



PINAFORE PARK TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS USAGE POLICY

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to establish a fair and orderly procedure for the reservation of a court or several courts for the purpose of tennis or pickleball instruction, organized league play and tournaments. It is the intent of this policy to provide a balance of organized users with walk-on use by casual players. All players must adhere to the guidelines, court rules and restrictions within this policy as well as the posted rules and regulations at the Pinafore Park outdoor courts.

With the exception of 6 tennis courts and 6 pickleball courts on Mondays and Wednesdays 8am – 11pm, and Saturdays 9am – 11am, the Pinafore Park outdoor courts are free and available for use by the public to practice and play tennis and pickleball on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Parks, Recreation and Property Management Department reserves the right to use the outdoor courts for programs, camps or classes offered to the general public. All use of the Pinafore Park outdoor courts must be in compliance with the guidelines stated below:

General Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Court Use Guidelines

- The Parks, Recreation & PM Department will issue permits upon request for organized play on Mondays and Wednesdays in 2 hour intervals and Saturdays 9am – 11am, not to exceed 75% of the courts.
- League practices and games may use up to 6 courts, but must release courts for public use when no longer required.
- All 8 courts may be booked for Tournaments only.
- Organized use permit bookings will be reviewed and distributed fairly amongst various requesting leagues at the discretion of the Department.
- All walk-on play is allotted one hour of play. If there is no player on the court, and no one is waiting, non-permitted players can begin their play immediately but must relinquish the court at the end of the hour if other non-permitted players are waiting.
- Non-permit players must relinquish the court(s) to permit holders for the hours and courts designated on the permit.
- The City of St. Thomas prohibits solicitation of any business, trade or occupation unless authorized by permit.
- Play on all courts must end by 11pm and is prohibited outside of the posted hours or if the gates are locked.
- The Pinafore Park Tennis and Pickleball courts do not allow pets, skate/hover boards, scooters, bicycles, roller blades/skates or any other forms of play that is not tennis or pickleball on the surface.

Rules of use are required for the safety of the players and the protection of City of St. Thomas property.

Tennis and pickleball season generally runs from May to October, weather permitting. Courts are available daily from 8am until 11pm. Periodic closure may be necessary for maintenance, safety, weather and seasonal closure. Appropriate signage will be posted indicating the court is closed and the dates of the closure.

If players deem conditions (including weather and or other factors) to render a court unsafe, play must stop immediately. All courts should be vacated if lightening, thunder, or any other element is present which threatens the safety of the participants and or the spectators.

The City of St. Thomas assumes no liability for accidents and or injuries and assumes no liability for the loss of or damage to player property.

Use of the Pinafore Park courts is at the user's own risk. All Pinafore Park tennis and pickleball court users are expected to abide by the following rules and restrictions. These rules and restrictions will be enforced at all times.

The City of St. Thomas reserves the right to deny use of the courts or court area for any player and or spectator who violates any rules and restrictions or engages in any verbal or physical abuse of the court and court area.

OUTDOOR COURT RULES AND RESTRICTIONS

- All children must be accompanied by a supervising adult at all times when on the court or in the court area.
- No bicycles, tricycles, scooters, skate/hover boards, roller skates/blades etc allowed on the court.
- No fireworks or open flame, including barbeques, allowed on the court or in the court area.
- No food or drinks allowed on the court except water in recyclable/reusable containers. Sunflower seeds and gum are not allowed on the court or in the court area.
- No glass containers allowed on the court or court area.
- No hanging from the net or the net supports allowed.
- No hockey or any other forms of play allowed except for tennis and pickleball.
- No littering. Players and spectators are expected to pick up all trash and discard in the nearest bin before leaving the court and court area or take trash off the premise with them.
- No loitering.
- No painting, chalking, tape or other adhesive material allowed on the court.
- No pets allowed on the court or in the court area.
- No spitting on the court.
- No tables, chairs or tents allowed on the court.
- No use of personal sound systems allowed in the court area.
- No vehicles allowed in the court area except for City maintenance or emergency vehicles.
- No weapons allowed on City property except for police.
- Players and spectators are expected to display proper conduct and language – no profanity allowed as per Code of Conduct Policy.
- Players must avoid interference with play on adjoining courts.
- Nothing can be affixed to or attached or set up upon the grounds, fences, goals, light poles, benches or any other structure located on the court or in the court area.
- Only jogging, running, tennis or walking shoes allowed. No cleated or ribbed shoes of any type allowed on the court.
- Play is allowed only when the court is open.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on Pinafore Park property.
- The Pinafore Park tennis and pickleball courts are smoke free; the use of tobacco or marijuana products and any devices including but not limited to hukas, vaporizers, pipes etc. is prohibited.

Players and spectators who abuse the court or court area will be reported to the Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management.

The Director will be responsible for assessing damage and misuse of the court and or the court area and any property associated with the court and or court area and for setting restitution for such damage and misuse. Restitution may be monetary or result in the loss of privilege to use the court and or the court area.

The City of St. Thomas reserves the right to take legal action to collect assessed damages and associated costs of collection.

The Parks, Recreation and Property Management staff strive to fairly and consistently administer the Pinafore Park Tennis and Pickleball Courts Usage Policy as outlined above and any changes will be at the discretion of the Department.