

Proposal for a Safe Opening of Pickleball

Presented by the
Pickleball Club

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(Updated to reflect new information)



Safely Opening the Pickleball Courts

Can Pickleball be Modified to Meet all State and Federal Guidelines? YES!

Modification can be made that will meet all State and Federal Guidelines regarding social distancing and health safety requirements during use of the pickleball courts.

The adjustments proposed here, also match the guidelines set forth by USAPA (pickleball's national governing body) this May.

Implementing the types of changes described here will allow the courts to be active again and make a lot of people very happy. Modifications can be adjusted over time as conditions warrant but the ones suggested here would address current health concerns:

- Social Distancing would be maintained
- Common Surface Touching would be addressed effectively
- All aspects of person-to-person transfer have been significantly reduced
- Activities on all courts will be supervised

We hope that you will give serious consideration these modifications and will obtain whatever approval is needed to open the courts as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pickleball Adjusted to To Meet Current Conditions

Individual Choice:

As we open the courts, we want to respect players individual choice as much as possible while still keeping our pickleball community safe.

We ask that all players review the modifications and make an individual choice as to when they are ready to be back on the courts. Players deciding to play are doing so at their own risk.

Do Not Play:

- If you are exhibiting any symptoms of CoVid-19: mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, coughing, difficulty breathing, or other symptoms identified by the CDC.
- If you have been in contact with someone with CoVid-19 in the last 14 days.
- If you are a vulnerable individual with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, or whose immune system is compromised such as by Chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring therapy. (The above list provided by USAPA)

If You Decide to Play:

- Wash your hands with soap and water and bring personal use hand sanitizer to the courts
- Clean and wipe down your paddles and water bottles. Do NOT share paddles or any other equipment or clothing
- Bring a full personal use water bottle and avoid touching fountains.(Ice/water machine is available)
- Bring tissues or handkerchief for contained sneezing and coughing or consider wearing a mask.
- Consider wearing gloves to the court and avoid touching court gates, fences, benches etc.

(Selected from USAPA Guidelines)

Court Spacing

Social Distancing on the court:

The court size is 20'X 44'

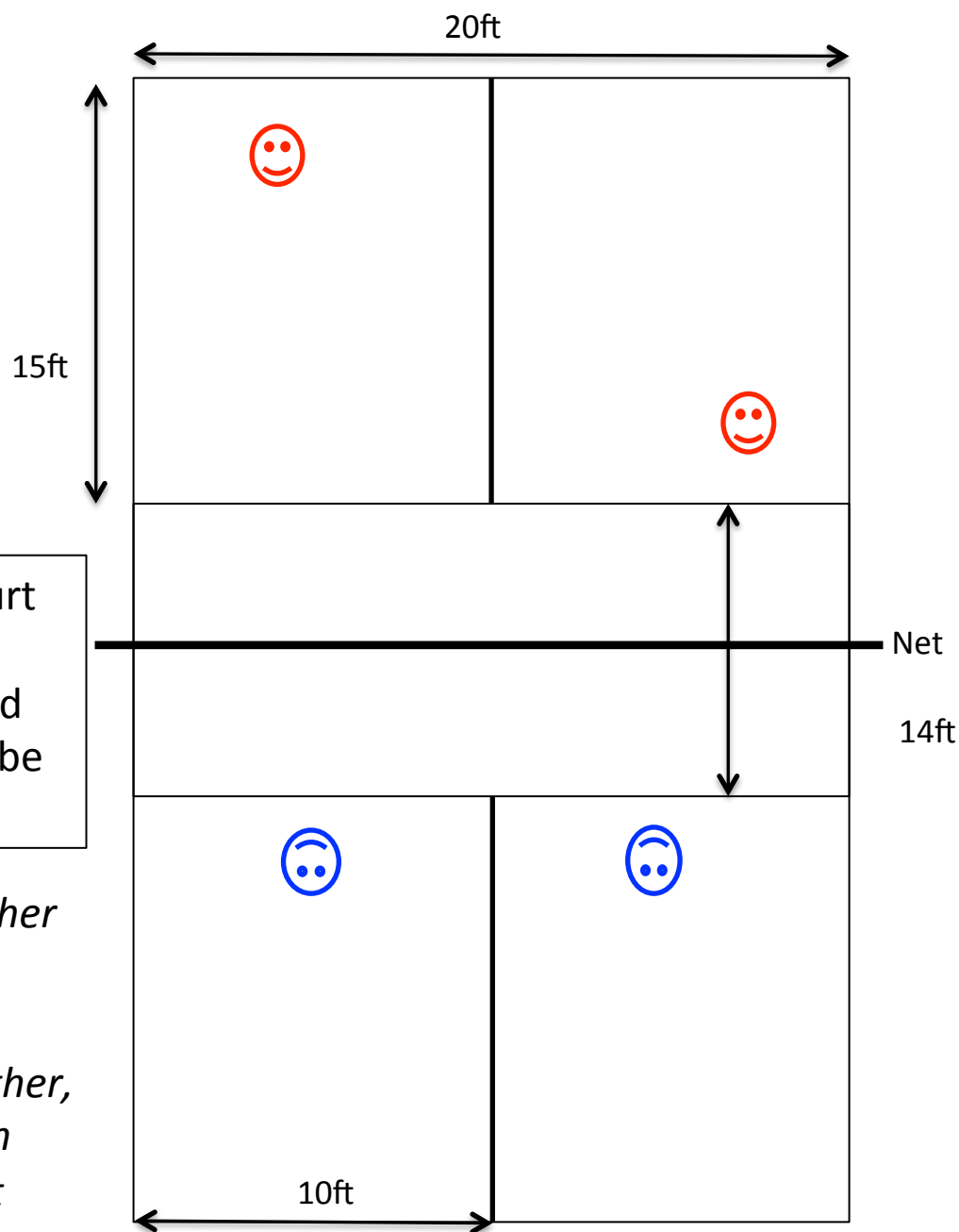
Players generally are more than 6' apart with any exception being brief and not face to face.

(Less than passing someone on a walk.)

Note: The playing surface of one court is over 11' away from the playing surface of an adjacent court – divided by a fence – allowing both courts to be in use at the same time.

When opponents are facing each other they are generally moving and more than 14' apart

When teammates are next to each other, they are facing the same direction and almost always 6' to 10' apart



Actions Prior to Opening

- All courts and court benches are to be cleaned and sanitized
- Court benches are to be moved so that no benches are back to back with a bench from another court
- Breezeway chair and bench cushions are to be cleaned and sanitized and removed


Modified Court Usage


- **Residents Only:** Players must be Residents with a CAM card that **MUST** be swiped at the time of entry. *Swiping the CAM card is an important part of knowing who is on the courts on any particular day to allow for contact tracing if a player should test positive.*
- **No Guests** are allowed
- **No Drop-In** play will be available at this time.
- **Reservations Only:** All courts will be **reservation only**. The player reserving the court, can add up to 5 additional players – for a maximum of 6.
- **Waiting Players:** Players, part of the reservation, wait on opposite ends of the court benches
- **Transitions:** Players must vacate the courts **prior** to the end of their reservation (2hrs) so the court will be completely clear for the next group.
- **Supervision:** The **Reserving Player** is responsible for:
 - Keeping a list of each player in their group for that date
 - Insuring that all players on their court follow the expected guidelines
 - Making sure all players in the group leave the court by the appointed time

Pickleballs Are Provided by the Club

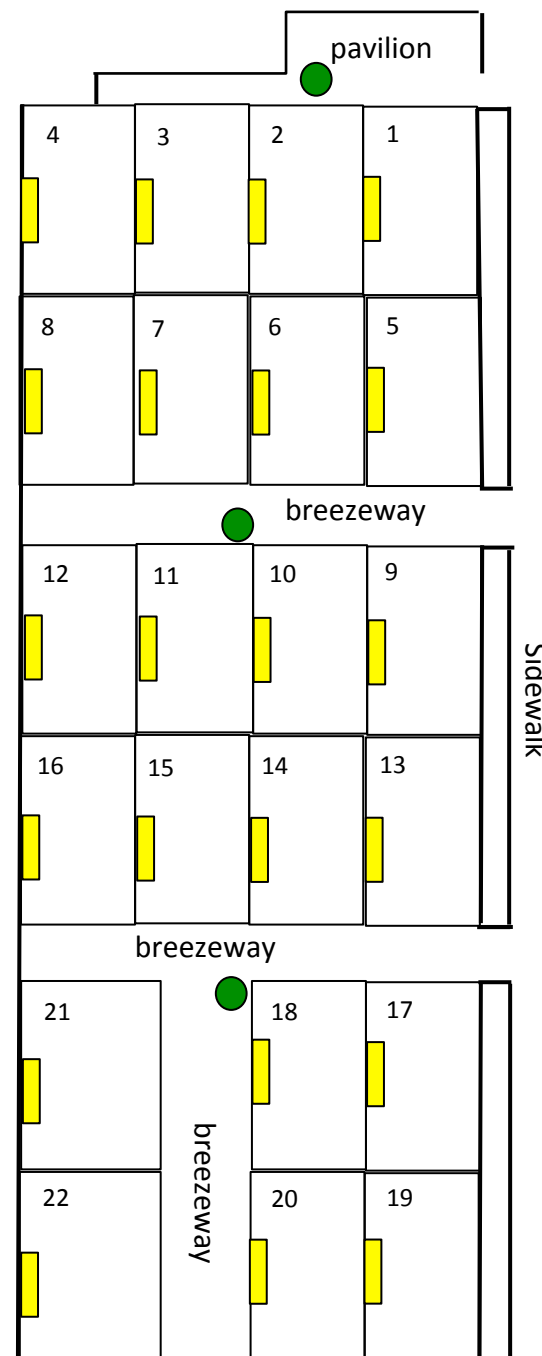
- Each player will have access to a club provided ball and the ability to keep it sanitized.
- Each player will use “their” sanitized pickleball when it is their turn to serve – no other player touches that ball with their hand.

How Play Works:

 = Benches placed on south side of court
(no back to back benches)

 = Ball sanitizing buckets in each breezeway
(exact placement to be determined)

1. Each server uses a sanitized ball that only they touch. No other player touches that ball with their hands – stray balls are tapped back with paddles or a foot.
2. Players maintain 6' or more of separation at all times
3. No meeting at the net after a game to tap paddles (waving paddles from a distance works fine)
4. A maximum of two waiting players per court
5. Highly recommended that players wear eye protection and gloves on their non-paddle hand to reduce face touching
6. Players are to move directly to their court for play and directly out after play
7. All gates are to be propped open during hours of play
8. No waiting to play or socializing in the breezeway (to reduce breezeway congestion)
9. Masks are optional but not required (heat and breathing could be hampered and the outdoor face-to-face distancing is adequate)



Some Additional Details:

- A player can only reserve one court a day – for a maximum of 2 hours.
- Players are not to come to the courts until just prior to their reservation.
- No players without a reservation should be at the courts.
- Players must stay with their group – no rotation of players between courts.
- No uninvited players may ask to join a reserved group in progress
- Players part of a reserved group, *may play* as part of another group or reserve a court later in the day.
- Each breezeway will have one container of sanitized balls and one for used balls.
- Each player arriving will pick up a ball from the sanitized container to use during the game. After the game they will drop the ball in the used ball container or clean it and return it to the sanitized container.

Why All the Courts and Not Every Other Court?

- There is plenty of room between courts to maintain distancing
- Group size is limited to 6 and two can wait at either end of the bench for distancing
- Benches can be used without hands touching them, just like benches on our walkways
- Breezeways will remain free of congestion without waiting players and no drop-in
- More courts will better serve the size of our pickleball community