

Gulf Harbour Tennis Rules

Overview

All Gulf Harbour tennis program policy will be administered by the Tennis Committee. The Director of Tennis, who is a working representative to the Gulf Harbour tennis committee, has the authority and duty to enforce and interpret club rules and handle issues on a daily basis. The pro staff will determine when the courts are playable and keep the tennis facility well maintained and in a condition as stipulated and supervised by the Tennis Committee.

The Tennis Committee shall be comprised of 7 or more members. In addition, team captains are automatically invited to attend all tennis committee meetings in a forum that enables input from the captains and their teammates. Prior to a club turnover from WCI to the members, the committee will be appointed by the Club Board of Governors and act in an advisory role. After turnover, the Tennis Committee will be determined by yet to be established voting procedures. The committee will vote for a Chairman and a succeeding co-chairman. The chairman will serve for a two year term and for continuity purposes the chairman will be succeeded by the co-chairman whenever possible.

Etiquette & Tennis Attire

Players are asked to observe common sense tennis etiquette. Examples: Do not cross behind players on a court when a point is in progress. Do not disturb players on nearby courts with loud conversations. Non-playing children are not permitted on the tennis courts. No pets are allowed on the courts.

Appropriate tennis attire is required at all times on the courts. Bare feet, jogging, running, or basketball shoes are not permitted. Shoes which damage the courts (as determined by the Pro, staff, or Tennis Committee) are prohibited. Regulation tennis equipment is required at all times. No cut-offs, sports bras, jeans or bathing attire may be worn. While collared shirts are preferred, t-shirts are acceptable, but not those bearing offensive language or graphics. Men are not permitted to play shirtless at any time. Members or guests violating these guidelines will be required to leave the courts.

Court Reservations

The Tennis Committee and pro staff are committed to the premise that courts and playing times should be available to member groups, teams, and events that represent and/or allocate the tennis facilities to benefit the best interests of the maximum number of club members at any given time.

Courts will be available on a first-come first-served basis, in person and by advance reservation. Advance reservations may be scheduled 7 days in advance in-person, on-line (when available), or via telephone at the tennis pro shop or fitness center only. Court reservations will not be accepted from voicemail, email, or Instant messages and will only be accepted during tennis shop or fitness facility hours of operation. Members must speak directly to a staff member to make a court reservation. Any member may contact the pro staff to reserve courts for private parties.

During the hours the pro shop and fitness center are open, all members who have reserved a court must sign-in at the tennis pro shop or fitness center to claim their reserved court time.

If a member does not check-in within 10 minutes of a reserved time, the court will be released to others wanting a court.

Members who abuse the court reservation system or don't show-up for the courts they reserve, without calling to cancel, on 3 occasions during any calendar year may have their right to signup for events and/or court times suspended for up to one year, at the discretion of the Tennis Committee.

Courts will be open for play by 7:00 a.m. every day of the week on a first come first serve basis; however, from October 1st until April 30th members may only reserve a court for 1 hour at 7:00 am because 1-1/2 hour segments will not begin until 8:00 am. However, courts may be blocked out of service at anytime for maintenance at the discretion of the pro staff.

Court time is limited to 1 hour for singles and 1-1/2 hours for doubles. If additional court time, on the same court, is available at the time the players claim their reserved court, the scheduled players may extend their doubles court time to two hours, and singles time to 1-1/2 hours.

One member may sign-up for up to 3 courts at one time. Specific approval from the tennis committee and/or the pro staff is necessary to reserve more than 3 courts at one time. Juniors (under 18) may play on, but not reserve courts, and thus may be bumped from those courts by other members. Juniors playing with two or three adults have same rights as adults.

Recurring Events & No-Shows

The 7 day advance court reservation procedure will not be required for tennis committee sanctioned and recurring tennis calendar events. These events will be reserved in advance. For example, weekly round robin events open to a broad spectrum of members, Lee County and USTA League matches, holiday events, tennis social, approved national tournaments, pro-league competition, and charity tennis events.

Event signup sheets will be provided for recurring events on the tennis bulletin board and/or at the pro shop or fitness center. As a matter of courtesy, members who can not participate in an event they signed up for are expected to call the pro staff or event coordinator at least 24 hours in advance to cancel. Members, who don't notify the pro staff or event organizers of their cancellations 3 times in any calendar year, may have their event and/or court signup privileges suspended for up to one year at the discretion of the tennis committee.

Guest Policies

As a private club, Gulf Harbour's tennis facilities and events are for the exclusive use of club members, and their guests, subject to the following restrictions: During season when our courts are heavily used guests are not allowed to play on our courts until 11:00am except when approved by the tennis staff and/or tennis Committee. Guests of members can only play on the courts, or in club sanctioned activities, when accompanied by a sponsoring member, on a one member-to-one guest basis, in order to have priority to reserve or keep a court. Subject to team or league roster limits, and rating requirements, members may not be excluded from participating on club teams or activities. Only full equity members can represent the Club as USTA team captains. Guests may only be allowed to play in round robins or other tennis program activities when we do not have a sufficient number of club members available or interested in participating. Guests are not allowed to play in club championship events.

Play by guests who are local residents is restricted. Members may not host the same local guest more than 5 times per month. Members must accompany all guests playing tennis at our facility. A doubles foursome consisting of 1 member and 3 guests does not have priority for a court over a doubles group of 2 or more members. Hence a doubles group with 2 or more members may bump the 1 member 3 guest group and claim that court, with the supervision of the pro staff, if there are no other courts available or open for play.

In order to use the Gulf Harbour tennis facilities, a member's designated companion "significant other" must be registered appropriately with the club, according to the club's by-laws, and abide by the same tennis rules as other transfer members who are property renters. Transfer members may be required to prove that they have registered with the club and/or paid the appropriate club fees and/or registered to receive club privileges. The Tennis Committee may choose to allow transfer members and a member's designated companion to participate on club teams and in club competitions and round robins.