



NEW BERLIN RECREATION DEPARTMENT Outdoor Pickleball – Rules of Etiquette

Mission Statement:

The goal of the New Berlin Pickleball Program is to create and maintain a fun, safe, and encouraging environment where players of all levels can improve their skills, share in the comradery of other Pickleball enthusiasts, and enjoy the health benefits of an active lifestyle.

In order to meet the program goals, ensure the success of the program, and exceed participant expectations; the following rules of etiquette will be enforced both on and off the court:

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

-  In order to reduce the risk of injury, please maintain a high level of communication between you and your partner, and with the other players on the court.
-  NEVER yell at, swear at, or speak a hostile or sarcastic word to any player in anger or otherwise! **Multiple incidents of this will be reported by ambassadors to the Recreation Department for further action.**

Skill Levels – By Demand

-  The mix of skills on a given court will vary. We ask the more advanced players to take the opportunity to offer tips and hints to players still learning the game so that everyone's skills may improve. To begin each program, all courts will be designed as Intermediate. Upon demand, Social or Advanced courts may be allocated. The designation of any skill level courts will be determined by our ambassadors.

Ambassadors have final say on court allocation.

-  Skill Levels:
 - S = Social (beginners or those who desire slower/softer play)
 - I or I+ = Intermediate (experienced/skilled play at a faster pace)
 - A = Advanced (well-versed in strategy and skill to play competitive matches)

Game Format

-  A doubles format will be utilized for all sessions. At any given time, there should always be 4 players on a court (two on each side of the net) unless otherwise approved by the Ambassadors.

Game Format -- The Rule of 2

-  Each player should only play 2 games no matter who wins the next game.
-  The team that has not played two games stays on the court and splits up.

Game Play Etiquette

-  It is important to remember that this program is recreational and not ultra-competitive. As a result, participants should be able to play under control by staying off other groups' courts and respecting their partner's space on their own court. Players with lack of control may be reminded to follow court etiquette for the safety of all playing.
-  "No Man's Land" – middle of the court between two players. Forehand player has the right of way to the ball unless they communicate to their partner the need for help.



Full-Courts/ Waiting Procedure

- 👉 When the courts are full, waiting players should place their paddles in a line (left to right) on the designated location meaning that they are waiting for a court to open.
- 👉 If a player chooses not to play when their turn comes up, please inform the next player in line that they may take your place this turn. Follow up by moving your paddle to the back of the line and sitting out this round. The goal is to have everyone play with everyone regardless of their skills.
- 👉 Due to the large number of players on any given day, we ask that everyone pay attention to when it is their turn to play. If your name is called 3 times without a response, the next name will be called, and your paddle will move to the end of the line. **Please have your name on your paddle to assist with the participant rotation process!**
- 👉 When there are many players waiting, games will be played to 9 points which will allow more people on the courts during the allotted program time. Ambassadors will be responsible for informing the participants when games are played to 9.



Errant Ball Procedure

- 👉 If you hear someone, yell "Ball!" - STOP PLAY IMMEDIATELY.
- 👉 To return an errant ball, please follow these steps: (1) temporarily stop your play (2) determine which court the errant ball came from (3) courteously return the ball to one of the players on that court without interrupting other games in progress.
- 👉 DO NOT chase your ball onto another court. Stop, yell "Ball", and let other people stop play and retrieve the ball.
- 👉 For everyone's safety, **please DO NOT just bat/kick an errant ball off your court**; follow the steps listed above to help ensure the safety of all program participants.



Personal Items

- 👉 Please put your name on your paddle! Lost paddles will be easier to identify.
- 👉 See Ambassador if you'd like a name label made.
- 👉 All personal items must remain outside the court area. Place all apparel, bags, coats, street shoes, etc. on the bleachers.



Safety Measures

- 👉 Sports goggles are not required but are advised – a paddle or ball hit to the eye could cause permanent damage.
- 👉 Only wear appropriate footwear. To prevent a fall or injury, DO NOT back pedal when attempting to retrieve a ball.
- 👉 When walking behind a court in play, make every effort to move/walk as quickly as possible to minimize disruption to the players or their game.

Please be respectful of the courts, facilities, fellow players, and the ambassadors! Reoccurring violations of the above policies may lead to participant removal from the program by the City of New Berlin Recreation Department.

For any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions that may arise, please contact Parker Dorothy, Recreation Specialist, from the New Berlin Recreation Department via phone or email:

Phone: (262)-797-2443 ext. 2513 Email: pdorothy@newberlin.org