



# Sussex Pickleball Club: Code of Conduct

## 1. Purpose

The Sussex Pickleball Club (SPC) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all members and guests. Whether on the court or on the sidelines, we prioritize **sportsmanship, safety, and fun.**

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## 2. On-Court Etiquette

- **Respect the Call:** Players are responsible for line calls on their side of the net. Always give the benefit of the doubt to your opponent. If you aren't 100% sure the ball was out, it was in.
- **Fair Play:** Avoid "targeting" weaker players excessively during recreational play. Aim to keep rallies going and ensure everyone is involved in the game.
- **Acknowledge Good Play:** A simple "Nice shot!" goes a long way. At the end of every match, meet at the net for a paddle tap and a "good game."

## 3. Safety First

- **The "Ball On" Rule:** If a ball rolls onto your court from another game, stop play immediately and shout "**Ball on!**" to prevent injury. Replay the point.
- **Paddle Safety:** Never throw your paddle or strike the net in frustration.
- **Know Your Limits:** Play within your physical capabilities to avoid injuring yourself or others.

## 4. Inclusive Environment

- **Zero Tolerance:** Harassment, bullying, or discrimination based on age, gender, skill level, or background will not be tolerated.
- **Welcoming Newcomers:** Remember that everyone was a beginner once. Be patient with new players and offer encouragement as they learn the rules and scoring.
- **Language:** Keep the air clean. Avoid excessive profanity or aggressive outbursts.

## 5. Court Sharing & Rotation

- **Follow the System:** Respect the club's rotation system (e.g., paddle saddle or bins). Do not "skip" the line or stay on the court for consecutive games when others are waiting.
  - **Be Ready:** Have your paddle and shoes ready so games can transition quickly, maximizing playing time for everyone.
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## 6. Enforcement

Members who fail to adhere to this Code of Conduct may be subject to a verbal warning, temporary suspension, or—in extreme cases—revocation of membership by the Board of Directors.

*"Pickleball is a game; the community is a lifestyle. Let's keep Sussex the friendliest place to play."*

