



# MATT OWENS

## TENNIS SCHOOL

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### BEHAVIOUR POLICY

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We want every player to enjoy their time on court, learn new skills, and feel safe. To help make that happen, we have some clear expectations for behaviour during our sessions.

Our coaches are here to teach tennis – not to manage ongoing behavioural challenges. When a child is struggling to follow instructions or act safely on court, this takes time and attention away from the rest of the group. To keep the session safe and enjoyable for everyone, we ask all players and families to follow the behaviour policy below.

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#### **1. Listening and Following Instructions**

- Players must listen carefully to their coach and follow instructions the first time.
  - Refusing to follow directions, arguing, or walking away makes it difficult for the group to learn and stay safe.
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#### **2. Safe Use of Equipment**

- Racquets and tennis balls must be used safely and only when the coach says it's okay.
  - Swinging rackets near others, throwing equipment, or using it in an unsafe way is not allowed.
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#### **3. Staying on Court**

- Players are expected to stay on the court during the whole session, unless they have permission to leave.
  - Leaving to visit family, friends, or other distractions during the lesson is not allowed.
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#### **4. What Happens if a Child is Disruptive or Unsafe**

- If a player is not able to follow instructions, act safely, or stay focused, they may be asked to take time off the court.
  - This gives the child time to calm down, reset, and prepare to rejoin the group.
  - A parent or guardian must support their child during this time and help them regulate their emotions/behaviour.
  - When the coach feels the child is ready to return and participate safely, they will invite the child back onto the court.
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## **5. Parental Involvement**

- For children who need extra support, we may require a parent or guardian to stay for the full session.
  - Family, friends are to stay off the tennis courts unless requested by the coach.
  - This ensures the child can continue participating safely without impacting the learning experience of others.
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## **6. Ongoing Behaviour Concerns**

- If unsafe or disruptive behaviour continues across multiple sessions, we will speak with parents to decide the best next steps.
  - This might include taking a break from group sessions or exploring a more suitable coaching environment.
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## **We're All Here to Have Fun and Learn**

We love seeing children excited about tennis, and we're here to support every player to grow and succeed. By working together, we can make sure our sessions stay fun, safe, and focused for everyone.

If you have any questions about your child's participation, please speak with the coaching team.