

## **Reade Park Parent / Guardian Code of Conduct**

As a parent / guardian of a participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of Tennis Australia, a Member Association, an Affiliated Organisation, a Member Affiliated Organisation, a Regional Association or an Affiliated Club you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event

- Treating your child the same irrespective of them winning or losing.
- Remembering that your child plays tennis for their enjoyment not yours.
- Trying to have fun when you are around your children at competitions. Well-directed humour can be a great de-stressor.
- Looking relaxed, calm and positive on the side lines.
- Making friends with other parents at competitions.
- Getting involved in appropriate ways if your child or the coach behaves in unacceptable ways during competitions.
- Letting the coach do the coaching.
- Understanding that children will benefit from a break sometimes and that involvement in other sports is okay.
- Being there when the child performs poorly. Be an understanding listener rather than a critic, judge and/or fixer.
- Being prepared to give your child some space so that he/she can grow and develop as an independent person.
- Letting your child know that your love for them is not associated with their sporting performances.
- Communicating with your child and asking them how they are really feeling about their sport and about competing in particular.
- Occasionally letting your child compete without you being there and hovering over them.
- Emphasising the good things your child did in preparing for and during the match/tournament.

### **Try to avoid:**

- Saying, "we're playing today". Instead say, "you're playing today". Give your child credit for accepting the responsibility of performing.
- Getting too pushy or believe that you are indispensable. Let the coach do the coaching.
- Living through your child's performances.
- Turning away when your child performs.
- Turning away when your child's behaviour is unsportsmanlike.
- Telling your child what he/she did wrong after a tough match.
- Making enemies with your child's opponents or family during a match/tournament.
- Making your child feel guilty by reminding them about all the time, money and sacrifices you are making for his or her sport.
- Thinking of your child's sporting performances as an investment for which you expect a return.
- Badgering, harassing or use sarcasm to motivate your child.
- Comparing your child's performances with those of other children
- Forcing your child to go to training. If they are sick of training find out why and discuss it with them.