

Pickleball Etiquette



Before Play Begins

1. Introduce yourself to players you do not know. Welcome new players.
2. Know when you are 'on deck' and go immediately to the next available court. Either cross off the 4 names on the whiteboard or adjust the paddles and move the "next up" indicator.
3. Warm-ups should be brief and only on your first game of the day.
4. When crossing a court to enter your court, wait for play to end, get the attention of the players, then walk as a group to reduce delays.

During Play

1. The team closest to the gym/court entrance serves first.
2. Before serving the ball, call out the score so your opponent can hear it.
3. When you hit the ball into an adjacent court, call "**ball**" immediately. Do not run into the adjacent court to retrieve the ball.

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4. When you hear someone call “**ball**” or when a stray ball comes into your court, **stop play immediately**. When returning a stray ball, look for a player waving or with a paddle up. Throw or hit the ball back to the identified player. Do not roll, kick, or hit the ball randomly into an adjacent court.
5. Games are played to 11 and win by 2 when there are 8 players or less per court. With more than 8 players per court, games are played to 9 and win by 1.
 - a. Therefore, with 3 courts full and there are **13** or more paddles in the paddle holders, play to 9. For every additional court the switch point is **17** for 4 courts, **21** for 5 courts, **25** for 6 courts.
 - b. Use the same numbers for the Whiteboard method.
6. Always be kind and courteous to other players. Help beginners learn the ropes.
7. During social play, it is good pickleball etiquette for advanced players to play with lesser skilled players (say 20% of the time), to help improve their game. Remember how you felt as a new player.
8. If you are playing opponents where there is a stronger player, play to the stronger player and play shots to the lower skilled player that will help improve their skills.
9. If the call is close or questionable, give the benefit of the doubt to your opponent.
10. If you ask your opponent for their assistance a call, their call is final.

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11. In non-tournament play, do not question the call made by your opponent.
12. In social play, do not take advantage of a person's physical limitations. If someone is physically unable to go back for a lob, why do it. Hit shots to their strengths and gain their respect.

Following Play

1. Thank your partner and opponents following your game. Find something positive to say even if it is just "thank you for the game". Do not linger on the court.
2. When play has stopped at the end of a rally in the adjacent court, call "**court**" to let other players know a court is available.
 - a. Quickly exit the court but do not walk behind, alongside, or into a court while play is in session.
 - b. Leave as a group to reduce delays.
 - c. Take your ball and place it in the ball container.
3. If using the paddle holders, place your paddle in a paddle holder. This system dictates the order of play. Place your paddle in the appropriate paddle holder, 'W' if you won and 'L' if you lost, after each game. Never use a second paddle as a place holder and don't switch any paddles from one holder to the other at any time.

Have Fun!

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