

Pickleball Code of Conduct



OMG PICKLEBALL CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

OMG Pickleball Club members are reminded that our goal is to provide an environment where all players can play the game to the best of their ability and, most importantly, have FUN while doing it. Therefore, all Club members are expected to abide by the following guidelines.

Facilities and equipment

- At the Plummer Family Park, we reserve specific courts for the Club's Open Play. The schedule for the Open Play on the reserved courts is posted on the [OMG Pickleball Club](#) website. If you play at any other time and want to be guaranteed a court, you should reserve one. If you do not reserve a court and someone shows up who has reserved it, you must graciously relinquish the court (even if the other players do not have their official reservation receipt with them).
- Balls shall be returned to the ball holders at the completion of Club play.
- The courts and aisleway should be checked after all Club sessions. Trash, water bottles, etc., should be placed in the trash cans.
- Treat the nets and all equipment with care to avoid unnecessary damage.

Sportsmanship and behavior on and around the courts

- If you have a concern about any Club decision, activity, or someone's behavior, immediately contact one of the OMG Steering Committee members so a resolution can be discussed and implemented.
- Have fun! Open play is recreational play, not tournament play.
- Open play is for everyone. If non-OMG Club players show up, welcome them. Invite them to rotate in with the group.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship when playing or observing games and encourage others to do the same.
- Control your temper on the court at all times. Conduct yourself in a respectful manner and show others the same courtesies you would like to have shown to you.
- Do not criticize your partner or other players, nor fault them for their mistakes.
- Do not celebrate points excessively. Always apply a sense of reasonableness to the matter, keeping the "fun" in the game.
- Be considerate of others in your on- and off-court communication. Avoid shouting or verbal outbursts which are distracting to your opponent and to players on other courts.
- Realize that sarcastic humor may not be taken well by others.
- Avoid the use of profanity on or near the courts.
- Do not coach or give what you think are good suggestions, unless you know others are open to this.

Conventions of play

- All players are expected to know and follow the rules of the game.
- Do not intentionally hit the ball at someone in a manner that could cause injury.
- It is the server's responsibility to clearly announce the score before serving each point.
- If you hit a ball into another court, immediately and loudly call "ball on court!"
- If a ball comes across your court, immediately and loudly call "ball on court", stop play, and re-play the point. Return stray balls to other courts, but not while a point is being played.
- If you are crossing an active court to get onto a vacant court or to leave a court, wait until their current point is over. Ask them for permission to cross their court. Avoid walking behind, beside, or entering a court while a rally is in progress.
- Return the ball to the server in a respectful way. Don't just swat the ball back. Pick it up and toss it to the appropriate player on the other court.
- If a ball breaks, safely remove it from the court. If anything else falls onto the court, quickly remove it.
- Ensure that you take your turn sitting out in a fair manner when the courts are full. See the OMG Play Rotation documents on the OMG Pickleball Club's website (under *Learning & New Players, All Learning Aids*).

OMG PICKLEBALL CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT (Continued)

Line & kitchen calls

- Players are expected to make all of the line calls on their side of the court.
- Line calls should be promptly signaled by hand or voice.
- When a decision is made by the team on the receiving side, their decision is to be accepted.
- If a team cannot decide or cannot agree on a line call, then the benefit always goes to the opponent (i.e. the ball must be declared "in").
- In cases where there is doubt on a call, an opponent's opinion can be requested; and if the opponent says the ball was "in" or the opponent could not see it, the ball must be declared "in".
- If, while the ball is in the air, a player yells "out," "no," "bounce it," or any other word to communicate to his or her partner that the ball may be out, it should be considered player communication. If the ball lands in, play will continue. If the out call is made after the ball has hit the playing surface, it is considered a line call and play should stop.
- Arguments over line calls are never acceptable!
- If you step into the kitchen on a volley, or if your partner does, call it on yourself or your partner.

Playing at different levels

- At the Plummer Family Park, we have courts designated by skill level. Everyone is welcome to play on any court. However, if you play on the 3.5 to 4+ courts, do not expect players to play down to your skill level. Conversely, if you are a 3.5+ player playing on a lower skill level court, tailor your play to the levels of your opponents. Be willing to play with players of all skill levels during open play.
- It is everyone's responsibility to make new players feel welcome and to help them learn the game. Be flexible. We may need to designate a court for new players, depending upon the number of players. Try to get into a game with new players. Remember, we were all there once. A game with new players is a good time to practice shot placement skills.
- Avoid overly aggressive play towards beginner or lower skill level players. Consider tailoring your play to the levels of your opponents.
- If you play one or two games with higher level players and find you cannot compete, do not continue to jump into those games. You will find everyone has a better time playing with other players at the same skill level.
- Do not target players. Do not hit continually to the weaker player; do not hit continually to the better player. All four players on the court want to play!

Taking care of ourselves and others

- Take care of yourself! Don't overplay your current physical condition.
- Hydrate. This means "drink water". Drink BEFORE you are thirsty. Otherwise, it's too late.
- If you see someone who displays signs of dizziness, weakness, or lack of concentration, keep an eye on them. Recommend a time-out if you think it necessary for their sake.
- When going backwards for a lob, turn and run backwards. DON'T SHUFFLE BACKWARDS.
- Be aware of where your partner is on the court to avoid collisions.