



# **Code of Conduct for** **“Little Mo” Tournaments**

The “Little Mo” tournaments are organized by the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation (MCB). These events are named in memory of Maureen “Little Mo” Connolly Brinker, who was known for her outstanding sportsmanship on and off the court. Your participation in the “Little Mo” tournament should reflect this gold standard of behavior. In registering for any “Little Mo” tournament, we expect all players, parents, coaches, spectators, and other participants to adhere to its Code of Conduct. That includes exhibiting the following behavior:

- 1. You must be considerate and respectful of the rights of all participants and spectators regardless of their age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation, or religious beliefs.**
- 2. You must play within the rules of tennis and respect the officials and their decisions. There shall be no arguments, no displays of aggressiveness, no cursing or profane behavior, no volatile anger, or similar behavior against the referees, other players, opponents, or members of the tournament committee.**
- 3. You must play fairly and refrain from cheating of any kind, including but not limited to, intentionally and willfully calling the lines incorrectly, calling the score incorrectly, and intentionally delaying the game.**
- 4. You will not receive or offer any form of coaching from the sidelines during match play.**
- 5. You must look presentable on court and pick up after yourself at all times.**
- 6. You are expected to be positive, respectful, and supportive of other players.**
- 7. MCB has a zero-tolerance policy for any person videotaping or capturing the image of opposing players, their family members, or guests with the intent of posting derogatory, offensive, or disparaging comments about them online or on any social media platform. This includes, but is not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and TikTok. MCB will not permit this kind of demeaning behavior related to any of its “Little Mo” tournaments. Consequences of this action may include the immediate default of a player from the tournament and/or the dismissal of the offending parent, coach, spectator, or participant from the tournament, in addition to other consequences as determined by MCB.**
- 8. Most “Little Mo” tournaments use multiple playing sites due to the large number of players involved in the event. If you have more than one child entered in an event, MCB is not able to guarantee they will be playing at the same site. Therefore, it is highly recommended to bring an additional guardian for each child you bring to a tournament. For safety reasons, a player should not be left alone without a guardian at any time.**

## **Parents / Coaches / Spectators / Other Participants:**

- No coaching, hand signals, or any communication with the player when on court. Only English can be spoken when the player is on court.
- No clapping when the opponent double faults or makes an unforced error.
- No loud, excessive or constant cheering/clapping that is disruptive or distracting to players while on court. This includes cheering that distracts other players on adjacent courts and cheering across another court during a match.
- No interference with the match or arguing with, yelling at, or threatening the officials or Tournament Director. Their decisions are final.
- No yelling at or threatening anyone especially players.
- Emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct will not be tolerated at “Little Mo” tournaments. This includes but is not limited to child abuse, endangerment, and neglect.

## **Players:**

- No coaching, hand signals, or any communication is allowed during your match. Only English can be spoken when the player is on court.
- No cursing or yelling on court. This includes yelling “come on” or other distracting outbursts that can be heard on other courts.
- No hitting the ball to the back of the fence or the net in anger.
- No hitting the ball away from the player when it is their serve.
- The server must announce the score loudly in English before every point. All players must know how to keep score.
- If a player needs to go to the restroom, they must ask an official for permission. We encourage players to only go to the restroom at a set break to minimize loss of momentum during the set. Players will be accompanied to and from the restroom by an official when possible.
- Play fair! No cheating of any kind will be tolerated. Please make correct line calls – if in doubt about a call, it is IN. After each point, the server should announce the score loudly and correctly. No delay of game.

**We would like everyone to have a wonderful and memorable experience at the “Little Mo” tournaments. Let the memory of your match be a good one for both you and your opponent, whether you win or lose.**

## **Consequences of Behavior:**

### **During a Match:**

The officials will be watching the matches closely and if a player breaches the Code of Conduct during the match, the player will be given:

1. First offense: A warning.
2. Second offense: A point penalty.
3. Third offense: A game penalty.

If the behavior continues after the game penalty, additional game penalties will continue to be given until the match is over. The behavior of parents, coaches, spectators, and other participants can also cause their player to receive the above penalties, and may also result in consequences to the offending individual, including removal. However, the tournament committee has the discretion to issue an immediate default to the player in cases where the conduct rises to a level at which an official determines that, in the interest of fairness or the health and safety of participants, the match cannot proceed.

In addition to the above, an official may, in his or her discretion, take the following actions, among others, in the event of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a player, parent, coach, spectator, or other participant: issue a warning OR begin the ejection and/or default process.

If a parent/guardian is ejected from a match and/or the premises, their player will forfeit any match in progress and will be asked to leave with their parent/guardian unless (1) another parent/guardian is available to stay with the player; or (2) the parent/guardian's misconduct was directed at the player and MCB believes the parent/guardian poses an immediate threat to the player, in which case the Tournament Director and MCB will work with the player and law enforcement, if needed, to determine appropriate steps.

**Any ruling made by an official and/or the tournament committee during a match is final.**

## **Additional Consequences:**

Regardless of whether an official issues a penalty during a match, MCB may take the following additional actions, in its discretion and without limitation, in response to a breach of this Code of Conduct: refuse the entry of any player wanting to register for any "Little Mo" tournament; not invite a player to the next round of the "Road to the Little Mo Nationals" circuit; prohibit a player or other individual from attending "Little Mo" events for any period of time, up to a lifetime ban; impose conditions on an individual's attendance at "Little Mo" events; revoke any trophies or travel grants from any player.

**Repeated violations at the same match or multiple matches over time may also result in additional penalties.**

## **Law Enforcement:**

MCB reserves the right to call or report behavior to law enforcement when required and when MCB otherwise deems necessary or appropriate according to USTA Safe Play guidelines.

## **Reporting:**

If you are a player, parent, coach, spectator, or other participant and you reasonably believe that an individual has breached this Code of Conduct, or that anyone at a "Little Mo" tournament (including officials and event staff) has committed emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct (including but not limited to child abuse), you may make a report to MCB at: [carol@mcbtennis.org](mailto:carol@mcbtennis.org).

