

St Andrews Table Tennis Club Scotland

Code of conduct

Introduction

In March 2016 the management committee of St Andrews Table Tennis Club (SATTC) decided that it should develop a Code of Conduct for its members. This Code was adopted at the club's AGM on 23 May 2016.

So far as practicable, conduct deemed unacceptable is based on Table Tennis Scotland's policies. SATTC's code goes further in some respects by giving examples of what it considers to be good and unacceptable behaviour. However, it should be appreciated that the Code cannot provide for every eventuality.

SATTC expects its Code to be respected by its members at all times and also by teams visiting Victory Memorial Hall.

Good conduct

Members of SATTC, youngsters or adults attending club-led coaching sessions, parent/guardians, officials and players are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and sporting manner with due respect for other players, officials, parents and guardians and to refrain from any behaviour likely to bring the club or the sport into disrepute. This includes:

- wearing appropriate clothing for competitive matches (e.g. not light colours)
- normally, remaining at the courtside during your team-mates' or opponents' matches
- serving legally
- shaking hands with opponents and the umpire after every match
- accepting defeat graciously
- taking your turn to umpire, taking due care and attention, and calling out the score at the end of each point (not just flipping over the numbers)
- if you are able, standing to umpire doubles matches so that serving faults can be more readily detected
- respecting the umpire's decision at all times
- acknowledging net cords and edges
- being familiar with the DDTA rules and your team's fixtures
- avoiding player shortages and concessions
- not engaging in any unacceptable conduct

Unacceptable conduct

Displays of bad temper, swearing or shouting

No-one is perfect. In the heat of matches, players often get annoyed and direct comments at themselves. However, players should not swear or shout at opponents or allow bad language to be overheard by youngsters.

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Unsporting behaviour towards opponents

Consistently serving illegally or deliberately rushing an opponent before they are ready is unsporting. Players should not serve before the score has been called and displayed by the umpire.

While stamping is no longer illegal it can still be considered unsporting behaviour. Stamping when serving can also make it difficult for the umpire to detect net cords if it causes the net to shake. Players should desist from stamping if requested to do so.

Players should also resist 'celebrating' a point won through no effort of their own (e.g. where they have had no contact with the ball during the point).

Umpires should not offer advice to players during matches.

Discourteous or abusive behaviour towards match officials, other players, or members of the public

Mobile phones or other electronic devices should not be used within the court area while games are in progress (including when used with earphones). This is a formal DDTA rule.

Players should also not talk audibly when in close proximity to the table or create such a noise that it distracts players on adjacent tables. Equally, if a player wishes to call for quiet, it should be done politely.

It should be recognised that your opponent(s) may not like to exchange comments during games (such as 'good shot', 'lucky' or 'unlucky') while others may find it perfectly acceptable. This has to be judged in individual cases but if your opponent chooses to remain silent during a game you may wish to wait until after the game before exchanging comments.

Discrimination through words or actions on the grounds of race, religious belief, age, disability or sexual orientation will not be tolerated.

Abuse of equipment

Players must not kick tables, walls or court surrounds. Bats should not be thrown or broken in temper and should never be deliberately dropped onto or banged on tables.

At the end of a match night, tables must never be lifted or moved by only one person and should be stacked back to back/face to face. Nets should be removed from posts and folded. All equipment should be put away tidily.

A player defaulting from a tournament without due cause

A player found guilty of misuse of drugs

A player under 18 found guilty of consuming alcohol

Failure to follow the instructions of any tournament official or organiser

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Complaints/sanctions

It is not intended that every minor or isolated breach of this Code should be drawn to the attention of the management committee. On any given match night that might well lead to everyone being reported for something.

Members

Significant or persistent breaches (and that can only be judged in the first instance by the complainant) should be reported to the management committee in writing. The committee will appoint a sub-committee of three members to consider the complaint and to hear evidence from the relevant parties. The sub-committee will inform the parties whether the complaint has been upheld and what action, if any, it proposes to take. This may range from no action to a reprimand or, in serious cases, expulsion from the club. There shall be a right of appeal which will be heard by three committee members not involved in the original decision.

Any decision to expel a member shall require endorsement by the full committee (or a quorum thereof).

Non-members

A complaint against a non-member should also be reported in the first instance to the management committee. Where the complaint is about a member of another DDTA affiliated club the matter shall be reported either to the other club and/or to DDTA, to be dealt with as they see fit.

Where the allegation concerns any other non-member the management committee of SATTC will decide what action it considers appropriate, which may include advising the person that they may take no further part in the club's activities.