

PICKLEBALL – SAFETY & ETIQUETTE

Safety

Be safety minded. Follow all safety and first-aid procedures. Have first-aid items available.	Avoid back-peddling (running backwards.) Don't ignore cuts, bruises, sprains, or hits to the eye or head.
Warm-up including dynamic stretching. Hydrate before, during, and after play.	Don't start playing the game "cold". Avoid foolish "dives" after the ball and colliding with other players.
Wait for play to stop before you go on or near a court with active play.	Don't walk on or near a court with active play. Don't keep playing when a court is wet or slippery.
When a wayward ball is on or going on another court, yell "Ball. Ball." Stop play on that court.	Don't keep playing when another court's ball is on or coming on to your court. Do not take one more hit.
Pick-up a wayward ball and toss or tap it to a player who is ready to receive it.	Don't just paddle-flick or kick the ball across the court. Get a wayward ball back to someone who is expecting it.
Communicate well with your partner to avoid injury and to play well together. E.g. discuss and call-out who will get what shots.	Don't assume every partner knows your preferences, style, or expectations. Don't neglect good "partner communication" before, during and after a game.

Rules

Be familiar with the rule changes for 2021 particularly those for serving. E.g. no "let" serve" and a "drop serve" is now legal.

Know and follow the <i>current</i> USA Pickleball rules. View the official rulebook online or download your copy at https://usapickleball.org/what-is-pickleball/ifp-official-rules/	Don't disregard or minimize the official rules. Avoid perpetuating "false rules" or making up rules. Know house-rules or court-specific rules. Know the difference between a rule and a recommendation or a strategy.
Know and use proper pickleball terminology. See <i>Section 3 – Definitions</i> in the rulebook. E.g. "volley" vs "rally".	Don't argue or draw a conclusion about a rule without basing your argument or conclusion on a specific rule in the current USA Pickleball rulebook.
Know and follow the rules especially for serving, scoring & line calls. The starting score for every game "0-0-2". Make sure your serve is legal.	Don't soft-speak the score. Say it loudly. The entire score must be called before the ball is served. Don't serve until your opponents are ready.
Make questionable line calls in favor of the opponent. Make all calls quickly and move on.	"When in doubt, don't call it out." Avoid do-overs. Don't question an opponent's call.
Calling "Out" or "Bounce It" or "Let it go" are legal calls for player communication to a partner.	Don't expect a rally to stop if "Out" is called by the other team. A rally continues until a fault occurs.
Know when and how to address faults either at the moment, or by the third short, or after the rally, or after the game.	Faults to address include the wrong score, wrong server, foot faults, illegal serves, NVZ faults, touching the net.
Know and follow the "house rules" of the courts on which you are playing, e.g. player rotation.	Don't ignore or alter the court's standard procedures or the instructions of the court's coordinator.

Interaction with Others

Be kind, welcoming, impartial, and helpful to all new and existing players. Be self-aware.	Don't be grumpy, bashful, dopey, sleepy, sneezy, snooty, pushy, know-it-all-e. 😊
Ask for advice when you want it. Ask for advice to stop when you had enough of it from that player giving it.	Don't give advice unless someone asks for it. Stop giving advice when asked to stop. Don't convey as a rule what is only a recommendation or a strategy.
Respect the fact ALL players generally want to play with and play against better players.	Don't disregard court or league guidelines that specify what level of play is on which courts.
If playing with casual/recreational players, more advanced players should work on their soft game and on their accuracy instead of trying to dominate with their power game.	Don't intentionally try to always hit the ball to the weaker player if you are a more advanced player playing with casual/recreational players.
Without the intention to hurt a player, targeting a player's body with a hard drive or smash is permissible and should be expected in competitive play.	Don't drive a ball or smash a ball at a casual/recreational player's body unless you can hit their feet. The casual/recreational player may be playing more for the fun of the game than to win the game.
Use words of encouragement with your partner. At the end of each game, come to the net and tap or wiggle paddles with your partner and with your opponents saying, "Nice game!"	Avoid disparaging words and body language that may discourage your partner or any player. Don't forget, this is only a game. Refrain from any lewd, obscene, or indecent conduct or expression including profanity, offensive remarks, harassment, discrimination.
Help setup and clean-up courts as necessary including setting up and taking down nets. Only wear court shoes on indoor courts. Respect the property of others.	Don't be a player to play first if you have not been there early to setup the courts. Don't leave the courts early to avoid cleanup including taking down the nets if required.
For escalating any safety or etiquette issue, know to whom you should contact for help.	Don't be countercultural. Do all you can to support and promote the friendly and fun culture of pickleball!

Know and abide by a **Code of Conduct** if available from the club or community in which you are playing. Comply with and support a facility's staff and volunteer leaders.

Do all you can to support the culture of pickleball as a fun and safe sport for all ages and abilities.

Grow the game! Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors – people of all ages and abilities – to learn how to play pickleball.

**Play pickleball for the health of it . . . for the fun of it . . .
for the social benefits . . . and for the competition!**