

	Pickleball Court Acceptable Use Policy	POLICY NO.	21
		EFFECTIVE DATE	June 17, 2026
		REVISION DATE	

BVPA Mission

Our mission is to develop pickleball as a sport for all in the Bow Valley by promoting the health, physical and social well-being of its members through offering organized recreational and competitive play in an atmosphere of collegiality and sportsmanship.

Purpose

This policy establishes the rules and conditions governing acceptable use of pickleball courts booked by the Bow Valley Pickleball Association (BVPA) on behalf of its members. Its purpose is to ensure that courts are used exclusively for the type of play scheduled by the BVPA Play Committee, to protect the Association's booking privileges with the owners and/or operators of court infrastructure that the BVPA uses, and to maintain a safe, fair, and welcoming environment for all participants.

Scope

This policy applies to

- All BVPA members and appropriately registered guests (see Non-Member Play Policy) using courts during BVPA scheduled sessions;
- All court types and locations booked by BVPA (indoor and outdoor); and
- All play formats organized by the Play Committee, including scheduled, open, skill-based, cohort, structured, drop-in and tournament play.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
BVPA	Bow Valley Pickleball Association, a registered non-profit organization
Play Committee	The committee, created by the BVPA Board of Directors, responsible for scheduling, programming, organizing, and overseeing court use
Session	A specific time block booked by BVPA for a designated type of play

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Designated Play Format	The type of play officially scheduled for a given Session (e.g., beginner, intermediate, advanced, open play, skills session, cohort, tournament, etc.)
Member	An individual holding a current BVPA membership
Guest, Non-Member	See Non-Member Play Policy
Session Captain	A designated BVPA member assigned to manage a Session on-court
Court Operator	The owner or manager of the pickleball court infrastructure booked by the BVPA (e.g. Town of Canmore, Town of Banff, Banff Centre for the Arts, Canmore Collegiate High School, etc.)

Process

1. Scheduling and Court Allocation

1.1 Play Committee Authority

The Play Committee is established by the BVPA Board of Directors and operates with authority provided through its Board approved Terms of Reference. For example, the Play Committee is responsible for:

- Booking courts in the Bow Valley on behalf of the BVPA;
- Designating the play format for each Session;
- Assigning courts to specific formats within a multi-court booking; and
- Publishing the Session schedule and ensuring it is communicated to members.

The Play Committee is accountable to the Board and recommends actions to the Board for approval.

1.2 Session Schedule

The Play Committee will ensure a Session schedule is published through BVPA's official communication channels. Each Session listing will specify: date, time, location, court(s), designated play format, skill level (if applicable), and any other requirements as necessary.

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1.3 Designated Play Format Compliance

Courts booked by the BVPA shall be used only for the Designated Play Format specified for that Session.

1.4 No Unauthorized Use

During a BVPA booked Session, courts may not be used for:

- Private commercial or paid lessons or instruction by non-BVPA coaches unless pre-approved in writing by the Play Committee;
- Non-pickleball sports or activities (e.g., tennis, badminton, recreational running, cycling, skateboarding);
- Personal bookings or casual use that conflicts with the scheduled Session; and
- Any commercial or for-profit activity not sanctioned by the BVPA.

1.5 Between Sessions

Courts are returned to the Court Operator in between BVPA Sessions. BVPA members and guests must vacate courts promptly at the end of each Session to allow other permitted users access. Temporary nets and other equipment must be put away according to local procedures at each court location.

2 Membership and Guest Participation

2.1 Membership Requirement

Participation in BVPA-scheduled Sessions requires a current BVPA membership, unless the Session is explicitly designated as a public or guest-access event.

2.2 Non-Member Play Policy

Non-Members and guests may only participate in BVPA scheduled events according to terms and conditions described in the BVPA Non-Member Policy.

2.3 Non-Members During Booked Time

Non-members found using courts during BVPA booked Sessions without authorization will be politely asked to leave by the Session Captain or any BVPA member, consistent with the Association's rights under its booking agreement with the Court Operator.

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3. Court Conduct and Safety

3.1 Sportsmanship

The BVPA has developed a Member Code of Conduct and all participants are expected to abide by it at all times. The BVPA also promotes and maintains a culture of sportsmanship and fair play. This includes:

- Courteous communication with all players, Session Captains, and bystanders;
- Honest and fair line calls; disputes should be resolved amicably;
- No profane language, aggressive behaviour, or intimidation; and
- Inclusion of players of all skill levels during general drop-in play.

3.2 Footwear and Equipment

Non-marking, court-appropriate athletic shoes are required on all indoor courts. Appropriate athletic shoes are required on outdoor courts. Participants are responsible for ensuring their equipment (paddle, balls) is in good condition and meets standard pickleball specifications. Eye protection is not mandatory but is highly recommended for all adults. Children and youth under 18 years of age are required to wear eye protection.

3.3 Court Care

No food or glass containers are allowed on court surfaces. Beverages in sealed, non-glass containers are permitted courtside. Pets must remain outside the court area and must be leashed at all times. Courts must be left clean and participants are expected to pick up any litter.

3.4 Safety Protocols

Safety is treated with the highest of priority. BVPA, the Play Committee, and Session Captains may suspend, postpone, modify, or cancel play where court, environmental, weather, or other conditions are considered unsafe or may create unreasonable risk to participants or facilities.

The following safety protocols are in place for the BVPA:

- Play is prohibited on wet or slippery surfaces. After rainfall, courts must be completely dried using appropriate equipment;
- Proper footwear is required to reduce injury risk;
- Do not run backward. Turn and run forward to retrieve balls;
- Eye protection is not mandatory but is highly recommended;

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- Eye protection is mandatory for children and youth under 18 years of age;
- If a ball from another court enters your court, stop play immediately, retrieve the ball, and return it safely to the appropriate players;
- Stay hydrated, particularly during warm weather outdoor play; and
- Follow Session Caption instructions during any incident. Yield to emergency vehicles and in case of emergency, call 911.

4. Court Management

4.1 Session Captain Role

The Session Captain (where assigned) is responsible for:

- Welcoming players and confirming eligibility for the Session format;
- Following Session Captain practices as laid out in the Session Captain Guide;
- Managing the rotation and waiting queue;
- Ensuring any equipment is put away by participants at the end of a Session as necessary;
- Addressing conduct concerns and referring participants to the Complaint & Conflict Resolution Policy when appropriate; and
- Reporting court damage, environmental issues that caused postponement of play, or safety issues to the Play Committee.
- Completion of Accident Reporting Form, and reporting to Play Committee if necessary.

4.2 Lessons and Instruction

Any structured instruction that resembles coaching or lessons, may only occur during Sessions explicitly designated by the Play Committee for that purpose. External coaches or instructors must have written authorization from the Play Committee prior to conducting any instruction on BVPA booked courts.

4.3 Tournaments and Special Events

Tournament Sessions and Special Events are governed by the BVPA and take precedence over general play scheduling. During Tournament Sessions, courts and support areas are reserved exclusively for registered participants, officials, and authorized volunteers. BVPA members not registered in a tournament may not use tournament-designated courts during tournament hours.

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4.4 Damage Reporting

Any damage to court surfaces, nets, posts, or associated infrastructure must be reported immediately to the Session Captain and, thereafter, to the Play Committee. Members or Non-Members found to have caused wilful damage may be held responsible for repair costs and may face suspension of playing privileges. BVPA will report infrastructure damage to the Court Operator in a timely manner consistent with its facility use agreement.

4.5 Alcohol, Cannabis, and Substances

Consumption of alcohol, cannabis, or any intoxicating substance is prohibited on court surfaces and in court alleyways during BVPA Sessions. Participants who appear impaired will be asked to leave by the Session Captain for the safety of all players.

5 Enforcement and Consequences

5.1 Graduated Response

Violations of this policy will be addressed as follows:

Step	Action
First instance	Verbal reminder from Session Captain and Session Captain will document and inform Play Committee
Second instance	Formal written notice from Play Committee Chair
Third instance or serious violation	Suspension from BVPA Sessions with a duration determined by the BVPA Board
Severe or repeated violation	BVPA Membership revocation and/or referral to other authority as appropriate

5.2 Appeals

Procedures from the Complaint and Conflict Resolution Policy will be used to appeal any sanctions applied as a result of violation of this Policy.

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5.3 Compliance with Court Operator Policies

BVPA retains the right to remove any individual from a Session for conduct that risks the Association's standing with the Court Operator as a facility user group. Conduct that violates the Court Operator's facility use bylaws or policies will be reported accordingly.

6 Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Play Committee and approved by the BVPA Board of Directors. Members will be notified of any material changes prior to the next season or within 30 days of adoption, whichever comes first.

7. Acknowledgement

By participating in any BVPA-scheduled Session, Members, Non-Members and Guests agree to comply with this policy in full.

Revision History

Date	Rev. No.	Change
Draft	1	April 9, 2026 First Draft

References

Bow Valley Pickleball Association Bylaws

Bow Valley Pickleball Association Approved Policies