

SSAC Pickleball - Code of Conduct

1. Treat all players with courtesy and respect.
 - Wear clothing that is inoffensive and suitable for playing sports
 - Avoid the use of profanity and do not make inappropriate personal comments
 - Do not intentionally hit the ball at someone in a manner that could cause injury
 - Return the ball to an opponent by hitting it to them over the net, ideally on one bounce
 - Never kick a ball. It slows play, can interfere with other games, and is not courteous
 - Finish playing when your scheduled time ends even if you are in the middle of a game
 - Call “ball” when the ball from one game enters an adjacent court. Wait for it to be returned
 - In order to return a shot a player may enter onto an adjacent court but should do so as safely and briefly as possible, using good judgement
 - Do not celebrate points excessively or degrade the opposition when they miss a shot
2. Treat the facility and equipment with respect.
 - Wear clean court shoes that will not mark the floor
 - Help to keep the courts and building as clean as possible
 - Treat the balls, nets, and paddles carefully - they are all susceptible to damage
 - Save electricity by turning off lights that are not in use
3. Know and follow the rules of the game.
 - A binder of the rules is available on the stage for consultation
 - Players are expected to make all of the line calls on their side of the court
 - If a team cannot decide on a line call then the benefit always goes to the opponent
 - If an opponent’s opinion on a line called is requested, their decision must be accepted
 - Spectators should not be consulted on any line calls
4. Play fairly and encourage others to do so.
 - Competition is one of the joys of sport but should never be an obstacle to having fun
 - Rotate on and off the court in such a manner that everyone has equal playing time
 - Announce all three numbers of the score (e.g. 7-4-1) loudly and clearly before serving. If this is not done, play should be stopped by the person who is receiving the serve
 - During social play, do not take advantage of opposing players who are at a lower skill level by running the score up. One-sided games can be used to practice different shots.
 - When there are 14 players at a session, games shall be played to 9. When there are 16 or more players, games shall be to 7. The need to win by two points will be waived.
 - Everyone should strive to play with as many people as possible within their level group. Players who will compete as a team in an upcoming tournament may, however, partner during level play **two weeks** prior to the event. This must not inconvenience other players nor should the team gain extra playing time. In some instances the two players may be required to play on separate teams. For example, if three players are waiting on court and a team of two players are alone on the stage then one of them should join the three waiting players. One of the on court players would not be expected to give up their turn at playing.

Repeated violations of the Code of Conduct can result in a suspension from the pickleball program and/or a cancellation of a player’s SSAC membership.

