



**OAKTON SWIM AND RACQUET CLUB, INC.**  
**TENNIS RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
*Effective April 20, 2022*

## **VI. TENNIS**

### **1. General**

- a. All tennis courts are for the exclusive use of members and their guests and are to be used for tennis and pickleball activities only.
- b. A copy of the tennis rules and court etiquette (See Appendix II) will be provided electronically to all Club members and posted on the Club's website and social media platforms. Reference to the rules will be posted on the tennis bulletin board and a copy will be available for reference in the Clubhouse. All members and guests are expected to follow these rules and exhibit proper court behavior at all times. Members are responsible for the behavior of their guests. The Business Manager, Tennis Pro and Tennis Liaison have the authority and responsibility to enforce these rules.
- c. Members will always treat other members and tennis staff with respect. Disrespectful or abusive behavior by members or guests will not be tolerated and is subject to sanction under the OSRC By-Laws. Follow the Rules of Etiquette in Appendix 2.
- d. Tennis court hours are from 7 AM to 10 PM. The Tennis Liaison may extend the opening hour to 6 to accommodate higher than normal demand for prime court time and weather conditions, and if deemed not disruptive to surrounding neighbors. Lights will not be turned on in the morning.
- e. Shirts and tennis shoes are required at all times on the courts. Black-soled tennis shoes are not permitted on the courts.
- f. Skateboards, scooters, bicycles, roller skates/blades, glass containers, food, and soft drinks are not allowed on the tennis courts.
- g. The Club tennis pro and associated tennis staff are the only professionals who may give private lessons on Club courts.
- h. Hard courts are maintained from April through October.
- i. Clay courts are maintained from April (subject to determination by the Pro) through October.
- j. No smoking or vaping is permitted on Club property.
- k. Spitting on Club property is prohibited.

- l. Injuries (other than the kind typically incurred in the normal course of play) must be reported to the Pro on duty, Club staff at the Reception Desk or the Business Manager. If none are available, complete and submit a Tennis Incident Report (See Appendix III).
- m. Players will follow all posted health and safety requirements.

## **2. Admission to the Courts**

- a. Admittance to the courts is by key only. The gates will be kept locked at all times.
- b. Upon request the Club will provide each family one free key to the courts. The same key works for both the hard courts and the clay courts. Access to the tennis ball machine shed is available upon request to the Pro. Keys shall not be loaned to non-members.

## **3. Procedures for Court Use**

- a. It is recommended that members make reservations to use the courts.
- b. Players will groom the clay courts following play using the tools and pattern provided so that they are properly prepared for play by the next users.

## **4. Reservation Procedure**

- a. A reservation system will be maintained for all seven courts.
- b. Members in good standing may make reservations on-line using the [OSRC.us](http://OSRC.us) website's [reservation tool](#). The on-line system may be used throughout the year. Questions about reservations may be addressed to the Pro at [OSRC@bluechiptennis.net](mailto:OSRC@bluechiptennis.net)
- c. Reservation time limits are 90 minutes for singles and 2 hours for doubles. In cases of late arrival, a 10-minute grace period will be allowed. After the grace period, the court reservation will be considered to have been forfeited.
- d. To ensure fairness, reservations must include the first and last names of all players. No player may be listed on more than one reservation at a time. Failure to observe this rule will automatically result in cancellation without notification of all but the first reservation.
- e. Players with reservations have priority for access to a reserved court when it is in use by other players without a reservation.

## **5. Tennis Liaison Reservations**

- a. The Tennis Liaison or the Pro, with the approval of the Tennis Liaison, may reserve a maximum of 5 courts at one time for organized weekly use or for tennis and pickleball socials.
- b. Subject to approval of the Board of Directors, the Tennis Liaison may reserve all seven courts.

## **6. Guests**

- a. All guests will pay the Club guest fee established by the Board of Directors throughout the year. The fee will be payable prior to play at the pool reception desk during operating hours or by depositing payment in the Tennis Shack drop box in the envelope provided. Payment may also be made by mail or electronically at the time of reservation once an online payment system is established. The primary reserving member will be responsible for payment of all guest fees. The current fee is appended to these rules in Appendix I and will be communicated to the membership and posted on the premises by the beginning of the season.
- b. At least one player on each court must be a member.

## **7. Junior Players**

- a. A junior player is one under the age of 18.
- b. Junior players may not play on clay courts without an adult or a pro. Juniors ages 13-17 *who qualify* will be able to play on the clay courts during the summer without an adult or pro, once they have been approved by the tennis pro. Those juniors wishing to do so must register with the tennis pro and buy a key to the courts.. A list of approved juniors who can use the clay courts will be maintained by the tennis pro.
- c. All courts will be restricted to adult use on weekends and holidays from 7 AM to noon. Clay courts #5 & #6 will be reserved for adult use evenings 7-10 PM. Junior players will be required to give way to adults during this time if the need arises.
- d. Junior players may not be bumped from courts at all other times unless requested by the tennis pro for lessons or special activities.

## Appendix I

### **2022 Guest Fee**

Guest Fee for 2022 is **\$3.00** payable at the Registration Desk, in the tennis shack drop-box, by mail or online (when available). The guest fee is applicable throughout the year.

### **Court Reservations**

Additional Court Reservation information: The reservation system can be accessed via the <http://www.osrc.us/tennis> website or directly by clicking [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

## **Appendix II**

### **OSRC Tennis Court Etiquette**

Tennis is often played without supervision, referees or officials. As a tennis player, it is important that you know and follow the rules and practice the courtesy of good sportsmanship and etiquette on court. Please know and abide by the following rules which will ensure a better playing experience for all members.

1. Read and follow "The Code" of tennis for unofficiated matches.
2. Please wear appropriate attire on court. Shirts must be worn, non-marking shoes only.
3. No profanities, yelling or screaming at any time while on court.
4. Cell phones must be silenced, except for health professionals on call.
5. No food, drinks (other than water and sports drinks) or chewing gum on courts.
6. Always show respect to all players and Club staff.
7. Please keep the courts clean by picking up all balls and placing trash in the proper receptacle.
8. To avoid slipping and possible injury, mop or squeegee any puddles until dry.
9. Playing in the rain, particularly on the hard courts, can be dangerous. Use good judgment to avoid slipping on a wet court.
10. Stop play and seek shelter immediately upon the first sound of thunder or flash of lightning.
11. If you need to cross a court that is occupied to access yours, please cross only between points.
12. Do not retrieve a ball from another court while their point is still in progress. Please wait until they finish their point.
13. No skateboards/scooters allowed. Only tennis and pickleball are played on the courts.
14. If you are around the tennis courts but not playing, please keep noise to an appropriate level and respect members who are playing.
15. Before starting play, ensure the court is free from hazards (extra balls, cans, or other debris).

16. Always be safe. Do not participate in any behavior that would risk injury to anyone else, such as throwing or hitting balls when not asked to, throwing your racquet or any other object on or off the court.
17. Always groom the clay courts and brush the lines following play. When finished, replace any grooming tools taken from another court in the designated location.
18. Have fun! The entire objective of playing tennis, aside from being good exercise, is to have fun. You can follow these rules of etiquette and still have a good time on the courts – the players on adjacent courts will appreciate it.

## The Code: The Players' Guide for Un-officiated Matches

### PREFACE

When your serve hits your partner stationed at the net, is it a let, fault, or loss of point? Likewise, what is the ruling when your serve, before touching the ground, hits an opponent who is standing back of the baseline. The answers to these questions are obvious to anyone who knows the fundamentals of tennis, but it is surprising the number of players who don't know these fundamentals. All players have a responsibility to be familiar with the basic rules and customs of tennis. Further, it can be distressing when a player makes a decision in accordance with a rule and the opponent protests with the remark: "Well, I never heard of that rule before!" Ignorance of the rules constitutes a delinquency on the part of a player and often spoils an otherwise good match.

What is written here constitutes the essentials of The Code, a summary of procedures and unwritten rules that custom and tradition dictate all players should follow. No system of rules will cover every specific problem or situation that may arise. If players of good will follow the principles of The Code, they should always be able to reach an agreement, while at the same time making tennis more fun and a better game for all. The principles set forth in The Code shall apply in cases not specifically covered by the ITF Rules of Tennis and USTA Regulations.

Before reading this you might well ask yourself: Since we have a book that contains all the rules of tennis, why do we need a code? Isn't it sufficient to know and understand all the rules? There are a number of things not specifically set forth in the rules that

are covered by custom and tradition only. For example, if you have a doubt on a line call, your opponent gets the benefit of the doubt. Can you find that in the rules? Further, custom dictates the standard procedures that players will use in reaching decisions. These are the reasons we need a code.

— Col. Nicolas E. Powell

Note: The Code is not part of the official ITF Rules of Tennis. It is meant to be used as a guide for unofficiated matches. This edition of The Code is an adaptation of the original, which was written by Colonel Nicolas E. Powell.

### PRINCIPLES

1. **Courtesy.** Tennis is a game that requires cooperation and courtesy from all participants. Make tennis a fun game by praising your opponents' good shots and by not:

- conducting loud postmortems after points;
- complaining about shots like lobs and drop shots;
- embarrassing a weak opponent by being overly gracious or condescending;
- losing your temper, using vile language, throwing your racket, or slamming a ball in anger; or
- sulking when you are losing.

2. **Counting points played in good faith.** All points played in good faith stand. For example, if after losing a point, a player discovers that the net was four inches too high, the point stands. If a point is played from the wrong court, there is no replay. If during a point, a player realizes that a mistake was made at the beginning (for example, service from the wrong court), the player shall continue playing the point. Corrective action may be taken only after a point has been completed.

### THE WARM-UP

3. **Warm-up is not practice.** A player should provide the opponent a 5-minute warm-up (ten minutes if there are no ball persons). If a player refuses to warm-up the opponent, the player forfeits the right to a warm-up. Some players confuse warm-up and practice. A player should make a special effort to hit shots directly to the opponent. (If partners want to warm each other up while their opponents are warming up, they may do so.)

4. **Warm-up serves.** Take all your warm-up serves before the first serve of the match. Courtesy dictates that you not practice your service return when your opponent practices serving. If a player has completed the player's warm-up serves, the player shall return warm-up serves directly to the opponent.

### MAKING CALLS

5. **Player makes calls on own side of the net.** A player calls all shots landing on, or aimed at, the player's side of the net.

6. **Opponent gets benefit of doubt.** When a match is played without officials, the players are responsible for making decisions, particularly for line calls. There is a subtle difference between player decisions and those of an

Appendix III

OSRC TENNIS INCIDENT REPORT

OSRC Representative completing form: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of injured: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Member/Employee or Guest (circle one)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Of incident: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ A.M. P.M. (Circle one)

Location where incident occurred:

\_\_\_\_\_

—

(Locker room, court#, common area, etc. Be specific.)

Nature of injury:

\_\_\_\_\_

Description of incident:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Was offer made to call EMS? N/A: \_\_\_\_ Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Was EMS called? N/A: \_\_\_\_ Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Did EMS transport injured person? Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Were police called? N/A: \_\_\_\_ Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Police report Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Additional action taken:

\_\_\_\_\_

Was property damaged? (If yes, describe):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Persons present at the scene:

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

OSRC Representative Signature:

Date:

Signature Of Injured or Guardian:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Submit completed forms to OSRC's Business Manager or the front desk attendant if during pool hours.  
Business Manager, Oakton Swim & Racquet Club, P.O. Box 571, Oakton, VA 22124,  
Phone: (703) 620-6772. email: [osrcbusinessmanager@gmail.com](mailto:osrcbusinessmanager@gmail.com)