

**To all Players – Club by-law**  
**By-law 07 Court Standards and Etiquette Guidance (As agreed at committee meeting 07/11/17)**

**INTRODUCTION**

Penzance Tennis Club Committee supports good practice developed by the Lawn Tennis Association around standards and behaviour on court. Further information can be found here [ITF Tennis](#)

**STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR, ETIQUETTE, CLUB RULES**

All members must treat other members with dignity with respect.

Unacceptable behaviour includes the following:

- Racquet throwing;
- Swearing;
- Being abusive or aggressive;
- Intimidating others;
- Questioning another person's integrity over line calls or other actions;
- Causing danger to other players through your play.

ETIQUETTE is different from the rules of the game, and covers a broad range of actions and behaviours. The Committee recommends to members:

1. Wear recognised sports clothing, and most importantly tennis shoes.
2. Show respect and courtesy to everyone.
3. Juniors have the same court access rights as other members during Open Play periods, but are encouraged to use courts as early in the evening as possible, e.g. between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.
4. Do not criticise your partner or opponent, be positive and encourage them.
5. Do not walk on or behind courts whilst a game or a rally is in progress.
6. Wait for players to finish the game, or minimally the point, before interrupting.
7. If crossing a court, do so at the rear of the court and walk quickly.
8. If a stray ball comes onto your court, return it with consideration.
9. When on court, keep the amount and volume of conversation to a minimum.
10. Try to appear upbeat and positive, even if you feel different.
11. Mobile phones and other devices are to be switched off.
12. Pick up litter, dispose of it and leave courts clear of balls, containers, etc.
13. Strictly no chewing gum on court.

**Line calls**

1. Only call the lines on your side of the net.
2. Call clearly and firmly what you see and honestly believe to be correct.
3. If you are not certain the ball was out, the ball was IN.
4. If you disagree with a line call, do so politely and accept it if they are sure.
5. When playing socially, offer to play the point again rather than argue.

**Ball and ball container management**

1. Keep spare balls at the rear of courts, in a pocket, or at the net.
2. Return balls to the serving end with consideration.
3. Do not allow empty ball containers to blow around courts.

**Keeping score.**

1. The server should announce the score clearly and regularly.
2. All players should keep the score, and clarify it if necessary.
3. Use the game scoreboard on each court.

**Close the gate behind you / slacken net tension**

1. Please close the gate behind you gently without allowing it to slam.
2. If you are the last to play on a court, slacken the tension on the net.