

BY-LAW ADDENDUM #2: HONOR CODE OF ETHICS (REVISED 5/13/99)

The Honor Code of Ethics is prepared with the philosophy that “today’s opponent is tomorrow’s tennis friend.” To assure that end, this code should be used as a guideline during league play.

A. COURTESY

1. The game of tennis depends upon courtesy and fairness.
2. Hosting teams should extend themselves to provide pleasant conditions for their guests. Water or other beverage is needed on each court, and restroom facilities must be provided. Above all, it is important to treat visiting teams like friends.
3. Guest teams should be courteous and friendly, supporting the host team’s efforts at providing a pleasant tennis atmosphere.

B. FRIENDS, COACHES, CHILDREN, PARENTS

1. Friends, children, parents are not permitted on the court at any time.
2. Spectators or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls or scoring. A coach may be consulted during the match to clarify a USTA rule. If a coach is unavailable, either or both captains may be consulted between the captains’ games or completion of their tiebreak.
3. Spectators may cheer and clap only to the extent that players are not disturbed. If “quiet” is requested by any player, the request must be allowed.

C. CONDUCT OF PLAYERS

1. The highest type of sportsmanship is expected from every player.
2. If you do not have an umpire, then you must call all balls as if you were a linesman, except that any doubt must be resolved in favor of your opponent.
3. It is your obligation to help your opponent make a call when your help is requested.
4. It is the server’s responsibility to call the score before each point.
5. Calls of “out” and “let” must be made instantly. A delay in making the calls implies that the ball was not seen clearly and is therefore good.
6. In doubles if one partner calls the ball out, and the other partner calls it good, then it is the opponents’ point since doubt has been raised.
7. When the first serve is obviously out, it is discourteous to return it across the net.
8. Never try to take advantage of an opponent by serving before she is ready. Your opponent may ask for a let if you quick-serve her. However, if she either hits the ball or tries to hit it, she cannot then claim she was not ready.
9. You must volunteer honestly against yourself such violations as double-bounce, ball touching your body or clothing, touching the net, reaching over the net.
10. In doubles, there should be no conversation during the course of play other than brief instructions to your partner, such as “mine”, “out”, “run”, “bounce it”.
11. A one-time 5-minute suspension of play shall be allowed during a match for an injury or emergency.
12. USTA regulations specifically prohibit the following:
 - a) Loud, abusive or profane language, racquet throwing or slamming of balls.
 - b) Stalling. There will be no continuous strolling to the net to use towels or get a sip of water or to rest between points.
 - c) Making a comedy of the match, whether winning or losing.
 - d) Cheating. The Golden Rule of Tennis is that every player call balls on her side of the net, as she would want them called on the other side.
 - e) Intentional waving of a racquet or arms or making distracting noises.
 - f) Foot-faulting. A person who unknowingly foot-faults is taking advantage of her opponent. The person who knowingly foot-faults is cheating.