

DPA Policy on use of Pickleball Machine

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the health and safety of the DPA members who are using the pickleball machine and to limit the chances of damage to the machine.

Background

The board of directors has purchased a pickleball machine that will shoot balls out at various speeds and directions to enable DPA members to practice and work on skills. The pickleball machine that the club owns is a "Pickleball Tutor Spin" model and has controls that can change the speed, height, direction and spin put onto a pickleball. The speed of the pickleball thrown from the machine can be as fast as 100 km per hour at maximum speed which can cause permanent damage if used improperly at that speed or even significantly less.

The machine has energized part run off battery power that if handled improperly could injure a user, bystander, or other person. With this in mind the Board of Directors has come up with standards and procedures for use of the pickleball machine to limit the chances of injury.

The procedures developed include elements to ensure safety of the users and care of the machine.

Specifics

Safety Precautions:

- Everyone must wear eye protection when on the court with the pickleball machine. (operator, participants, helpers, observers, coaches.....)
- Never step in front of the machine when it is in operation unless prepared to strike the ball with a paddle.
- Never insert any body part, or any other object other than a pickleball, into the openings on the machine unless it is fully powered off and no parts are moving and you have control of the power source.
- If a ball fails to eject do not look into the opening until the machine is fully powered off.
- Be aware of stray balls on the court for tripping hazards. Warn others if you see this.
- If it feels unsafe it probably is so don't do it.

Operation checklist:

- Read Pickleball Tutor Operation manual
- Know how to set up the machine including the following steps,
 - Power on and off,
 - Opening the hopper,
 - Filling the hopper,
 - Operating the remote.
- Adjust ball speed
- Adjust trajectory height,
- Set to 2 line operation and understand the difference between 1 line, 2 line, and random settings,
- Adjust ball feed speed
- Understand correct placement on court to understand ration of speed and height for ball placement.

Approvals

Appendix 1 to this policy must read and agree to in writing before DPA will be allowed to sign out the machine.

All participants must be DPA members in good standing for insurance purposes.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Ball Machine User Agreement

Appendix 2 – Pickleball Tutor Operation Manual

Appendix 3 – Sign out sheet

Appendix 4 – Pickleball machine precautions