



Code of Conduct

The purpose of this code of conduct is to ensure that the game of table tennis is conducted in a manner where all participants enjoy it; the contest is competitive and fair to all parties.

This Code will apply to all interclub matches and Tournaments conducted under the jurisdiction of **Waikato Table Tennis Association (WTTA)**. All players, while representing Waikato Table Tennis, will be expected to abide by the individual conduct provisions of this Code.

General:

Players and spectators shall not engage in any conduct that will prejudice or affect the integrity of the game of table tennis or the enjoyment of the game, and shall at all times be mindful that their conduct must be fair. The code will apply in any of the stadiums controlled at the time by Waikato Table Tennis.

Offences will be noted and the penalties applied as prescribed by this code of conduct. Matters related to this code should be reported immediately to the WTTA referee, who will make a decision that will be binding on all parties. There will be no right of appeal against the decision of the WTTA referee.

Failure to comply with the decision of the WTTA referee shall result in automatic default.

WTTA referees:

Waikato Table Tennis will appoint a WTTA referee or referees, for all competitions. All persons officiating as WTTA referees shall have the power to implement this code of conduct, on behalf of Waikato Table Tennis.

WTTA referees will generally be persons not participating in play. Where players are appointed as WTTA referees, there will be more than one on duty, so that that WTTA referee shall not be required to make rulings related to that persons matches or those of their team mates.

Rules:

1. Matches shall follow each other without delay, in accordance with the scheduled order of play.
Specific penalty - Players not ready to commence within 10 minutes after their match is called, may be defaulted by the WTTA referee.
2. Players may not leave the table or playing area during a match, without the permission of the table umpire or WTTA referee. Specific penalty - Players contravening this rule default the match.
3. Players shall commence the match without unreasonable delay and generally after a warm up period of 2 minutes. Thereafter play shall be continuous, as provided for in the rules of table tennis.
4. Players shall change ends within the prescribed 2 minutes, from the time the ball is out of play, to the time until the ball is served for the first point of the next game.
5. Players shall dress and present themselves in approved table tennis attire and use approved equipment (TTNZ rules). Clean and acceptable attire must be worn at all times during match play. Doubts on dress or equipment must be resolved with the WTTA referee, before the player goes to the table. Specific penalty - Players improperly dressed shall generally not be permitted to play.
 - i. Their club shall of the colour officially register shirts. Warmer tops may be worn if of similar color to the registered club shirt.
 - ii. Tops must comply with the laws of table tennis regarding the colour and width of any white stripes.
 - iii. Shorts, skirts and trousers should be of a dark colour, without wide white stripes.
 - iv. Footwear must be white soles table tennis or other sports shoes.
6. Teams are required to pay match fees by date specified. Specific penalty - the WTTA referee may deduct a competition point or 1 match table point, as appropriate.
7. Players shall behave at all times in a sportsmanlike manner, and give due regard to the rights of opponents, spectators and others. They shall abide by the decisions of the WTTA referee, in all matters. They shall refrain from behavior or mannerisms that might unfairly affect an opponent, may offend spectators or bring the game into disrepute.
8. Players shall not, at any time physically abuse an official, spectator or other person within the premises or competition area.

Penalties for Breach of Rules:

- ❑ The umpire shall warn the player for contraventions and advise them to stop the offending behavior and warn that repetition is liable to incur penalties. If in doubt the umpire may suspend play and call on the WTTA referee at any time.
- ❑ When imposing a penalty, the umpire or WTTA referee should address the player with the words "Code Violation", followed by the details and penalty incurred.
- ❑ After the warning, the umpire may award 1 point to the offender's opponent, and, for a second offence he may award 2 points, suspend play and call for the WTTA referee.
- ❑ If misbehavior persists, the WTTA referee may disqualify the offending player.
- ❑ The WTTA referee may, at his discretion, disqualify a player for persistent unfair or offensive behavior, whether reported by the umpire, or not. Such disqualification may be from a match, from an event or from the whole competition.
- ❑ The WTTA referee may default a player for any flagrant violation of this code, anywhere within the playing venue.
- ❑ If, under these rules, a player is disqualified from 2 matches of a team or individual event they shall be automatically disqualified from that team event or individual competition.

Note:

The type of behavior for which such penalties may be imposed include deliberate damage to equipment i.e. breaking the ball or hitting tables or barriers, bad language, excessive shouting, foot stamping, offensive gestures, kicking barricades, unfair delaying tactics i.e. hitting ball out of playing area, disrespect of match officials, WTTA referees and persistent disregard of regulations prohibiting advice during play.

Record of Offences:

Umpires who impose penalties without the presence of the WTTA referee should report to the WTTA referee, following the completion of the match.

WTTA referees shall complete a suitable report to the appropriate committee relating to every incident resulting in a default. Copies of such reports shall be forwarded to the offending player.

Miscellaneous:

- ❑ Gluing of bats is not permitted within the playing venues.
- ❑ Umpires using scorecards must still call the score loudly enough to be clearly heard by the player.
- ❑ Smoking is not permitted inside the venues used by WTTA.