



SCOV Pickleball Club Newsletter February 2024

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PICKLEBALL RULES YOU SHOULD KNOW!

Significant Rules Changes for 2024



Paddle Specifications (2.E.2/2.E.5.a/2.E.5.c) Paddle specifications have been updated to address new and emerging paddle technology and features and to clarify the alterations that players are allowed to make to certified paddles.

2.E.5.a. Player alterations or additions to a commercially produced paddle as certified, may include items such as edge guard tape/replacements, weighted tape, weights for an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) integrated weight system, changes to the grip size via inserts, grip wraps, OEM interchangeable grips, OEM replacement paddle faces, and name decals and/or other identification markings on the paddle face.

2.E.5.c. The only permissible handwritten pen markings allowed on the paddle's playing surface must be for identification purposes only (name, signature, phone, email address). No aftermarket graphics are allowed on a commercially made paddle.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

The non-volley zone (kitchen) is the area that extends ____ feet from the net on each side.

6, 7 OR 8 feet

You'll find the answer on the last page of this newsletter!



WHAT'S NEW ON THE COURTS!

We have BIG news: As of February 1, 2024, we will no longer need to sign in to use the pickleball courts. Yeah! The HCTF has advised that January 31st, 2024 is the last day to sign in.

Cindy Gerk has agreed to be our scheduling coordinator going forward. Previously Jim Locnikar has performed this task so well and made spreading out members assigned times look easy. Thank you, Jim, for many years of scheduling. Jim will continue to lend technical assistance for the website. Please thank Jim when you see him and be sure to welcome Cindy to the scheduling committee.

The Pickleball Board would like to thank the By-Laws Committee for their comprehensive review recently over several meetings. Now that the edits are completed the board will vote to approve and then send to the membership for a vote. Committee members are: Michael Voellinger, Chairperson; Bob Arms, Fred Boness & Tom Stranc; members.

Now that the cooler weather has moved in, please remember to use the yellow balls until the temperature (on the clock by the courts) is 55 degrees. At 55 degrees and above, we switch to the green ball.

Please remember to return the new ball pickup tubes to storeroom when done using them.

Skills Clinics Signup

Sign-up/Registration for spring clinics will be on 2/13 at 7AM at the courts. We are requiring members to sign up in person (no signing up a buddy) and you must be available to attend each session you sign up for. We will be offering four levels of instruction. Those who did not get in to the fall clinics will automatically be added to the list for these clinics.

The clinics will be held on 3/05, 3/12, 3/19 and 3/26. Each day will have two one-hour sessions from 1:00pm to 2:00pm and 2:00pm to 3:00pm. We anticipate using all seven courts for the clinics so all 7 courts will revert to "Clinics" during the 1:00 - 3:00PM time slot.

Please self-assess your skill level.

Level 1 is the most basic and is intended for those just beginning their pickleball experience.

Level 2 is slightly more advanced and is intended for those who have completed Level 1. Level 2 is probably best suited for weak casual players.

Level 3 is more advanced and is probably a good fit for better casual/weaker competitive players.

Level 4 is the highest level and is intended for those better competitive players.

Save the Date!

Spring Block Party featuring Chuck Moses
Saturday, March 23 from 3 - 6PM
Desert Butte cul-de-sac
More information to come!



Save the Date!



ANNUAL SUZY FOSTER POKER PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday and Saturday, April 5th and 6th

Casual players will compete on Friday with volunteer competitive players helping.

Competitive players will compete on Saturday with volunteer casual players helping.

There will be 4 - 8 substitute/reserve players.

Sign-up will begin in March. Watch for the email announcement.

This event will be held in conjunction with a food drive for the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

Even if you don't play, please consider a donation to the Food Bank in the form of non-perishable items, a check (made out to Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona) or donate online.



Tips to Improve Your Play!

HOW TO WIN THE DINK BATTLE!



Dinking generally happens when all four players in doubles pickleball are at the Non-Volley Zone line. Assuming you have mastered the steps to hitting the perfect pickleball dink, how do you make the most out of your dink shot? You and your partner worked so hard to get to the Kitchen line (as most points are won there!), but now how do you win the point?

Strategy is so important in the game of pickleball, as pickleball is not only a physical game, but also a mental game. This is particularly true when you are engaged in a dink battle with your opponents in doubles pickleball. What pickleball strategies should you use to win those dink battles with your opponents? The next few newsletters will present 7 pickleball strategies and tips to help you win the dink battles on the pickleball court! Here is Tip #5!

Move the Dink Around and Mix It Up

When dinking, it is critical to move the dink around, mix it up, and remain unpredictable. This means mixing up spins, speeds, angles, depths, and placement of your dinks. The more unpredictable you can be, the more you will catch your opponents off guard and confused on their side of the pickleball court (whether confused between the two, as to who should hit the pickleball, or confused themselves about how to hit the pickleball or whether to hit the pickleball out of the air or off the bounce). With that said, there are a few common places to hit your dink:

Middle Dinks – Middle dinks are great options to cause confusion between your opponents, or even cause your opponents to fight over the pickleball. This is especially true when you are playing opponents that are relatively new to playing with each other. Middle dinks are also effective in trying to open up the pickleball court. For instance, say you take a dink to the middle of your opponents in doubles pickleball. Both of your opponents take a step toward the middle. When your opponents return the pickleball to you, since they both took a step toward the middle, you now have more room to hit the pickleball toward the sidelines. Then, your opponents will move toward the sideline to return the pickleball. Now, you have even more room in the middle of your opponents because one moved toward the sideline. See a pattern? Use the middle dink to help you open up other parts of the court. Lastly, middle dinks are effective in avoiding an Erne from your opponents if they are relatively advanced pickleball players.

Dinks at Your Opponents' Feet – Dinks to your opponents' feet, whether crosscourt, down the line, or down the middle, are great ways to apply pressure because it is difficult for your opponents to aggressively hit a pickleball at or near their feet. This is because your opponents will be unable to hit the pickleball out in front of their bodies.

Dinks to Backhands – Most pickleball players have weaker backhand shots than forehand shots. So, dinks to pickleball players' backhands is a common and effective dinking strategy on the pickleball court.

Again, above all, mix it up and remain unpredictable.

More tips to come in next month's newsletter!

February Mystery Member ... Who Am I?

We were high school classmates in a mid-sized city in Wisconsin. After graduating she went off to college in Naperville, Il. and he went to college in Middletown, Conn. But a year later we were back in Wisconsin at the University in Madison where we resumed our romance. We married after our sophomore year and thereafter by mutual agreement she worked, and he studied. After graduating UW, we moved to Washington DC so he could attend law school. Again, she worked, first as a legal secretary and then an executive secretary in a major lobbying organization. He studied and worked first as a research intern at the Joint Economic Committee and later as a law clerk at the DOJ.

We departed DC by train, plane, automobile and ferry to travel to Juneau, Alaska where he took a job as an assistant attorney general and 3 years later as deputy commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. She worked as a legal secretary in a private law firm. Juneau in those days was a land of opportunity for young people and so less than a year out of law school he was responsible for oil and gas and natural resource cases and policy that involved millions of dollars and would shape Alaska's future for many years. This was also BC, so life outside work revolved around hiking, skiing, fishing, canoeing, camping, partying and friends. Many friendships created in Juneau have lasted the 49 years since. (It was unimaginable then, that 49 years hence, a return trip to Anchorage would be necessary so she could speak at our friend's celebration of life).

Five years in Juneau was followed by a move to Anchorage so he and another attorney could open the Anchorage office of a Seattle law firm. 21 years of private practice followed. His biggest case was serving as lead counsel for the State of Alaska in the Exxon Valdez litigation. (The state and feds settled for \$1 billion after two years of litigation). She did various work until a daughter arrived in 1981 and a son in 1983. During child rearing years she engaged in volunteerism and social and political activism. After leaving the law firm he did consulting and contract legal work and served for three years as Anchorage Municipal Attorney leading a department of 35 lawyers and advising the mayor and city council.

Travel, especially extended travel, has always been a major interest of ours and we were fortunate enough to be able to do so many times. For example, between leaving Juneau and arriving in Anchorage we spent 4 months backpacking through the south pacific and southeast Asia ending in China only a few months after it had opened to tourists. When the kids were in 6th and 8th grade we home schooled them while driving 17000 kilometers in a camper van around Australia. We have studied Spanish for many weeks on end in both Ecuador and Guatemala (to no lasting avail). We have driven around much of the British Isles (providing lasting stories for the kids about bashed side mirrors and fender dents caused by creeping hedge rows). A truly unique experience we can claim is kayaking through the fiords of Prince William Sound 17 times over a 25-year period and sadly, being able to report from personal observation the substantial retreat of many of its spectacular glaciers.

We bought our home in SCOV in 2011 and were seasonal residents until 2020. She started pickle ball right away and he followed suit two or three years later. Great exercise, even greater people and friendships.

Can you guess who this mystery member is?

OFFICIAL PICKLEBALL RULES QUIZ ANSWER!

Did you guess right?

The non-volley zone (kitchen) is the area that extends **7 feet** from the net on each side.



Did you guess who our February mystery members are? Thank you, Kerry and Fred Boness