

ULMSTEAD TENNIS DEPARTMENT

The Ulmstead Estates, Inc. (UCI) Tennis Department (also known as “Court Club”) offers its members and their guests four high quality, hard surface, private courts for recreational and competitive tennis and pickleball play. The courts are located on Lynch Drive adjacent to the barn. The courts were resurfaced in 2023 and are among the finest in Anne Arundel County. Court No. 1 is lined for tennis only. Court Nos. 2 and 3 are lined for both pickleball and tennis, with portable pickleball nets located in the shed. A Bollettieri fiberglass backboard is also installed on north side of Court #3. Court No. 4 contains two permanent pickleball courts with a dividing fence. The Courts are lit for nighttime play and are open from 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Membership in the Court Club is available to any current UCI Member in good standing and covers the entire family in residence. Please contact the Tennis Department Manager for information on paying dues and obtaining a key.

COURT CLUB RULES

The most significant rules and regulations are summarized below. Questions or disputes should be referred to the Tennis Department Manager. Parents who give their children unescorted use of their court keys must review these rules with their children.

1. All four courts are for exclusive use of current dues-paying UCI members and their families who join the Tennis Department (aka Court Club). Ulmstead Estates residents who are not current UCI and Tennis Department Members may not use the Courts, even as guests of Tennis Department members.
2. Court Club Members may invite non-residents to play with them as guests. The Court Club Member must be present at all times and is responsible for their behavior. Non-residents are not eligible to become Tennis Department Members under UCI by-laws.
3. Tennis and pickleball are the ONLY activities permitted on the tennis courts. Roller blading, skateboarding, bicycling, lacrosse, baseball, shooting fireworks, water balloon fights, etc., are prohibited. Any non-approved activity should be reported to the Tennis Department Manager or a UCI Board Member immediately.
4. Entry to the courts must be through a gate entrance. No climbing under/over fences. Only members may enter the courts.
5. Players should ALWAYS turn off the lights if last to leave regardless of if the timer is set. The light switches are located just to the right of the parking lot entrance gate.
6. At least one player in each group must have a key. Players should ALWAYS lock the gates when they are finished. If other players are still on the courts, please ask them if they have a key and remind them to lock the gates when they are finished.

7. Your Court Club key operates the main gate located in the barn parking lot. Keys cannot be duplicated; however, extra or replacement keys may be purchased for \$100. Any members not rejoining must return their key to the Tennis Department.
8. Court No.3 shall be the last court occupied by match players in order to maximize its availability for tennis backboard practice.
9. Court No. 1 is lined for tennis play only. Chalking or taping pickleball lines is prohibited.
10. Courts are reserved through the online court reservation system, "Court Reserve". Once your membership check is processed, you will receive a login to reserve court times on the Court Reserve app or website. Courts can still be used without a reservation (if available), but a player with reservations takes precedence and has the right to use that court.
 - a. Members can make up to two reservations per day.
 - b. Reservations can be made seven days in advance.
 - c. Please cancel any reservations that cannot be utilized. If reservations are not canceled, you risk losing your reservation privileges via Court Reserve.
11. Use of the courts for league matches or informal school team practice is permitted, consistent with the guest rules, provided that one or more Ulmstead Court Club members are present and participating as hosts for any non-resident players.
12. The backboard is for tennis practice only. Backboard users shall yield Court #3 if match- play users are waiting or have reserved the court. Backboard is limited to 15 minutes if others are waiting to practice on it.
13. All persons whether they are playing, spectators, or waiting for a court shall observe proper tennis and pickleball etiquette at all times. A non-exhaustive list of proper tennis etiquette rules follows.
14. Please remember to empty the trash receptacles in the dumpster at the conclusion of play and return them to the courts.
15. Pets are not permitted on the courts at any time.

PROPER COURT CLUB ETIQUETTE

Sportsmanship

1. Players on the tennis court should be respectful to one another at all times.
2. Players and spectators should be courteous in speech.
3. Players and spectators should not engage in on-court conversations or behavior that are distracting to those playing with them or on adjacent courts.
4. Players should be patient with players who are learning or not as skilled at the game.
5. Exercise Good Sportsmanship. It's a game: Play by the rules, have fun, shake hands afterwards.
6. If there is a dispute, players should take the disagreement to another location, as their voices should not be heard by those playing tennis on nearby courts.

Attire

1. Players should wear appropriate clothing (e.g., no swim wear).
2. Only tennis or non-scutt sport shoes on the court. Black-soled shoes can leave marks on the court that are hard to remove.
3. No shirt, no shoes, no service (pun intended).

Respecting Other Courts

1. Do not walk onto or pass across another court when players are engaged in a game. Wait until the point is over and ask if you can enter or cross.
2. If a ball goes into another court during a game, the players who have lost the ball should wait until the point on the other court is over to ask the players on the adjacent court to return the ball.
3. Post-match refreshments and loud, boisterous conversation should be shared outside the tennis courts if others are still playing.

Cleaning Up

1. Shoes should be clean of mud or debris before entering the court.
2. Spilled drinks or food should be cleaned up.
3. Keep bags and supplies organized during the game as this demonstrates order and respect for others' property.
4. Return all equipment (e.g., brooms, practice balls, under-10 net) to the shed when finished.
5. Do not leave used balls on the court or hit them (intentionally) into the paddock or ball field.
6. Whenever finished, all trash should be picked up and the contents of the on-court trash receptacles emptied in the dumpster.

Closing Gate/Departure

1. When players enter or exit the court, they should close the gate behind them (to prevent balls from leaving the court).
2. The gate should also be closed if there are young children present (to prevent them from leaving the court).
3. The last player to leave should lock the gate.
4. Please turn the light switch to OFF when leaving.

Children

1. Young children should be monitored by their parents or guardians at all times while on the court.
2. Children should be taught to follow all rules of tennis court etiquette.
3. Adult players should be good role models for the children.