP may determine to refer a decision of their own to another tennis governing body if deemed appropriate. Considerations include, but are not limited to:

- (a) ensuring the penalty has a real and intended impact on the Participant and the integrity of tennis;
- (b) to enable other tennis governing bodies to uphold any sanctions issued in accordance with this Code of Behaviour.

20. Review and promotion of the Code of Behaviour

20.1. This Code of Behaviour will be reviewed on a regular basis.

20.2. This Code of Behaviour, and any changes or revisions to it, will be made available to the public on TA's National Policies website: <https://www.tennis.com.au/about-tennis-australia/reports-and-policies/policies>.

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APPENDIX I – EXAMPLES OF THE ACCUMULATION OF DISCIPLINARY POINTS

Below are examples that show how Code Violations, disciplinary points and the accumulation of disciplinary points works in practice.

Example 1

Offence	Penalty	Disciplinary Points	Offence Date	Days since oldest "ACTIVE" disciplinary point	Cumulative Number of Active Disciplinary Points
Audible Obscenity	Code Violation	1	23-Dec-2022	0	1
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	22-May-2023	150	2
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	22-May-2023	150	3
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	26-May-2023	154	4
Audible Obscenity	Code Violation	1	12-Jul-2023	201	5
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	5-Dec-2023	347	6

Explanation of suspension duration

Regarding row 4 of this example, on 26 May 2023, the player receives a Code Violation and incurs their 4th disciplinary point in a 12-month rolling period. Accordingly, the player is suspended for 1-month.

Regarding row 5, after serving the first 1-month suspension, the player returns to tennis and receives another Code Violation on 12 July 2023, resulting in an accumulation of 5 disciplinary points in a 12-month rolling period. Accordingly, another 1-month suspension is imposed.

Regarding row 6, on 5 December 2023 the player receives a Code Violation and incurs their 6th disciplinary points in a 12-month rolling period. Accordingly, a further 2-month suspension is issued.

Example 2

Offence	Penalty	Disciplinary Points	Offence Date	Days since oldest "ACTIVE" disciplinary point	Cumulative Number of Active Disciplinary Points
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Code Violation	1	30-Apr-2022	0	1
Failure to Complete	Code Violation	2	20-Jul-2022	81	1
Late Withdrawal (Before the Draw)	Code Violation	1	29-Sep-2022	152	1
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	26-Apr-2023	362	2
Ball Abuse	Code Violation	1	26-Apr-2023	362	3
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Default	1	26-Apr-2023	362	4

Explanation of suspension duration

Regarding row 2 of this example, on 20 July 2022 the player withdraws from a tournament after the publication of the draw and following the commencement of the first match. Accordingly, the player receives a Failure to Complete Code Violation and incurs 2 disciplinary points. Regarding row 3 of this example, on 29 September 2022 the player withdrew late, but before the draw was published, and received a Late Withdrawal (Before the Draw) Code Violation which incurs 1 disciplinary point. However, because these Code violations are Late Withdrawal / Failure to Complete violations, the first 4 points do not contribute to the players cumulative number of active disciplinary points.

Regarding rows 4-6, on 26 April the player was defaulted from a match for committing 3 Code Violations, with a disciplinary point issued for each. The cumulative number of disciplinary points for the player in the 12-month rolling period is now 4, and accordingly a 1-month suspension is imposed.

Example 3

Offence	Penalty	Disciplinary Points	Offence Date	Days since oldest "ACTIVE" disciplinary point	Cumulative Number of Active Disciplinary Points
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	22-May-2023	0	1
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	22-May -2023	0	2
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Code Violation	1	12-Aug-2023	82	3
Verbal Abuse (subject to DRP review)	Code Violation	3	13-Aug-2023	83	6

Explanation of suspension duration

Regarding row 4 of this example, on 13 August 2023 the player receives a Code Violation for Verbal Abuse. The Code Violation issued by the official on-site results in the player receiving 1 disciplinary point. However, the player's conduct was reported by the Referee to the MA Panel, who referred it to the TA Integrity Team for investigation. The conduct was then referred to the DRP and an additional penalty of 2 disciplinary points was issued due to the severity of the verbal abuse. Accordingly, the total number of disciplinary points issued for the Code Violation on 13 August 2023 is 3. This takes the player's accumulative total number of disciplinary points in a 12-month rolling period to 6. Accordingly, the player was suspended for 4-months (the culmination of 1-month for incurring 4 disciplinary points, 1-month for incurring 5 disciplinary points and an additional 2-months for incurring 6 disciplinary points).

Example 4

Offence	Penalty	Disciplinary Points	Offence Date	Days since oldest "ACTIVE" disciplinary point	Cumulative Number of Active Disciplinary Points
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	22-May-2023	0	1
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	22-May -2023	0	2
Verbal Abuse (subject to DRP review)	Code Violation	3	26-May-2023	4	5
Audible Obscenity	Code Violation	1	12-Aug-2023	82	6
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	5-Dec-2023	197	7
Audible Obscenity	Code Violation	1	6-Dec-2023	198	8
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Code Violation	1	6-Dec-2023	198	9
Audible Obscenity	Code Violation	1	8-Dec-2023	200	10

Explanation of suspension duration

Regarding row 3 of this example, on 26 May 2023 the player receives a Code Violation. The conduct was considered a serious Code Violation by the on-site official, so the player incurred 2 disciplinary points for the Verbal Abuse. However, following a Post Event Report, the conduct was ultimately referred to the DRP and an additional penalty of 1 disciplinary point was issued. Accordingly, the total number of disciplinary points issued for the Verbal Abuse Code Violation on 28 May 2023 is 3. This took the player's total number of disciplinary points accumulated in a 12-month rolling period to 5. Accordingly, the player was suspended for 2-months (the culmination of 1-month for incurring 4 disciplinary points and another 1-month for incurring 5 disciplinary points).

Regarding row 4, on 12 August 2023 the player receives a Code Violation and incurs their 6th disciplinary point in a 12-month rolling period. The suspension period for accumulating 6 disciplinary points in a 12-month rolling period is 4-months, however, because of the previously served 2-month suspension, the player now receives an additional 2-month suspension.

Regarding rows 5-8, between 5 and 8 December 2023, the player commits 4 Code Violations at the same tournament and incurs an additional 4 disciplinary points. This took the player's total number of disciplinary points accumulated in a 12-month rolling period to 10. Accordingly, the player was referred to the DRP for consideration of an appropriate penalty for accumulating more than 7 disciplinary points in a 12-month rolling period.

Example 5

Offence	Penalty	Disciplinary Points	Offence Date	Days since oldest "ACTIVE" disciplinary point	Cumulative Number of Active Disciplinary Points
No Show	Code Violation	2	17-Jan-2022	0	2
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	25-Mar-2022	67	3
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	4-Aug-2022	199	4
Audible Obscenity	Code Violation	1	12-Feb-2023	324	3
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	22-May-2023	292	3
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	22-May-2023	292	4
Unsportsmanlike Conduct (DRP review)	Code Violation	2	26-Sep-2023	227	5

Explanation of suspension duration

Regarding row 3 of this example, on 4 August 2022 the player receives a Code Violation for racquet abuse and incurs their 4th disciplinary points in a 12-month rolling period. Accordingly, the player is suspended for 1-month.

Regarding row 4, the player receives a Code Violation for an Audible Obscenity on 12 February 2023, incurring 1 disciplinary point. The Code Violation for a No Show on 17 January 2022 has become inactive, as more than 12-months have passed. Accordingly, the total number of active disciplinary points accumulated as of 12 February 2023 is 3.

Regarding rows 5-6, on 22 May 2023 the player receives 2 Code Violations for racquet abuse in the same match. On 22 May 2023, their total number of disciplinary points accumulate in that rolling 12-month period is 4 (the disciplinary points incurred on 17 January 2022 and 25 March 2022 are both expired and inactive). Accordingly, the player is suspended for 1-month.

Regarding row 7, on 26 September 2023 the player is reported for Unsportsmanlike Conduct. The conduct is referred to the DRP for review and a Code Violation is imposed, incurring 2 disciplinary points. This took the player's total number of disciplinary points accumulated in a 12-month rolling period to 5 (the disciplinary point incurred on 4 August 2022 is expired and inactive). Accordingly, the player is suspended for 1-month.

Example 6

Offence	Penalty	Disciplinary Points	Offence Date	Days since oldest "ACTIVE" disciplinary point	Cumulative Number of Active Disciplinary Points
Audible Obscenity	Code Violation	1	30-Apr-2022	0	1
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	20-Jul-2022	81	2
Verbal Abuse	Code Violation	1	20-Jul-2022	81	3
Audible Obscenity	Code Violation	1	29-Sep-2022	152	4
Racquet or Equipment Abuse	Code Violation	1	29-Sep-2022	152	5
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Default	1	29-Sep-2022	152	6

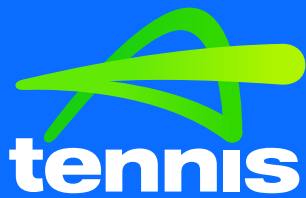
Explanation of suspension duration

Regarding row 4-6 of this example, on 29 September 2022 the player was defaulted from a match for committing 3 Code Violations, with a disciplinary point issued for each. Because the player already had 3 disciplinary points from earlier that year on their record, the cumulative number of disciplinary points for the player in the 12-month rolling period went from 3 to 6. Accordingly, either a cumulative 4-month suspension may be imposed, or the matter is referred to the DRP at TA's discretion. In this case, the matter was referred to the DRP and it was determined that because the player had not served a suspension period previously, then the 4-month suspension was amended to a 3-month suspension, with a requirement to complete education.

APPENDIX II – ASSESSMENT MATRIX FOR MONETARY FINES

In accordance with 8.1(a) and 8.2, the TA Integrity Team has the discretion to refer matters in which a Participant may be disproportionately affected by a suspension because they rely on tennis to substantially generate an income to the DRP or a Tribunal. In accordance with clause 7.2(c), if the DRP or a Tribunal decide to impose a monetary fine against a player the below matrix sets out the minimum and maximum amount to issue for the respective Code Violations.

Code Violation	Minimum	Maximum
Audible Obscenity	\$50	\$100
Visual Obscenity	\$50	\$100
Ball Abuse	\$50	\$75
Abuse of Racquets or Equipment	\$50	\$150
Verbal Abuse	\$75	\$150
Physical Abuse	\$100	\$500
Best Efforts	\$100	\$500
Dress and Equipment	\$50	\$75
Delay of Game	\$25	\$50
Leaving the Court	\$75	\$150
Spectator Misconduct	\$50	\$250
Unsportsmanlike Conduct / General Misconduct	\$50	\$250
Late Withdrawal (Before or After the Draw) and Failure to Complete	\$150	\$500
Playing two tournaments (Concurrency)	\$50	\$150
Punctuality ('No Show')	\$25	\$150
Default – In addition to any fine(s) for the on-court offences	\$150	\$250



Code of Behaviour

Child friendly version

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR: COMPETITIVE PLAY



What is the Code of Behaviour and when does it apply?

Tennis Australia and all its clubs want to make sure everyone in tennis feels safe, welcome and included, while having fun. The Code of Behaviour helps to achieve this and is a guide to how everyone should behave at tennis tournaments and competitions in Australia.

The Code applies whether you're playing, coaching, watching, officiating or helping out during any competitive tennis event in Australia, both on and off the court, during, before and after any match.

Expected behaviour during competitive play

To keep tennis fun and fair, everyone should uphold the spirit of tennis, which requires you to:

- 🎾 Treat everyone with respect and kindness.
- 🎾 Be honest, humble and play fairly.
- 🎾 Always try your best and value good sportsmanship over winning.
- 🎾 Take responsibility for your own actions.
- 🎾 Respect your opposition players, spectators, officials, and volunteers.

- 🎾 Follow the rules and ask if you're unsure about anything.
- 🎾 Help create a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone.
- 🎾 Listen to officials – they're there to make sure everything runs smoothly.

If you can do all of these things, it will guarantee that both you and those around you will have fun!

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR: COMPETITIVE PLAY

What you must not do during competitive play

The following behaviours are things you cannot do:

- 🎾 **Audible Obscenity** – Don't use swear words or bad language.
- 🎾 **Visible Obscenity** – Don't make rude or offensive gestures.
- 🎾 **Ball Abuse** – Don't hit or throw balls angrily or dangerously, either on or off the court.
- 🎾 **Abuse of Racquets or Equipment** – Don't smash, throw, or damage your racquet or other equipment.
- 🎾 **Verbal Abuse** – Don't insult, threaten, or say mean things to anyone.
- 🎾 **Physical Abuse** – Don't punch, hit, push, touch or hurt anyone in a way on purpose, without their consent.
- 🎾 **Coaching** – During a match (including the warm-up), players can't receive tips or advice from anyone.
- 🎾 **Best Efforts** – Always try your hardest during matches.
- 🎾 **Dress and Equipment** – Wear appropriate tennis clothes and shoes.
- 🎾 **Time Violation/Delay of Game** – Start matches on time and keep play moving without unnecessary delays.
- 🎾 **Leaving the Court** – Don't leave the court during a match unless an official gives you permission.
- 🎾 **Unsportsmanlike Conduct** – Play fairly, follow the rules, be honest with your line balls, and uphold the spirit of tennis, even when you're losing.
- 🎾 **Late Withdrawal/Failure to Complete** – Sign up for tournaments only if you can play and complete them.
- 🎾 **Playing Two Tournaments** – Don't sign up to two tournaments at the same time unless you have special permission.
- 🎾 **Punctuality ('No Show')** – Be ready to play within 15 minutes of your match being called.

Sideline behaviour

We know that kids most enjoy playing tennis when you do not have spectators on the sideline behaving poorly, putting too much pressure on you or are being discouraging. Parents/guardians and spectators are expected to support players in a positive way and never:

- 🎾 Threaten, intimidate, or disrupt anyone at the venue.
- 🎾 Make rude or disrespectful comments or gestures.
- 🎾 Coach players during a match.
- 🎾 Behave in ways that makes the game less fun, safe or comfortable for others.



If this happens to you, we encourage you to speak to an official or someone you feel comfortable talking to and report the bad sideline behaviour.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR: COMPETITIVE PLAY

What happens if you break the rules?

As a player, if you do not follow the rules, you may be in breach of the Code of Behaviour. This is called a Code Violation, and for every time you receive a Code Violation you may receive a disciplinary point, which goes on your behaviour record. An official might give you a Code Violation if they see you do something wrong, or your behaviour may be reported, and you may then receive disciplinary points afterwards.

It is important to know that:

- ⌚ More than 4 disciplinary points in 12 months will result in you being suspended from playing.
- ⌚ The more points you get, the longer you might be suspended.
- ⌚ For serious incidents, your behaviour may be sent to a Disciplinary Review Panel which might decide on further actions.

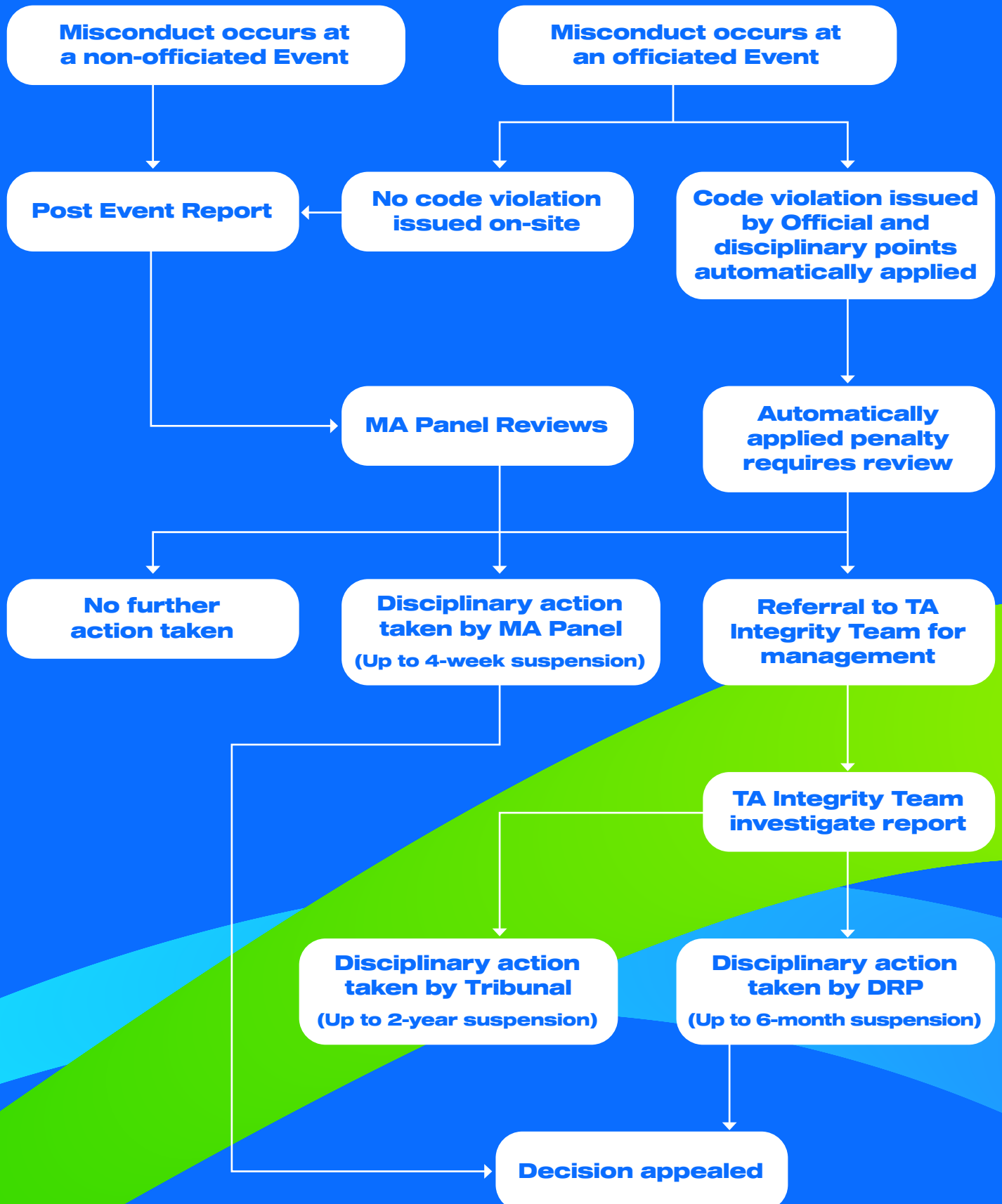
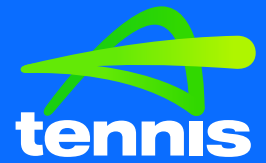
Our goal is to keep you on the court, having fun and playing fair. Stick to the rules, play with respect, and enjoy tennis!

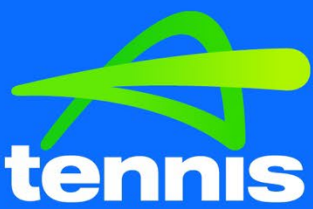


If you have questions, ask an official or contact Tennis Australia's Integrity team: integrity@tennis.com.au

Disclaimer: This fact sheet does not replace the Code of Behaviour: Competitive Play. The Policy applies and overrules this fact sheet in any instances.

Appendix IV Code of Behaviour Flowchart





Tennis acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, rest and play, and pay our respect to Elders past and present.