

SECTION 8

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY FOR PARENTS

Tennis Alberta's mission is to inspire, promote and deliver quality opportunities for participation in Tennis in Alberta, with an emphasis on lifetime participation and building healthy, active communities.

Tennis Alberta supports the promotion of good sportsmanship and respect in all Tennis Alberta-affiliated activities, programs, events and tournaments, including without limitation any Tennis Canada activities, programs, events and tournaments (hereinafter, collectively, "Tennis Alberta Activities").

Tennis Alberta aims to assist all junior tennis players involved in Tennis Alberta Activities (hereinafter "Junior Players") participate in, enjoy, and excel in the sport of tennis. To help realize this goal Tennis Alberta expects parents and guardians of Junior Players (hereinafter, each, a "Tennis Parent") engaged in any Tennis Alberta Activities to conduct themselves in a considerate and respectful manner at all times. Tennis Alberta references Tennis Canada's Safeguarding Tennis Initiative and Rules of Court as guiding documents for player and parent/guardian conduct.

Tennis Alberta works to ensure that all Junior Players, Tennis Parents and other persons involved in the sport, including without limitation any Tennis Alberta Executive Director, Technical Manager, coach, board member, official, volunteer, spectator or other Tennis Alberta employee (hereinafter, each, a Tennis Alberta Member") are treated respectfully and remain protected from inappropriate, unsportsmanlike, disrespectful and/or abusive comment and behavior, and are at all times provided with a safe, supportive, healthy and productive environment for tennis development and related activities – whether on or off the court.

Tennis Alberta has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for any abusive or disrespectful behavior, contact or communication on the part of Tennis Parents towards any Official, Tournament Staff & Volunteers, Junior Players, other Tennis Parents, and/or Tennis Alberta Members.

Further to this, Tennis Alberta prescribes the following code of conduct for all Tennis Parents:

1. Tennis Parents must AT ALL TIMES respect and adhere to all tennis matters, standards, rules and procedures prescribed or adopted by Tennis Alberta respecting staffing, direction of programming and rules of conduct and play at Tennis Alberta Activities, and such matters, rules and procedures shall be binding upon Tennis Parents and will not be subject to modification excepting as may be specifically sanctioned and directed by Tennis Alberta.
2. All Tennis Parents must respect, observe and adhere to all applicable tournament rules, etiquettes and regulations as may apply to Tennis Alberta Activities.
3. Except with Tennis Alberta Technical Manager(s) expressed permission, no Tennis Parent is permitted to be on court during any Tennis Alberta activity.
4. All Tennis Parents shall act in an appropriate, sportsmanlike, respectful and civil manner towards all constituents* in any contact, communications and/or meetings of any nature.
 - Tennis Canada and Tennis Alberta deems it unacceptable for adults/parents to label children (minors) as 'cheaters'. It is completely inappropriate for parents to spread rumours or write complaints to the association about children being cheaters. Matters pertaining to on-court play is subjected to the Rules of the Court and should be left to officials to address appropriately.

**As Defined within Section 5: Discipline and Complaints Policy (Page 20) -*

Definitions: Constituents - All categories of membership within the Alberta Tennis Association, as well as all individuals employed by or engaged in activities with Tennis Alberta, including but not limited to, athletes, coaches, judges, officials, volunteers, directors, officers, managers, administrators, spectators, carded players and parents of Tennis Alberta athletes who are card holding members.

5. In the event that any Tennis Parent wishes to meet on any nature or matter of complaint with any constituent, including the Tennis Alberta Executive Director or Technical Manager(s), he or she must adhere to the following procedure:
 - Make initial contact with the concerned Tennis Alberta Member by email or phone, and advise of the subject matter for the requested meeting. During such contact the Tennis Parent may request a specific meeting date. When doing so the Tennis Parent should take into account that the Tennis Alberta Member may offer a meeting date and time that fits into the Tennis Alberta Member's working time frame/calendar. On no occasion should a Tennis Parent appear unannounced and in person to seek a meeting with a Tennis Alberta Member. Tennis Alberta Members are not expected to make themselves available under such circumstance.
 - **There is a mandatory 24 hour cool down period in effect after tournaments.** Each Parent must wait 24 hours after the conclusion of the tournament before approaching association or TA staff regarding complaints/concerns.
6. Tennis Parents are expected to be familiar with Tennis Alberta CODE OF CONDUCT that includes information about suspension points, suspensions and disciplinary procedures. Any and all Tennis Alberta activities are governed by the CODE OF CONDUCT.
 - (a) **First infraction**
 - (i) At the discretion of the on-court or roving official, Tournament Director and/or Tennis Alberta Technical Manager(s), any first breach of the Code of Conduct by a Tennis Parent may result in:
 - Loss of the right or privilege to attend Tennis Alberta-sanctioned activities, programs, events and/or tournaments for such time period as may be specified; and/or
 - Loss of the right or privilege to attend Tennis Canada-sanctioned activities, programs, events and/or tournaments for such time period as may be specified.
 - (b) **Second or Subsequent Infraction**
 - (i) At the discretion of the Tennis Alberta Executive Director, Technical Manager(s), and/or Commissioner(s), any second or subsequent breach of this Parental Code of Conduct by a Tennis Parent may result in a more severe sanction than for a first infraction, including a longer period of the loss of the right or privilege to attend Tennis Alberta-sanctioned and/or Tennis Canada-sanctioned activities, programs, events and/or tournaments.
 - (ii) In addition, depending on the severity of the second or subsequent breach to this Parental Code of Conduct, the Tennis Alberta Executive Director, Technical Manager(s), and/or Commissioner(s), shall have the discretion and authority to permanently exclude and bar the offending Tennis Parent from all Tennis Alberta Activities and issue suspension points relating to an breach of the *Rules of the Court*.
7. In the event that any issue of a potential breach of this Parental Code of Conduct involves the Tennis Alberta Commissioner(s) and/or Executive Director, the process and sanction(s) prescribed in section 5 shall apply, with the exception that such process and sanction(s) shall be determined by the Tennis Alberta Executive Director or Disciplinary Committee (appointed by the Tennis Alberta Board of Directors) to make reasonable inquiries in respect of the issue of breach and/or sanction(s).
8. In the event of any sanction imposed upon a Tennis Parent under this Parental Code of Conduct, no fees paid to Tennis Alberta and/or Tennis Canada by such Tennis Parent shall be reimbursable.
9. This Parental Code of Conduct shall form and shall be deemed to constitute a condition of each and every Tennis Parent's attendance at or participation in any and all Tennis Alberta Activities.
10. It is a further condition of any Tennis Parent's attendance at or participation in any and all Tennis Alberta Activities that he or she shall respect and comply with any sanction imposed by this Parental Code of Conduct at any place or venue hosting any Tennis Alberta Activity.