

THE CODE

"The Code" written by Nick Powel. The Code has been adopted by the USTA as the unwritten rules and court etiquette for all NON-OFFICIATED matches.

1. WHEN IN DOUBT as to whether a ball is out or good, the call is always made in favor of you opponent; you should NOT play a let. Any ball which cannot be called out with certainty is good.
2. OTHER LINE CALL PROCEDURES:
 - a. Call all balls on your side of the net.
 - b. Call against yourself any balls clearly out.
 - c. Never question your opponent's call.
 - d. Ask opponent's opinion if he or she is in better position to make call. When opinion is given, it must be accepted.
 - e. DO NOT enlist the aid of spectators to make line calls.
 - f. Make all calls instantly. Don't violate the "two chance" rules.
 - g. First service is called by receiver or his partner only. On second service, if either the server or his partner clearly sees a fault, he is obligated to make the call.
 - h. If you call a ball out and then realize it was good, you should:
 - 1.) Play the point over if you returned the ball to your opponent's court; or
 - 2.) Score the point in favor of your opponent if you failed to return the ball.
3. Returning a serve that is obviously a fault in order to catch your opponent napping is cheating. However, if receiver returns a service he honestly believes is good (possibly trying to give server the benefit of any doubt), server is not entitled to refuse to play the point on the grounds he (the server) thought the ball was out.
4. FOOT FAULT. Recent USTA rule interpretations allow receiver(s) to call FLAGRANT foot fault violations. If your opponent FLAGRANTLY foot faults, you should: First, POLITELY advise him of this and ask that the problem be corrected; second, request that someone serve as foot fault judge; third, if no one is available to serve as foot fault judge, call the faults yourself.
5. You must play with the equipment you have at courtside (continuous play rule).
6. On calls involving a ball touching a player, a player touching the net, a player touching his opponent's court or hitting an opponent's return before it has passed the net, a carry, or a double bounce—the prerogative of decision rests with the player involved. The prerogative of decision on calling a double-hit rests with the striker's opponent.
7. In tournaments, the pre-match warm-up should not last over five minutes. Service practice must be completed BY ALL PLAYERS before the match begins and is NOT to be taken just before a player serves for the first time (continuous play rule.) A player should not practice service returns while another player is practicing his serve.
8. Receiver should not attempt to return a service during the game, unless he and his partner are ready. If the receiver attempts to return service, he is presumed ready and cannot subsequently claim he was not ready.
9. Server should announce game score of the set prior to serving the first point. He should then announce the point score prior to serving each subsequent point during the game.
10. If there is an irresolvable disagreement over the score, spin a racquet. The score becomes whatever the winner of the spin said was the score. This procedure is used whether it be a disagreement over the score within a game or over the game score within a set and is only used after all other efforts to resolve the disagreement over the score have failed.

DON'TS

1. DON'T say, "We're playing today." Instead, say, "You're playing today." This is your child's match, help them learn how to be responsible for preparing to play (checking in, etc.).
2. DON'T get too pushy.
3. DON'T turn away when the child behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner on the court.
4. DON'T tell the child what he or she did wrong or right after a tough match.
5. DON'T ask the child to talk with you immediately after a loss.
6. DON'T make enemies with your child's opponent's parents during a match.
7. DON'T act negatively and angrily on the sidelines unless your child is acting in an unsportsmanlike manner.
8. DON'T make your child's tennis your life.
9. DON'T make your child feel guilty for all the time, money, and sacrifices you're making for his or her tennis.
10. DON'T think of your child's tennis as an investment for which you expect a return.
11. DON'T live out your own dreams through your child's tennis.
12. DON'T try to take the coach's job away. Be the parent.
13. DON'T compare your child's progress with that of other children.
14. DON'T Badger, harass, or use sarcasm to motivate your child.
15. DON'T threaten or use fear to improve your child's tennis discipline.
16. DON'T talk about us; talk to us, if you have any comments or suggestions.