

# Standards for the Conduct of Captains

Houston Tennis Association

Captains are indispensable to HTA leagues. Often as the only representatives of the HTA present at a match, they are charged with ensuring that they and their teams play within the rules and treat their opponents as they would wish to be treated. As the HTA does not officiate every match and generally will not have representatives present, the HTA relies on captains to work together to apply its league rules, the ITF rules of play, and the Code fairly to ensure fun and competitive play.

The HTA recognizes that captains may have difficulty balancing their obligations as advocates for their teams with their obligation to the leagues and to tennis. To that end, the HTA has adopted the following Standards for the Conduct of Captains:

## Duties to Team:

1. Captains are responsible for knowing the rules and ensuring that their team members and spectators associated with their team know the rules governing play in HTA and USTA leagues;
2. Captains should be reasonably available to assist their team members in resolving disputes or answering questions concerning the rules governing play;
3. Captains do not serve their team members by supporting unreasonable demands or arguments and owe it to their team members to quietly take them aside and explain the proper resolution of an issue;
4. Captains will treat their team members with civility and courtesy;
5. Captains will endeavor to act as models of the best behavior contemplated by the HTA and USTA League Rules, the ITF Rules of Play, and the Code.

## Duties to the HTA:

1. Captains must remain above the fray in resolving disagreements even while advocating for their team;
2. Captains work with HTA staff to make our leagues work; statements that denigrate or disparage HTA staff or that lack civility and respect are counterproductive to this relationship;
3. Captains owe the HTA a duty of honest and complete disclosure in all matters concerning the league;

4. When a grievance must be filed, Captains will present an organized, concise, respectful, and complete description of the alleged rule violation while avoiding character attacks.

Duties to other Captains:

1. Captains will treat each other and all players with respect at all times;
2. Captains may not unreasonably withhold agreement to requests for cooperation or accommodation that are sanctioned by the rules;
3. Captains may not misrepresent the rules (intentionally or mistakenly) to other captains in order to seek an outcome they desire;
4. Captains will respond promptly to communications from other captains;
5. Captains will not make personal attacks on other captains;
6. Captains will not lightly file a grievance;
7. Captains will honor their word and fulfill promises made.