

Delta Pickleball Association

Mission Statement



To grow the game of Pickleball across Delta for all ages, levels and abilities by creating and cultivating an inclusive and respectful environment that promotes safety, health, social interaction, good sportsmanship and fun.

To accomplish this, the DPA Executive will:

- Create a playing schedule which provides fun competitive and recreational opportunities for players of all abilities.
- Continue skill and mentoring programs to enhance organized recreational and competitive play.
- Provide a positive working relationship with the City of Delta as we seek to promote, organize play and maintain the public outdoor pickleball courts in Ladner, North Delta and Tsawwassen.

Delta Pickleball Association Etiquette

Fair play and sportsmanship are keys to success and enjoyment in any sport. To ensure safety and smooth sailing on the Pickleball courts, Delta Pickleball Association (DPA) requests the following from those who play: Bring your own pickleballs and hand sanitizer each time you play. Wash/sanitize your hands and balls between games and keep 6 feet apart from all members outside your household. Avoid touching your face and cover your cough or sneeze. When coming off the court after your game, consider wearing a mask, especially if there are other people waiting to play on the sideline. Stay home if you have any of the symptoms of COVID-19, are in quarantine or are feeling unwell. No 'random partners'. Allow your name to be recorded for contact tracing purposes and follow all government and Pickleball BC safety guidelines.

1. Acknowledge your opponents at the beginning of the game. If you are playing unfamiliar players, introduce yourself. At the end of the game thank your opponents for the game without tapping paddles. When you have finished playing for the day, do not continue to stay at the courts to socialize.
2. If you hit a ball towards another court, loudly say "Ball on Court". Everyone should immediately stop play, to ensure no one trips on the ball. Return the ball to the correct court and re-play the point. Do not pick up the ball.
3. Call out the score loudly before each and every serve to ensure all know the score and are ready to play.
4. If the ball lands on or close to the out line, the receiving team has the final say on calling the ball "In" or "Out". Do not question the call. In social play if you are uncertain of the call, call it "In", giving the benefit of the doubt to your opponent. If you disagree with your partner on a line call – the benefit of the doubt goes to your opponent. If both you and your partner are unsure about the call, ask your opponents' especially if they had a better view. Never ask for, or accept, line calls from spectators.

5. During Open Play, (Mixed Skill Levels) play with everyone, no complaints. If a stronger player is on the court with you, hit to them and often. If you are playing with weaker players work on shots that they can return and learn from.
6. During Advanced Level of Play (3.5+) ensure that you are qualified to play by using the “Pickleball Skill Levels” chart which is on our website and is also posted. If you are still unsure, check with one of the directors of DPA.
7. Call yourself if you or your partner land in the kitchen on a volley.
8. Unsolicited coaching on the courts is not to be done. If someone asks for your input, offer a tip or two after your game once you are off the court, so as not to detract from the flow of the game and/or distract your opponents. If however coaching is agreeable to all 4 players, keep comments brief especially if the courts are busy
9. Be ready to go onto the court when it is your turn. Do not play past your scheduled time when another group is waiting.
10. Always exhibit good sportsmanship when playing or observing others. Refusing to play with a less experienced player is considered unsportsmanlike.
11. Don't use the lob shot with players with limited mobility. Running backwards for a lob shot can be a serious safety risk.
12. Be aware of where your partner is. If you are near your partner with an overhead slam opportunity where you may hit them, stop playing. Let the ball drop. Lose the point. Do NOT hit your partner.
13. Don't cross the court behind a match until the play has stopped. When that happens move quickly.

Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure a safe and positive environment by making members aware there are appropriate behaviors that are expected from DPA members at all times. These behaviors are consistent with our core values which include respect, fairness, integrity, honesty, transparency and safety.

Every DPA member pledges: I will:

1. treat others with respect
2. exhibit fairness and honesty in my dealings with others.
3. not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct or encourage others to do so.
4. not engage in any behavior that would endanger the health, safety or wellbeing of others.
5. not engage in the use of profanity, harassment or bullying
6. not engage in public criticism of other players or officials, and
7. not use or exploit DPA members for business purposes or financial gain

If complaints come forward to the DPA Directors regarding inappropriate behavior, actions or language, the following procedures will be followed:

- The President of the club will appoint two individuals to look into the complaint and create an action plan that is restorative in nature and directly deals with the parties involved. (Individuals will not be close friends of the parties involved).
- If resolution is not possible, the offense(s) will be examined by the whole board of directors and may result in a written reprimand, suspension or cancelation of membership from the DPA.
- The Board of Directors may use the policy guidelines developed by the Ontario Pickleball Association for direction in dealing with a complaint.

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpickleballontario.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F03%2FPAO-007-Complaints-Discipline-2019-02-21.pdf>

Definitions

- **Bullying** - Defined as verbal aggression or yelling, humiliating actions or practices, hazing, spreading malicious rumors, using derogatory names towards someone and includes cyber bullying through the use of electronic communication (email, text messaging, social networking, etc.)
- **Harassment** - Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes harassment, where harassment is defined as any behaviour or actions, visual material, unwelcome remarks, jokes, comments, innuendoes, written or verbal threats and/or any conduct directed towards an individual or group that undermines self-esteem, diminishes performance, and are offensive, abusive, racist, degrading, defamatory or malicious.
- **Respect** - This involves consistently treating individuals fairly, equitably and reasonably. Demonstrate respect to individuals regardless of body type, physical characteristics, athletic ability, age, ancestry, colour, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, creed, disability, family status, marital status, gender identity, gender expression, gender, and sexual orientation.
- **Sexual Harassment** - Defined as any behaviour or actions such as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that interferes with an individual's performance, creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment or is the basis for making a decision that affects the individual.