



# Teddy Tennis & Sportsmanship

**One of the goals of Teddy Tennis is to promote a sense of good sportsmanship – a key life skill that offers many benefits**

## Good Sportsmanship

For some children, sportsmanship may come naturally but for others it requires more effort. Those who learn how to demonstrate sportsmanship will benefit in many ways.

Teddy Tennis helps kids understand that good sportsmanship includes both small gestures and heroic efforts. It starts with something as simple as shaking hands and high fiving with other kids whilst playing Teddy Tennis.

A child who practices good sportsmanship is likely to carry the respect and appreciation of other people into every other aspect of life. But displaying good sportsmanship isn't always easy, so the earlier this concept is introduced to kids, the better.

## Actions speak louder than words

This is especially true in Teddy Tennis. All our coaches are taught to exhibit the most exemplary of behavior as we recognize they will have a great influence on both the development of kids sporting skills as well as their sportsmanship behavior.

***“The best time to instill sportsmanship values is when kids are young”***



## Teddy Fair Bear

All children who play Teddy Tennis are encouraged to aspire to become a 'Teddy Fair Bear'. A Teddy Fair Bear always exhibits good behaviour and good sportsmanship and the concept is referenced in many Teddy Tennis games and activities. Teddy Tennis even has a song that promotes the Teddy Fair Bear concept.

To become a Teddy Fair Bear, kids are taught:

- To always be respectful to others
- That there are no official winners or losers in Teddy Tennis
- To always display good manners
- To never lose their temper or to throw their racket on the ground!
- To have FUN
- The importance of getting active and playing together
- To always listen to Head Ted (the coach)
- To say sorry if they accidentally bump or hurt another child when playing Teddy Tennis
- Never to talk when Head Ted is talking
- To always try their best
- To shake hands, 'high five' and congratulate other kids during and after playing Teddy Tennis

Kids that demonstrate all the attributes of a Teddy Fair Bear are awarded a Teddy Fair Bear sticker by Head Ted, in acknowledgement of their achievement.



All Teddy Tennis coaches model good sportsmanship and encourage their kids to play fair, to have fun, and to concentrate on developing their own skills. In so doing they help shape the moral, ethical, and spiritual characters of the children in their classes.

