



## MARKHAM PICKLEBALL CLUB

### Court & Facility Use Policy

#### Document Control

Policy Number: MPC-CFP-01 (V1)

Approved By: MPC Board of Directors

Date: May 2026

Review Cycle: Annual or as required

#### 1. Purpose

This policy establishes the rules and expectations for court and facility use during all Markham Pickleball Club (MPC) operating hours. These policies apply to all members, guests, and visitors at any MPC court location and are in effect year-round for the safety, enjoyment, and protection of all participants.

#### 2. Members Only on the Courts

Court access during MPC club hours is restricted to current, registered MPC members. This requirement exists for the safety of all participants and to ensure MPC's insurance coverage applies to everyone on the courts.

- Only individuals with an active, registered MPC membership and a shoe tag that permits play during the applicable club hours may enter the courts or court enclosure during club hours. Members who do not have their shoe tag with them must leave the courts and refer to the Shoe Tag Policy for next steps.
- Non-members — including friends, family, and spectators — are not permitted on the courts or within the court enclosure during club hours.
- Non-members are welcome to observe from designated spectator areas outside the court enclosure.
- Members are responsible for ensuring anyone they bring to the facility understands and respects this policy.
- Exception: Non-member parents or legal guardians accompanying a minor participant (ages 10–15) are permitted within the court enclosure solely for the purpose of supervision. Supervising adults are not permitted to participate in play unless they hold an active MPC membership.

#### 3. Minor Participants & Supervision

MPC welcomes junior members aged 10 and older, subject to the requirements of the MPC Participant Policies. The following supervision rules apply during all club hours.



For all minor participants, a parent or legal guardian is required to sign the MPC waiver on behalf of the minor at the time of annual membership registration.

### **Ages 10–15**

- Must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or designated supervising adult (18+) who is physically present at the facility for the full duration of participation.
- MPC does not provide custodial supervision. The supervising adult is fully responsible for the minor’s conduct and immediate care.
- Unsupervised minors in this age group will not be permitted on the courts. This is a condition of MPC’s insurance coverage and is non-negotiable.

### **Ages 16–17**

- May participate independently without a parent physically present.
- Must comply fully with all MPC conduct standards and facility policies.

**Note:** Membership does not alter supervision requirements for minors. For full details, refer to the MPC Participant Policies.

## **4. Protective Eyewear**

Protective eyewear is strongly recommended for all players during club hours. Pickleball is a fast-paced sport and eye injuries from balls, paddles, and ricochets can occur. MPC strongly encourages all members to wear sport-appropriate protective eyewear as a precautionary measure.

## **5. Proper Footwear Required**

Appropriate footwear is required on all MPC courts at all times. This protects both players from injury and preserves court surfaces.

- Court shoes are required for all players. Court shoes provide the lateral support necessary for safe play.
- Running shoes and other non-court footwear do not provide adequate lateral support and are worn at the player’s own risk.
- Street shoes, sandals, flip-flops, dress shoes, and cleats are not permitted on the courts.
- Players wearing inappropriate footwear may be asked to leave the court until proper shoes are obtained.

## **6. Shoe Tag Policy**

MPC shoe tags are required for all members during club hours. The shoe tag system identifies authorized, registered players on the courts and is a condition of participation.

### **Policy Rules**

- Shoe tags remain the property of MPC and are non-transferable.



- All members must wear their MPC shoe tag during club hours so it is clearly visible to court hosts and other members.
- Tags may be worn on your shoe, pinned to your clothing, or on a bracelet — any placement is acceptable provided the tag is clearly visible.
- Members must leave the courts if they do not have their current MPC shoe tag with them.
- Court hosts may verify a member's shoe tag entitlement during club hours and may ask members to leave the courts if their shoe tag does not permit play for that session.

### **Non-Transferability**

- Shoe tags must not be shared, lent, transferred, or sold to any other person.
- Any person found wearing a lost or stolen tag will be banned from the club indefinitely.
- If a missing tag is found to have been given by one member to another, both members will be banned. There will be no exceptions.

### **Lost or Stolen Tags**

- If you have lost your tag, a replacement is available for a fee. Visit the Shoe Tag Policy & Tips page in the Members Hub for current replacement details and payment instructions.
- If a lost tag is subsequently found, it must be returned to a court host during club hours.

### **Tag Distribution**

- Shoe tags are distributed by court hosts during regularly hosted open play sessions throughout May each year.
- If you play with more than one pair of shoes, you do not need multiple tags. Visit the Shoe Tag Policy & Tips page in the Members Hub on the MPC website for tips on using one tag across multiple pairs of shoes.

## **7. Court Time & Player Rotation**

MPC is an inclusive and fair club. We use an open play rotation system to ensure all members have equal opportunity to play. When courts are full and players are waiting, the Next Up Rotation Board applies.

### **Next Up Rotation Board**

- When all courts are full and new players arrive, the Next Up Rotation Board (whiteboard) is used to manage rotation.
- Players waiting for a court add their names to the first available box on the board. Boxes are filled left to right, then the next line down.
- Individual players should add their name to an incomplete box before starting a new game box. An effort should be made to have 4 names per box to start a match.



- Once a court is open, the next full game box is crossed out and those players take the court.
- Players currently on a court cannot be added to a game box until their current game is completed.
- When a game is complete, all four players come off the court.
- When someone is waiting and is next up on the board, the foursome that just finished must split up and include the waiting player. MPC's open play system means foursomes do not have the right to play exclusively together when others are waiting.
- Hosts have the right to intervene to ensure fair rotation is followed. Please show hosts respect.

## 8. No Dogs or Animals

Dogs and all other animals are not permitted inside the courts or court enclosure at any time.

- This applies regardless of leash status, size, breed, or temperament.
- This policy protects members with allergies, phobias, and safety concerns, and is consistent with the City of Markham Parks By-law (By-law 167-92), which requires all dogs to be on a leash in parks.
- Animals may be present in public park areas outside the MPC court enclosure, in compliance with City of Markham bylaws.

## 9. No Bikes, Scooters, or Wheeled Recreational Vehicles

The City of Markham Parks By-law (By-law 167-92) restricts the operation of vehicles within park areas except on designated roadways and parking areas. MPC applies this to all wheeled recreational equipment within the court enclosure.

- Bicycles, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, and similar wheeled recreational vehicles are not permitted inside the courts or court enclosure.
- These items must be parked or secured outside the court zone before entering.
- This protects court surfaces and prevents injury to players.

## 10. No Smoking, Vaping, or Cannabis Use

MPC courts are located within City of Markham public park space. The City of Markham prohibits smoking, vaping, and the use of recreational cannabis in all public parks and City-owned facilities under Cannabis By-law 2018-135 and the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017.

- Smoking of tobacco, cigars, cigarillos, or any other substance is prohibited in and around MPC courts.
- Vaping and e-cigarette use is prohibited in and around MPC courts.
- Recreational cannabis use (smoking or vaping) is prohibited in all City of Markham public spaces, including MPC courts, under By-law 2018-135. Violations may result in fines of up to \$1,000.



- Medical cannabis: While City By-law 2018-135 provides an exemption for individuals with a valid medical authorization, MPC encourages all members to be mindful of others and to review current City of Markham rules. MPC does not have authority to grant or deny exemptions; these are governed solely by the City bylaw.
- For full details, visit the City of Markham By-laws page at [markham.ca/bylaws](http://markham.ca/bylaws).

## 11. Inclement Weather & Wet Courts

Player safety is MPC's first priority in all weather conditions.

### *Hosted Sessions*

- During hosted sessions, the host or designated court monitor has full authority to suspend or cancel play due to unsafe weather conditions, including lightning, heavy rain, or dangerous wind.
- The host's decision is final. Players must comply immediately when play is suspended.

### *Unhosted Sessions*

- During unhosted open play, individual players assume responsibility for their own safety.
- Playing on wet or slippery courts is strongly discouraged. Wet courts significantly increase the risk of slips and falls.
- MPC strongly recommends that players suspend play during active rain or any unsafe weather, and wait until conditions have improved before resuming.
- MPC brooms are available to sweep standing water from courts. Players are encouraged to use them before resuming play on damp surfaces.
- MPC assumes no liability for injuries sustained by members who choose to play in unsafe or marginal weather conditions during unhosted sessions.

## 12. Enforcement & Authority

All members have agreed to follow MPC club rules as part of the MPC Code of Conduct acknowledged at the time of registration. This policy forms part of those club rules.

MPC reserves the right to issue warnings, remove a member from a session, suspend participation privileges, or revoke membership where conduct is deemed unsafe, disruptive, or inconsistent with these policies.

All enforcement decisions are at the discretion of the MPC Board of Directors or its designated representatives.

### **Questions or Concerns?**

Please contact MPC at [info@markhampickleballclub.ca](mailto:info@markhampickleballclub.ca) with any questions or concerns. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our courts safe and enjoyable for everyone.