



SCOV Pickleball Club Newsletter JANUARY 2021

<https://scovpb.org>

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**Happy
New Year!**

INTRODUCING THE 2021 PICKLEBALL CLUB BOARD!

The new SCOV Pickleball Board takes over on January 1, 2021. Introducing...

PRESIDENT: Tony Masterjohn

VICE PRESIDENT (Committees): John McConnaughey

VICE PRESIDENT (Education and Training): Doug Brown

SECRETARY: Nancy Vander Ark

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP: Sigrid Flatness

Your new board will be hard at work on new club initiatives. Watch for an email with updates.

2021 RULE CHANGES YOU SHOULD KNOW

While there are quite a few rule changes for 2021 here are the two most notable changes that have to do with the serve:

Rule Change 1: This is a provisional rule change which means it's going to be tested this upcoming year and it's allowed, but not entirely official yet.

So, What Is It? The DROP SERVE! This new rule allows a provision for someone to drop the ball and serve off the bounce. It must be a natural bounce but you can drop the ball from as high as you can reach. Your paddle can be above your waist when you hit the ball when bouncing the ball on a serve.

Rule Change 2: Service Lets are Removed.

If the ball hits the net on a serve and bounces into the correct service area of the court (not the kitchen), you now continue play. It is a fault to stop playing.

Watch this cute video demonstrating these two serve rule changes:

[Pickleball: 2021 New Serve Rules - YouTube](#)

Want to know more about these and other official USAPA rule changes for 2021. Visit the Pickleball Channel at [Pickleballchannel.com](#)

CLUB LADDER PLAY IS BACK!



A "ladder" is a format of organized play where players will be playing with others of similar skill level. The ladder is played on Sunday mornings in 2 sessions from **(NEW TIMES)** 10:00 am - 12:00 noon (Competitive) and 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm (Casual), depending on the number of members who sign up. You don't have to play every week to participate. Times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and number of participants.

All players can sign up until **Saturday at 12:00 noon** by sending your name and skill level to Bill Brown at bdbrownbaseball@gmail.com. Bill is our Ladder Manager and sets up the groups for Sunday mornings. Title your email as Ladder Play.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL ON SATURDAY EVENINGS around 6PM to confirm your starting time slot (either 8:00AM or 10:00AM) on Sunday morning.



WHAT'S NEW ON THE COURTS!

The courts are in good shape as Bob Shull cleans them every morning with Nelson's assistance. We are still looking for additional members to assist with court cleaning. If you would be willing to serve on a Courts Cleaning Committee, please send the board an email at scovpb@gmail.com.

We finally got the **additional bike rack** from the HOA. While we were hoping for one that would hold 8 bikes, the one installed only holds 4 bikes. It has been installed on the east side of the courts by the golf cart path.

The new Covid procedures are in place with a **single sign-in/sign-out form** by the paddle racks on court 3. Yes, the paddle racks are back and work just like before. Please **PRINT YOUR NAME CLEARLY** when you sign in. It is difficult to read the names when people don't do this. Remember to put your sign out time when you leave.

We are still using our chlorine water buckets to clean balls between games. We ask that the balls not be left in the water as the chlorine precipitates on the balls.

A Pickleball Elf put up Christmas decorations on the courts! Thank You for providing a festive atmosphere to our courts!

If you look in the **Storage Room**, you will see new cabinet door-knobs that we have been asking the HOA for the past few months. The old knobs were worn out after 30 years and literally falling apart.

Tutor Machine training is now available. Please contact Bill Ingino at wdi358@yahoo.com to set up this training.

Club Training Events are to be determined. You will be notified when these events will resume. Mentors will continue to be available during the Beginner/Novice times.

2021 Paddle Stickers will be passed out starting January 1, 2021, to all members who have paid their annual dues. See any Board member to get your paddle sticker.

Thank You to Brenda Hawkins for adorning our court area with holiday decorations.

The Annual Pickleball Club General Membership Meeting



Usually held the third week of January, our annual membership meeting **has been canceled** due to COVID meetings restrictions. An annual report will be distributed in late January 2021 to all members.

Tips to Improve Your Play!

Shot Selection!



If you don't have a chance at a strong offensive shot, the chances are good that your best choice is a drop shot or a dink.

If one or both of your opponents is in the backcourt, keep them there by hitting deep shots with pace. Keep that player on defense. Don't bring them to the net with a drop shot or dink unless you are sure that they cannot get to the ball.

Many players overuse the lob. When used at the wrong time, it lets opponents take the offense and puts you on the defense. When overused, the element of surprise is gone. There are many times when players use the lob when it would be much more effective to use a drop shot.

Don't try to do too much with a ball that is below the level of the net. A hard drive hit from below the net will have a trajectory to go out of bounds (if it clears the net). If your opponent is anticipating that drive, he will just step aside and watch it sail out. An exception: if you have the skill to come over the top of the ball with enough top spin to keep the ball in bounds.

Increase your percentages on the return of serve by using a soft floating return to the back court.

Shots hit crosscourt at a sharp angle can be highly effective, but they are also subject to a high error rate. If angle shots are not working well for you, direct most of your shots down the middle. Your error rate will decrease significantly. It is amazing how often those down-the-middle shots cause confusion in your opponents. Quite often, both players will attempt to play the shot or it will be untouched by both players.

Sometimes the best shot selection is no shot at all. As you are anticipating the speed and trajectory of the ball in order to get in position to hit it, it is just as important to anticipate that the ball will go out so that you can get out of way. Watch how often the best players get free points by simply stepping aside or ducking to watch the ball sail out of bounds.

You can also anticipate human nature. If your opponent has blasted the ball at you as hard as he can hit it and you return it, it is likely that he will try to hit it even harder the next time. Anticipate that and be prepared to step aside and collect that free point as you watch the ball go beyond the baseline. If you don't anticipate the out ball, then you will probably be hitting many balls that would have gone out.

January Mystery Club Member...Who AM I?

I was born in Vancouver Washington in 1954 and grew up in the small town of Washougal Washington. Nestled between the banks of the Columbia and Washougal rivers Washougal was a great place to grow up! We spent many summer days swimming and inner tubing on the rivers. We lived across the street from a golf course where we spent a lot of time playing baseball and football on the fairway when nobody was golfing. We just got out of the way and were quiet when golfers came through. They didn't seem to care and were friendly to us. We made money by selling lost golf balls that we found back to the golfers. I could write a chapter about all the fun and adventurous things we did on and around that golf course!

In school I really enjoyed science classes and still love learning about how things work and the world and universe around us. I've been blessed to have seen two total solar eclipses in the northwest and witnessed a major volcanic eruption in Mt. St. Helens! I love to go out and look at the night sky and recently sat through a couple of cold mornings and a cold evening watching the Geminid meteor shower while the owls hooted and coyotes howled! Amazing!

After high school I spent two years in college before going to work for Crown Zellerbach Paper Co. in Camas Wa. My dad, both grandfathers, my younger brother and my future father-in-law all worked there! I figured it would be temporary but it became forty years! I made lots of life long friends there and rose through the ranks to become a team leader on a large state of the art paper machine. In 1979 I met my future wife. It was an extremely cold winter and the mill was on strike. One of our first dates was driving up a very snowy and frozen Columbia River gorge and viewing all of the beautiful and icy waterfalls.

My wife and I have three sons who live in the Portland- Vancouver area. We have a five year old granddaughter and a 18 month old grandson. We look forward to being with them again after COVID! My wife went back to school when our kids were young and became a teacher. She worked with some people you may know. We spent many summers camping and exploring the west coast, Yellowstone, the Redwoods and many other beautiful places. I loved playing basketball and played in city leagues and pick-up games in the local gyms we rented. It is a lot like pickle ball in it's intensity and the games where both teams fought hard were the best no matter who won! I have always loved hiking and my best hiking partner was my dad. He took us hiking when we were kids and I took him when he got older. Sure miss those days! We bought our house here about a year and a half ago. We became full timers this year when we sold our house up north. Hiking, bike riding, and pickle ball are amazing here! But we both agree that it's the people and friends here that make this place so special and we realize how incredibly lucky we are!

Can you guess who this mystery member is?? Their name can be found at the bottom of this page.

Round Robin Play is Back!

Casual Round Robin play is every Friday from 1PM to 3PM.

Competitive Round Robin Play is every Thursday from 1PM to 3PM.

Come join the fun!



Did you guess who our January mystery member is? Thank you, Doug Brown, for sharing with us!