

# Klamath Basin Pickleball Association

[www.kbpickleball.com](http://www.kbpickleball.com)

## Information, Etiquette, & Court Safety Guidelines

Updated 1/20/2020

- ☺ During “Social Play” hours (M-W-F 9:00 AM to Noon), all players will mix and play with all skill levels so that less experienced players can get a better understanding of Pickleball. Experienced players are encouraged to help newer players. Check the schedule for other Social Play times, including evenings and Sunday.
- ☺ During “Challenge Play” hours (T-Th-Sat 9:00 AM to Noon), experienced players can let loose and play hard, using more advanced strategies. Not recommended for beginners, but if you know the rules, can place the ball fairly well and are ready to learn more advanced strategies, and you’re winning most of your games at the Social Play level, come try it!
- ☺ Special Note for Beginners: experienced players are happy to help beginners during Social Play sessions.

### **Basic Etiquette**

*Have Fun. Play Fair. Honor the call. It's only a Game!*

1. Before starting a game, acknowledge the other players on your court; introduce yourself if you don't know them. Treat them the way you would like to be treated.
2. Call the correct three-number score loudly before starting to serve. Pause for possible corrections, then serve.
3. Don't take advantage of another player's physical limitations during social (non-tournament) play, especially by lobbing behind them. You're not proving anything by doing it, you certainly will not be respected for it, and someone might get hurt.
4. Don't ever attempt to hit another player in the head.
5. Learn the rules and follow them. If other players are trying to help you with rules, be patient, listen, and learn. If in doubt, refer to the rule book at the sign-in table. If you refuse to play by the rules, you may run out of people who are willing to play with you.
6. Line calls can be difficult and cause unnecessary friction on the court. Be generous. If a ball is clearly out, call it out. If it's close and you are not absolutely sure it was out, give your opponents the benefit of the doubt and call it in. If you are unsure about the line call rules, check them out in the rule book. If other players routinely seem unhappy with your line calls, take note!
7. If you step into the kitchen on a volley (or your partner does), call it on yourself. Be very cautious trying to make those calls on your opponents (most of us are at an age where our vision is questionable.)
8. Spectator comments on plays are normal and fun. But spectators do not make line calls, period.
9. Poach at your own risk (unless your partner objects!) And as Jeff says, “If you poach, you better make it!”
10. Smile and laugh often! Humor makes pickleball (and life) a lot more fun.
11. Cheering – it's fine for you and your partner to tap paddles and congratulate each other on a good play. But it's best to remain quiet when another player makes an unforced error. While some light-hearted “trash-talking” is part of the game and can be fun, there is no need to rub it in by teasing or saying, “Thank you” every time an opponent faults. On the other hand, it's always appropriate to comment positively on another player's amazing shots.
12. Coaching during play is not always welcomed by other players. Ask first. Please do not hold up the game for teaching skills when there are people on the sidelines waiting to play.
13. At the end of each game, meet your opponents at the net and find something positive and encouraging to say to the other team. “Good game” isn't always appropriate if you won 11-0. “Thanks for playing with us!” is nice.
14. Foul language is not appreciated, especially if directed at another player. Anyone using it may be asked to leave the venue immediately.

## Waiting to play...

1. Put your name on your paddle and place it in the appropriate paddle box, in the proper order. You may move your paddle back if you want to play with a partner or wait for a shady court. You may NOT skip your paddle ahead of other waiting players. Please don't move another player's paddle without that player's permission.
2. When you are waiting to play, be ready to go when your paddle gets to the front! If you are not there when it's your turn to play, your paddle will be skipped over.
3. Generally, the first four players on a court play to 11, then the winners stay in and split up and the losers go out. After the first game, the players who have played two consecutive games go out, regardless of win/loss status. Two In – Two Out.
4. At Sacred Heart, if the gym gets crowded (more than 8 players waiting), a Board-designated Host will decide whether to limit games to 7 points, or to play to 11 but have all four players leave the court after each game (Four In – Four Out). When the waiting line drops below 8, the Host will decide when to go back to the Two In-Two Out format and play to 11. All players are asked to cooperate with and support those decisions, and not attempt to overrule the Host or change the format on their own. Different Hosts will choose different formats, so it will go your way sometimes, and sometimes not.

## Court Safety

1. Proper footwear is required *for your safety*. No bare feet. Court shoes or cross-training shoes are best for the lateral support they provide. Running shoes are not recommended. Do NOT wear shoes that leave black marks on the court surface.
2. Eye protection is highly recommended.
3. Warm-up before playing – 5 minutes of brisk walking will get the blood flowing and start to lubricate the joints. Stretch before and after playing. Keep your joints and muscles happy!
4. Be courteous when crossing behind courts in play. Wait for a break in play, then move past quickly.
5. Interference: If your ball rolls onto another court *and presents a tripping hazard for those players*, immediately call out "Ball" to warn the other players. Likewise, if a ball wanders onto your court and could possibly be a tripping hazard, stop play immediately, and replay the point. A ball that rolls across the corner of the court or behind the court without presenting a hazard does not necessarily have to stop play. If you are playing and something happens that prevents you from making your play, it is appropriate to call, "Interference," and replay the point.
6. Do NOT run onto another court to retrieve a ball – you may collide with another player. Stop at the edge of the court. Wait for them to stop playing before you retrieve the ball. DO try to stop your ball from going onto another court!
7. When returning a ball to another player or court, be sure you have eye contact with the intended receiver, and then send the ball nicely to that person so he or she can easily catch it. Try not to just swat escaped balls out of your way.
8. Do not intentionally hit a ball in play to a physically limited player that might cause that player to take a fall. You don't want to be responsible for injuring another player, right?
9. Do not EVER intentionally aim a ball at an opponent's head. And see #2 again, because sometimes it just happens.
10. Don't allow yourself to get too thirsty – drink water between games, even if you don't feel thirsty yet. By the time you do feel thirsty, you're already way behind on your hydration. If you notice another player with signs of dizziness or weakness or lack of concentration, keep a close eye on him. Suggest a time out for his safety. Offer water, maybe food.
11. Don't overplay your current condition. When you are getting tired, that "One more game" could be the one where you get injured!

*Klamath Basin Pickleball Association's goal is to create a unique Pickleball opportunity where beginners and veterans are treated equally, sportsmanship is more important than wins and losses, competition is strong but not relentless, and where people are more important than the game.*