

USTA Mid- Atlantic Sportsmanship FAQs 3.1.22

USTA Mid-Atlantic expects everyone to commit to a safe, inclusive, and FUN environment on and off the tennis court when they are participating in Mid-Atlantic programming. To foster good sportsmanship and continue to create community, character, and well-being, we encourage all players, parents, coaches, and providers to review the FAQs below.

What are the components of the USTA Mid-Atlantic Sportsmanship Program?

The USTA Mid-Atlantic Sportsmanship program includes three components:

Commitment

Launch the [USTA Mid-Atlantic ACES Pledge](#) that all players, parents, spectators and providers commit to

Celebration

Recognize and honor those that demonstrate good sportsmanship through [The Champions on and off the Court program](#)

Consequences

Provide and execute transparent and consistent consequences for inappropriate behavior through the [Sportsmanship Expectations](#) & [The USTA Mid-Atlantic Disciplinary Action plan](#).

What is the Mid-Atlantic ACES Pledge?

As a participant in USTA Mid-Atlantic programs, whether as a player, parent, spectator, coach, or provider, I commit to a fun, fair, safe, and inclusive environment for **ALL**.

I pledge to:

Always

Champion

Exceptional

Sportsmanship

on and off the court.

How do I sign the Mid-Atlantic ACES Pledge?

All participants in USTA Mid-Atlantic programs can sign the Mid-Atlantic Pledge [here](#):

- Upon signing the pledge, you will receive a confirmation email. Be sure to save the confirmation email and the embedded medallion onto your phone or print a copy so you can show the medallion when asked by a provider.

Do I need to sign the Mid-Atlantic Pledge before every event?

No. Once you have signed the pledge, as long as you save the pledge medallion, you only need to sign the pledge once. If you misplace your medallion you are welcome to sign the pledge again to receive a replacement medallion.

Does this sportsmanship program only apply to certain events?

The USTA Mid-Atlantic Sportsmanship program incorporates all USTA programs including USTA Tournaments, Junior Team Tennis, and Junior Circuit. The honor roll program and the Mid-Atlantic ACES Pledge are encouraged for use in any tennis programming regardless of whether or not it is an official USTA program, including high school and middle school programming.

How do I demonstrate “Exceptional Sportsmanship”?

Be sure to review and be familiar with:

- [Sportsmanship Expectations](#)
- [The ACES and ERRORS of sportsmanship for players](#)
- [The ACES and ERRORS of sportsmanship for parents, spectators and coaches](#)

Nominate players, parents, spectators, or coaches for the [Champions Honor Roll](#)

What are the consequences of poor behavior?

Per [Friend at Court](#), and the Point Penalty system, USTA Officials and Mid-Atlantic Tournament Directors and providers **must** enforce the code of conduct.

- *The code of conduct and the point penalty system is Intended to deter unsportsmanlike conduct, as such it is absolutely necessary that it is enforced and codes are issued at the first infraction.*

What happens when a “code violation, point penalty” is issued during a match?

When a point penalty is issued on court during an event, the offending player loses a point to their opponent. This can occur for any number of reasons as outlined in [Friend at Court](#). Examples include, using profanity, ball abuse or racquet abuse.

- *The system escalates from point, to game, to default depending on the nature of the infraction.*
- *A single point penalty issued on court equals two (2) points in the point penalty system as noted in [Friend at Court](#).*
- *Other violations such as improper withdrawal, default no-show, or egregious acts result in more points in the point penalty system as noted in [Table 17 of Friend at Court](#).*
- [Click here for more information on Understanding the Suspension System in tournaments.](#)

What if I receive a code and I don't agree with the code?

A player receiving a code is fairly common and not something to overreact to. If you or your child receive a code, it is strongly recommended that you accept the code with grace and continue to play. Arguing a code may result in additional codes and therefore increased penalty points.

Can a player receive a code violation for the conduct of a parent, coach, or spectator associated with the player?

Yes, any spectator engagement in the match or negative communication with players, other spectators, or tournament officials (arguing, complaining about behavior on court, etc) may result in a

Code Violation assessed against the player as well as the person creating the disturbance being asked to leave the site. Failure to leave at the request of event personnel results in the automatic default of the player.

Can a player receive a code violation for conduct off court or online?

Yes. Code violations may be issued for unsportsmanlike behavior occurring on or off the court during a tournament. Egregious unsportsmanlike acts that occur off site or outside of tournament dates, but found to be in connection with a USTA program or event, to include but not limited to online activity, may also be subject to code violations.

I received a notification letter from USTA Mid-Atlantic. What does that mean?

The USTA Mid-Atlantic Disciplinary Action Plan is an administrative process implemented by the section to support good sportsmanship and remind participants of exemplary behavior.

- *If you receive a notification letter please understand that it is ONLY a notification.*
- *The issuance of a letter does not mean that the incident report was accurate or that points have been issued.*
- *A notification letter is only a reminder of the sportsmanship expectations within the section, and to make the recipient aware of an incident report. The individual reporting the incident will also receive a notification.*
- *There will be no discussion or follow up to a notification letter, and emails responding to a letter will not be addressed.*
- *A second incident may result in point penalties being assessed as outlined in the USTA Mid-Atlantic Disciplinary Action Plan.*

How do I report an incident to USTA Mid-Atlantic?

Please email Sportsmanship@mas.usta.com for all questions or concerns regarding sportsmanship.

What is a Grievance and how is that different from the Mid-Atlantic Disciplinary Action plan?

The USTA MAS Discipline & Grievance Committee is charged with reviewing all allegations of unsportsmanlike conduct or violations of regulation submitted within a grievance. The Mid-Atlantic Disciplinary Action plan was reviewed and approved by the USTA MAS Discipline & Grievance Committee. Through the Mid-Atlantic Disciplinary Action plan, an incident may result in a Grievance. [Prior to submitting a grievance, please ensure you have read and understand the USTA Mid-Atlantic Section Grievance Procedures.](#)

How many penalty points can a player receive before they are suspended?

A player receiving 10 penalty points within a 12 month period for any reason shall be suspended. *A Player has the right to appeal only once 10 points have accrued.*

How do I know how many active Suspension Points have been issued?

If you or your child have received any suspension points, those points can be viewed on their USTA Player Profile. For more information on how to access your USTA Player Profile, please refer to [How to View and Complete Your Player Profile](#).

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