



Guidelines for Players



The committee has listed a few points as a guide to help a continuous flow of play in a safe manner at Wodson Park and Bishops Stortford.

EARLY ARRIVAL

Please be patient until the session start time. There may be occasions when players are already in the hall but this will be under separate arrangements.

PAYMENT

Payment should be made on arrival by card to the session "manager".

BAGS

Please place bags away from the bus seating (see below).

BUS SYSTEM

We operate a bus system for the order of play. The player at the front of the bus (nearest the door) should choose three others from the next six people on the bus for the next game. To speed up turnaround, please make and communicate your choice before a court becomes available. For the first hour, play should be inclusive with variety, but please recognise that games are more enjoyable when the abilities on both sides of the net are matched. In the second hour, players can try to select all players of similar abilities. Where necessary the player at the front of the bus can sit off (but will remain at the front) to avoid their chosen players "jumping" the bus.

Please move "up the bus" promptly when players vacate to go on court and sit at the end of the bus when your game is over. When the session is busy, please have regard for the players on the court alongside the bus and move out of the way quickly.

BALLS ON COURT

Loose balls on court are hazardous and interrupt play. If you see a ball, please pick it up, ascertain where it came from and return it to the correct person under control. **Do not** "bash" or kick balls around. If your ball goes on another court, call "ball" and the next server raise their hand to indicate where it should be returned to.

CALL THE SCORE

Please try and remember to call the score before you serve the ball. It is an indication to the receiver that you are about to serve, and is a rule.

LINE CALLS

Line calls are up to the players on the receiving side of the court. If there is any doubt the ball is "in".

SOCIAL PLAY

Avoid hitting excessively to a weaker player. Provide coaching and advice only when requested.

NETS

The nets should be moved, if necessary, by three people per net. Before play, please check that the upright posts are fully in their slots. Do not overtighten the net with the straps as this puts too much pressure on the uprights and causes them to bend.

SAFETY

Please be mindful that there is limited room around the courts and curb over enthusiasm that can cause a collision with walls or entanglement in the curtain.

HAVE FUN

Above all, enjoy your games.

PICKLEBALL ENGLAND

Player Code of Conduct:

- Paddle tap and thank your opponents for the game.
- Give your opponent time to get into position before you serve.
- The server should clearly announce the score before they serve.
- If the opponent claims there was a major distraction while hitting a shot (e.g. ball bouncing onto the court), don't hesitate to replay the point.
- Please do not walk behind a court whilst a rally is in progress.
- Please only call a ball out if it clearly is, if in doubt the ball is in!
- Players are responsible for identifying foot faults. Be the kind of player that identifies their own foot faults!
- Please refrain from swearing whilst on court.
- Please do not throw your paddle.
- Treat everyone with kindness.
- We will not tolerate bullying, verbal abuse or shouting.

USAPA

Pickleball was created to be a fun, competitive, and highly social sport. Since its inception, it has embodied an ethic of good sportsmanship that includes respect, fair play, and graciousness in winning and losing. The purpose of this guide is to encourage behaviors that reflect these foundational values. The Official Rules of Pickleball take precedence over this guide in any and all situations.

1. Treat all players, officials, volunteers, staff, and spectators with courtesy and respect.
 - a. Introduce yourself to any players you do not know.
 - b. Never use foul language or obscene gestures. Never denigrate another person.
 - c. At the end of each game, meet the other players at the net to acknowledge them in a positive manner. In officiated matches, thank the referee.
 - d. Accommodate players with adaptive needs when possible.
2. Know the Official Rules of Pickleball, apply them fairly and cooperate in any situation that is not expressly covered by the rules.
3. Practice good sportsmanship when making line calls.
 - a. Respect your opponents' right to make all calls on their end of the court.
 - b. Call your own shot "out" if you see that it is out.
 - c. If you question an opponent's call, do so respectfully and do not argue.
 - d. If you defer a line call to your opponents, accept their call graciously.
 - e. Do not call a ball "out" unless you see it clearly and are certain it is out.
 - f. Promptly correct any wrong call your partner may make.
 - g. Resolve any uncertainty in favor of your opponents.
4. Call a fault on yourself or your partner as soon as the fault occurs, regardless of whether your opponents are aware of the fault.
 - a. Watch your own and your partner's feet for service or NVZ foot faults
 - b. Accept your opponent's and partner's fault calls graciously.
 - c. Admit if the ball hits you or your paddle on the way out of bounds.
5. Claim a replay only if a hinder affects your team's ability to play the ball.
6. In social play, rotate on and off courts fairly, courteously, and in accordance with local practice.
 - a. Don't jump ahead of others who are waiting to play.
 - b. Don't invite someone else forward in line or rearrange paddles so they can move up to play with you; move yourself back instead.
 - c. Don't call a lower score or start a second game to avoid leaving the court.
 - d. Be prepared to play when it is your turn.
 - e. If you must cross over or behind an active court, wait until play is stopped and cross quickly in a single group to minimize disruption of that game.
7. Make safety a priority, while using common sense.
 - a. If a ball strays onto your court, make eye contact with the correct person and roll or toss it back to them without disrupting play on other courts.
 - b. If your ball enters another court, immediately warn any players whose safety may be in jeopardy by loudly calling "ball" or some other warning. If the ball is rolling behind their court and does not present a danger to players, do not interrupt play but wait until play stops to retrieve it or ask for its return.
 - c. Never throw your paddle or strike the ball in anger or frustration.
8. As a stronger player in social play, be kind to other players.
 - a. Avoid hitting excessively to a weaker player.
 - b. Do not slam the ball directly at other players.
9. Be considerate about playing up and playing down.
 - a. Be willing to play sometimes with less-skilled players.
 - b. Do not demand to play with more skilled players; ask them nicely if you wish to play with them.
10. Be a respectful and supportive partner.
 - a. Avoid criticism and negative non-verbal communications.
 - b. Provide coaching and advice only when requested.