

ALWAYS TREAT YOUR OPPONENTS WITH COURTESY AND RESPECT

General Etiquette

As part of the commitment to fostering a welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere at the Club, it is important that members adhere to court rules and pickleball etiquette. Pickleball is a social game involving simple politeness and consideration. Observing these guidelines ensures that all players enjoy time on the courts, and the Club requires that these standards are maintained.

1. Good sportsmanship is mandatory.
2. Always begin a game by introducing yourself, especially if there is a player(s) that you do not know.
3. Courtesy. Pickleball is a game that requires cooperation and courtesy from all participants. Praise your opponents' good shots.
 - DO NOT
 - Conduct loud postmortems after points
 - Complain about shots like lobs and drop shots
 - Embarrass a weaker opponent by being condescending
 - Lose your temper, use vile language, throw your racket or slam a ball in anger
 - Sulk when you are losing
4. Do NOT criticize your partner. Do NOT offer unsolicited tips to players. Offer encouragement.
5. Talk quietly when standing near pickleball courts that are in use.
6. Never walk behind a court when a point is still in play. Wait until the point is over and then cross as quickly as possible.
7. Always come prepared. Bring balls, towels and water.
8. Clean up after yourself. Do NOT leave food wrappers, ball cans/lids, food waste behind on the courts.
9. Wear proper tennis sneakers. Flip flops, sandals, street shoes are NOT permitted for play.
10. Protective eyewear is strongly recommended to avoid ocular injury.
11. Shirts MUST be worn at all times while on the Club premises.
12. When you are ready to play, put bags, balls, jackets etc. out of everyone's way. Remember benches are for people NOT bags, coats etc.
13. NEVER cross the court behind a match until play has stopped. It is dangerous to do so.
14. Return pickleball nets to the side of the court.

Ball Management

1. Balls must NOT be carried in a pocket during play. Should a player suffer a fall during play, a pickleball is hard plastic that will break bone (hip, femur, etc). Play safe! Put extra balls to the side of the court.
2. If you hit a ball into another court, immediately yell "Ball". Do NOT enter another court to retrieve your ball unless invited to do so.
3. If a player inadvertently hits a ball onto your court from an adjacent court, immediately stop play. Retrieve the ball, determine from which court the ball came, make eye contact with a player and then gently send the ball back to that player. Never swat at a ball without looking. This is dangerous behavior!

During play

1. Call out the score loudly before you serve.
2. Wait until everyone is ready before you serve.
3. NEVER yell at, swear at, or say a hostile or sarcastic word to your partner or our opponent.
4. Hit to both players on the court. Do NOT single one player out. Everyone wants to take part in the game.
5. Do NOT exploit someone's physical limitations just so you can "win". That's not sportsmanlike.
6. Do NOT celebrate when your opponent makes an error.
7. Do NOT over celebrate when you or your partner make a great play.
8. At the end of the match, always meet your opponents at the net to tap paddles and thank your opponents for the game.

Line calls

1. Only call balls on your side of the net, not on the other side.
2. If you disagree with your opponent's line call, remember it is their call to make, not yours.
3. If you and your partner cannot agree if a ball was in or out, then the rule is that the ball was in.
4. If you step into the kitchen on a volley, or if your partner does so, call it on your team.

Playing with mixed levels

1. Weaker Player Consideration

If you are the weakest player on the court, appreciate the time that other players have spent with you. Do not take advantage of their graciousness by overstaying your welcome on the court.

2. Playing with Lower Skill Levels

When asked to play with a group that is of a lower skill level than you, graciously accept and demonstrate good sportsmanship. They will likely appreciate your time and understand that you may want to get back to similarly skilled players after the game.

3. Strongest Player Adjustments

If you are obviously the strongest player in your group, tone down the competitiveness and hit balls to your opponents that they can return. Adjust your gameplay to ensure a balanced and enjoyable experience for all players by emphasizing skill development and good sportsmanship.