

Pickleball Machine Precautions

Delta Pickleball Assoc. has purchased a "Pickleball Tutor Spin" ball machine for club use. The ball machine is a very good tool to practice numerous shots, It only has a few controls so is easy to operate, but, like any tool (machine) it can injure if not used properly. The ball machine is capable of projecting balls at speeds up to 88 Kilometers per hour or 22 meters in a second. At speeds well below the maximum the ball can leave welts and even cuts. The biggest concern is damage to the eyes from a direct or indirect hit. Prescription glasses will provide some protection but may not be adequate; therefore, it is recommended:

- All participants wear eye protection at all times when:
 - Drilling with the machine
 - Operating the machine
 - Gathering balls
- Do not operate the machine until you have been trained in the correct way to operate it by a designated person.
- Do not operate the machine if the balls or ground is wet or raining.
- Never place your hands or any other object (other than pickleballs) in the machine while it is powered on
- If a ball gets stuck please turn the machine off prior to trying to clear the jam.
- Only adjust the controls in small increments as large increments can dramatically change the speed and placement.
- Do not put yourself in front of the machine unless you are actually drilling with it.
- Never walk in front of the machine unless you are sure it is powered off.
- Run a few test balls before anyone steps into the court to use it to ensure the speed and distance are correct.
- It is better to start slower and slowly increase the speed and frequency of the balls once you are comfortable with the operation of the machine.
- Please try and keep balls off adjacent courts by placing items in the alleyways between courts and having other participants stop as many balls as possible from leaving the court.
- Do not adjust speed or frequency while in line of the machine - step aside and make sure it is safe and you can react in time to the balls being sent forth.
- The balls will react differently each time they go through the machine depending on temperature, cleanliness, wear of the balls and the wheels in the machine. Be aware of the changing trajectories and be ready for anything at all times.
- Remember if you see something that is unsafe it is up to you to say something. No one needs to get hurt while playing or practicing this wonderful game.

