

# Tennis Rules, Suggestions, & Etiquette

**Rules:** (These are covered in standard rules, but to accent them & add some local rules):

1. If the ball is 99% out, it is 100% good.
2. If you hit the net or your body or clothing touches the net when you hit the ball in a match, you lose the point.
3. If you call the ball out and your partner calls it good, you lose the point. You do not play the point over.
4. If you lose track of the score, you reconcile by going back to the last score you both can remember.
5. You can serve from any place on the base line from the center tee to the doubles alley.
6. Racquet dampeners must be placed below the last cross string.
7. Do not call a ball out until it lands on the court.
8. When a ball rolls on your court, you can call "a let," but be sure you wait for the point to be completed on the court where the ball came from before you roll the ball back.
9. Do not play tennis in running shoes or cross trainers. They tear up the courts. See the article on [SOLE CONCERNS](#).
10. Before you begin playing at Noon and at the end of your 5:30pm reservation, sweep the court and return the broom to the fence with the bristles facing the court.
11. Players must not approach the player's bench until it is cleared – that is, until the players on the court before them have vacated the court, collected their belongings, and exited the players bench.
12. Never go on another court to retrieve your ball. Always ask for your ball from the player on the next court.
13. Always enter the court from the back through the gate or the side. Do not walk across another court to get to your court.
14. If you or your partner is hit or your racquet touches the ball with a serve by your opponent before it lands, you lose the point.
15. For USTA matches, there is **NO COACHING** or **INTERFERENCE OF ANY KIND** by spectators, spouses, bystanders, etc. A team captain (only) is allowed a short coaching break at the start of a ten point tie-breaker, should that condition arise.
16. For USTA matches, neither spectators nor non-playing team captains are allowed to identify errors such as wrong scores, wrong tie-breaker positioning, etc. These types of issues are resolved **ONLY** by the four players involved, per standard USTA rules.

**Suggestions:** (These are not “rules”, but are strongly suggested for good sportsmanship)

1. If you cannot make the call because you did not see the ball land, IT IS GOOD. The call is either “in or out.” Be firm. Do not say “I think...” You do NOT replay the point.
2. Learn to play both ad and deuce sides of the court.
3. Make an effort to always be on time for practice and matches.
4. Do not play when you are injured.
5. Spin your racquet before you start to see who will serve first and then go to the side you are going to start play for your warm up.
6. Remember the 10-minute warm up is not a practice. Do not try to hit winners in the warm up. Try to let your opponent hit some balls. Try to keep a rally going.
7. Be alert about other match balls on your court. They all have #'s; check yours.
8. Don't be afraid to open a new can of balls; don't be cheap.
9. It is a good idea when you find a partner to take clinics with each other. If you come up with a question, just ask a pro for your best answer.
10. String tension in your racquet is important. Consider restringing every four months.
11. Call your score every time you get ready to serve.
12. Do not leave used balls, towels, or cups on the courts when you are finished playing.
13. Shake your partner's hand first, then your opponent's hand after the match.
14. Dress like a tennis player and not like someone going to the beach or yoga.
15. No cursing, throwing of racquets, or hitting the net with your racquet.

**Etiquette:** (These are common sense guidelines of good behavior for players and spectators alike)

1. Do not give excuses for a bad shot or bad day such as sun, wind, spin, sick, too early to play, too cold/hot, etc. No one cares.
2. Support your partner under all circumstances. ALWAYS give encouragement.
3. Do not talk negative about your partner or other players.
4. Always turn off your cell phone when you enter the courts.
5. For any competitive match, spectators should applaud only on good shots. Never applaud for a point won by an error. Spectators and players alike should always be courteous. We all share in the responsibility to maintain a good reputation and image of Sun City tennis, both on & off site.