



The Progress Tour

Compete. Learn. Earn.

Progress Tour China

Code of Conduct

2021/2022

PROGRESS TOUR CHINA

PART I – EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS

What you must do at Tournaments and Competitions

Everyone involved in Tournaments and Competitions, whether they are players, coaches, parents or other stakeholders, are custodians of the sport of tennis, and responsible for upholding the spirit of tennis. This requires an ongoing commitment to:

- (a) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others;
- (b) Act with honesty, integrity, humility and professionalism;
- (c) Compete to the best of your ability at all times;
- (d) Take responsibility for your own actions;
- (e) Read, understand and comply with all of tennis' standards, rules, regulations, policies and by-laws as amended from time to time. If you have queries, ask someone;
- (f) Respect opposition players and other spectators;
- (g) Respect the law and act in accordance with it;
- (h) Act as positive role models for other tennis participants and the community generally;
- (i) Promote the sport in a positive light;
- (j) Respect the role of Officials and administrators whose job it is to ensure that Tournaments and Competitions are conducted fairly and according to the rules;
- (k) Respect the role of any employees or volunteers who assist in the administration and/or delivery of the sport of tennis.

These values and behaviours represent the spirit in which tennis is to be played and spectated across China. In applying this Code of Behaviour, these values and behaviours will be taken into account, and how they can best be promoted and upheld.

It is essential and pivotal that all Participants demonstrate these values and behaviours at all times that this Code of Behaviour applies.

What you must not do at Tournaments and Competitions

This section outlines the behaviours that are prohibited. Players will be issued with a Code Violation when they or a member of their Entourage commits one of the violations listed below.

Code Violations during a match and onsite

The following is a list of prohibited conduct during a match (including the warm-up) and/or onsite at a Tournament or Competition:

Audible Obscenity

- (a) A Participant must not use obscene language.
- (b) An audible obscenity is the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane (whether in Chinese or any other language) and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by an Official and/or spectators.

Visible Obscenity

- (a) A Participant must not make obscene gestures of any kind.
- (b) A visible obscenity is the making of signs by a player with their hands, a racquet, tennis balls or any other equipment, that are commonly understood to have an obscene meaning.

Ball Abuse

- (a) A Participant shall not violently, dangerously or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the precincts of the site except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including the warm-up).
- (b) Ball abuse includes:
 - i. the intentional or reckless hitting of a ball out of the enclosure of the court;
 - ii. hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court; and/or
 - iii. hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences.

Abuse of Racquets or Equipment

- (a) A Participant must not commit an act of abuse of racquets or equipment.
- (b) An abuse of racquets or equipment includes:
 - i. Violently or with anger hitting, kicking or throwing a racquet or other equipment
 - ii. the intentional and violent hitting of the net, court, umpire's chair or other fixture;
 - iii. the intentional or reckless throwing of a racquet in a dangerous or potentially dangerous manner, whether on or off court.

Verbal Abuse

- (a) A Participant must not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse any Official, opponent, spectator or other person within the Venue.
- (b) Verbal abuse includes a statement about an Official, opponent, sponsor, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

Physical Abuse

- (a) A Participant shall not at any time physically abuse any Official, opponent, spectator or other person.
- (b) Physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of another person.

Coaching

- (a) A player must not receive coaching during a match (including the warm-up).
- (b) Coaching is permitted when a match has been formally suspended by the Referee, or his or her representative.
- (c) Communications of any kind, audible or visible, between a player and their Entourage may be construed as coaching.

Best Efforts

- (a) A player must always compete to the best of their ability and use their best efforts during a match.

Dress and Equipment

- (a) Every player shall dress and present themselves for play in clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire. A player who violates this provision may be ordered by the relevant Official to change their attire immediately. Failure by a player to comply with such an order may result in an immediate default.

*Note, a player must be given the opportunity to change their clothing in order to comply with relevant dress regulations. At the discretion of the relevant Official, a maximum period of 10 minutes may be allowed in order for a player to change attire (this period of time is separate to the 15 minutes referred to in paragraph 4.16). A direction to improve a player's dress before the next tournament/competition day may also be given by the relevant Official. Players should not be defaulted from matches and/or issued any disciplinary points due to clothing breaches except in exceptional circumstances. However, failure to meet dress regulation requests may be reported to the PTC. A breach of this provision is not subject to the point penalty schedule.

Time Violation / Delay of Game

- (a) A match shall commence after the expiration of the warm-up period. Thereafter, play shall be continuous and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match as provided for in the ITF Rules of Tennis.
- (b) A violation of this provision shall be penalised by a *Time Violation*.
- (c) The first *Time Violation*, as either server or receiver, shall be penalised by a *Time Violation - Warning* and each subsequent violation, as either server or receiver, shall be penalised as follows:
 - i. *Server*: the Time Violation shall result in a “fault”;
 - ii. *Receiver*: the Time Violation shall result in a “point penalty”.

Note that *Time Violations* are not subject to the point penalty schedule and do not incur any disciplinary points.

- (d) A Code Violation (Delay of Game) shall be assessed and penalised in accordance with the point penalty schedule where a match is delayed due to a player:
 - i. having a medical condition and the player failing to recommence play after any permitted medical time out associated with the medical condition;
 - ii. refusing to play; or
 - iii. not returning to the court to recommence play within any permitted or prescribed times.

Leaving the Court

- (a) A player shall not leave the court area during a match (including the warm-up) without the permission of an Official.
- (b) In addition to receiving a Code Violation, the player may be defaulted and subjected to the penalties for an immediate match default.

Spectator Misconduct

- (a) Any person spectating a match or attending a Venue must not engage in any of the following:
 - i. Intimidating, threatening or abusive behaviour toward players, coaches, parents, other spectators or persons at the Venue, Officials and/or other staff or volunteers;
 - ii. Causing a disruption to a Tournament or Competition or a match in progress;

- iii. Making or causing to be made disrespectful or inappropriate comments or gestures towards Officials, players, coaches, parents, spectators and other persons on-site or involved in the Tournament or Competition;
- iv. Providing inappropriate instructions, comments or direction to a player including both the spectator's own player or the opponent, of any type (*Note, this may also be considered as "Coaching" in accordance with paragraph 4.7 above); and
- v. Any other inappropriate behaviour as determined by an Official or the PT China.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct / General Misconduct

- (a) This provision prohibits the following:
 - i. any conduct which is regarded as unacceptable or unsporting;
 - ii. failing to give due regard to the authority of Officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others;
 - iii. any conduct which has the effect or potential to prejudice or be detrimental to the reputation of a Participant, the Tournament or Competition, PT China or the sport of tennis generally;
 - iv. any conduct which has the effect or potential to bring a Participant, the Tournament or Competition, PT China or the sport of tennis into disrepute;
 - v. conduct that does not meet the standards of acceptable behaviour
 - vi. any conduct that is clearly abusive or intimidating toward another person;
 - vii. the giving, making, issuing, authorising or endorsing any public statement having, or designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of an event or the officiating and administration of the event.
- (b) This provision is not limited to conduct occurring at a Venue, and may encompass other conduct that is covered by this Code of Behaviour

Code Violations when entering/withdrawing from a match or Tournament

The following is a list of prohibited conduct when entering or withdrawing from a match or Tournament:

Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Match or Tournament

Late Withdrawal

- (a) A player must not withdraw from a Tournament after the withdrawal deadline.
- (b) Any withdrawal by a player after the withdrawal deadline will be deemed a Late Withdrawal violation, regardless of the reason for a withdrawal (medical, personal or otherwise).

Failure to Complete Match or Tournament

- (c) A player must complete a match or tournament in progress.
- (d) A player that fails to complete a match or tournament in progress will be deemed to have committed a Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violation, regardless of the reason for the failure to complete the match (medical, personal or otherwise).

Late Withdrawal and Failure to Complete Match or Tournament during a calendar year

- (e) A player is permitted four (4) Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament violations in total in a calendar year (1 January – 31 December) without incurring disciplinary action.
- (f) Any subsequent Late Withdrawal and/or Failure to Complete Match or Tournament will result in a Code Violation against the player and the incursion of disciplinary action.

Playing two tournaments (Concurrency)

- (a) A player is prohibited from playing two Tournaments at the same time, unless permission has been granted by and received from the Progress Tour China Official representative.
- (b) A breach of this section may subject a player to an Immediate Default.

Commencement of play ('No Show')

- (a) A player must be ready to commence play within 15 minutes of their match being called at a Tournament.