



# SCOV Pickleball Club Newsletter December 2024

<https://scovpb.org>

## ***IN THIS ISSUE:***

- Pickleball Rules You Should Know!
- What's New on the Courts
- Club News
- Annual Meeting Save the Date!
- Tips to Improve Your Play
- Mystery Member



## **PICKLEBALL RULES YOU SHOULD KNOW!**

**Where Can't You Stand During a Pickleball Match?**

**Let's Find Out!**



**Question 1: Can the receiver stand inside the court while waiting for the ball to be served?**

**Question 2: Can the receiver's partner stand in the kitchen at the start of the point?**

**Question 3: Can the server's partner stand close to the net but off the court at the start of a point?**

**Answers:** The answer to Questions 1-3 is "yes." The USA Pickleball Rulebook is silent on court positioning. Some beginning players are under the misconception that you can't stand in the non-volley zone (kitchen). You can, but why would you? If a ball hits you on the fly, it's a fault. So, there's no rule, just common sense.

The same applies to your court positioning when receiving serve. If a serve can land on the baseline and be called good, that means if you're standing inside the court, you would have to back up to have a chance to hit it. You want to avoid backing up. Stay back, move forward. With the double bounce rule on return of serve, it only makes sense to have the server's partner back at the baseline. But it's not a rule.

So where can't you stand during a pickleball match? Trick question: nowhere. You can stand anywhere you want. But do you want to?



## WHAT'S NEW ON THE COURTS!

**Bicycle Racks:** Nelson Brown, club president, has been in discussion with the Tennis Club for repositioning the bicycle rack by our court 6. Additionally, to possibly add more bike racks for both Tennis and Pickleball Clubs, we would also like to reconfigure the fence door at court 6. This would allow us to use our new paddle rack and to enter/leave without going by the Tennis Club bulletin boards. Both clubs will present our requests together to our HOA General Manager, Sandy Seddon.

Ralph P. and Nelson Brown are working on short **portable nets** to stop balls rolling between courts 6 and 7. The design is based on using PVC pipe and court netting. When in use they would extend the tennis net on both ends. When not in use, the new ball nets would store up against the tennis net. We would keep the existing badminton net against the metal bench between our courts and tennis court 5. If you move a chair or net, don't forget to move it back when you are done. Any needed repairs should be forwarded to Ralph Perillo or Nelson Brown at [scovpb@gmail.com](mailto:scovpb@gmail.com).

**Cold weather ball selection:** Just a reminder to check the temperature on our courts (thermometer in digital clock on court 3 awning pillar) to decide which balls to use. Below 55F please use the yellow Onix Fuse G2 balls. Above 55F you can use the neon Franklin X balls. Please have someone double check a ball that you intend to place in the Bad Balls Bag. Cracked balls are free to use for artwork or to play with your dog.

**Courts #6 and #7 Usage:** Please take the #6 or #7 paddle with you to the appropriate court that you will use. During Club play, as an incentive, you can play two consecutive games on #6 or #7 before you return to courts 1-5. Please place the court paddle by the bulletin board on court 3. This method of using court-specific paddles informs others when that court is in use.

During early afternoons on some Tuesdays, Thursdays, and some Sunday mornings, the Tennis Club has asked us not to use courts 6 and 7 during their Tournament finals and Interclub Play. Trying to be good neighbors, we will do our best to honor their requests with sufficient notice. We may need to look at some type of noise abatement in the future for these two courts. Our growing membership will require the use of all seven courts for our use in the future, regardless of Tennis events.

**Leaf Blowers Use:** After some noise complaints to our HOA, the morning blower crews were informed of an Oro Valley ordinance that prohibits leaf blower use before sunrise. We suspect this is because of the gasoline-powered blowers used. Our HOA workers now have two electric blowers that they will use in the early morning hours. Our cordless electric blowers are even quieter, so I think that we will be okay.

**Guests** should only play during Open periods on the Schedule. You may reserve an Open time for you and your Guests to play. No guest should play without their sponsor present. Open times are first-come first-served unless you have an email to show your reservation.

During Club play, you must have a club sticker on your paddle. If you play in outside tournaments, use tape over the Club sticker so that you can remove and replace it. **No sticker, no play during club times.** 2025 stickers will be available at the January General Meeting.

## CLUB NEWS

**Mixed Doubles Tournament:** There will be a new Pickleball event added to the schedule for Sunday, December 29th. We will be running a Mixed Doubles PB Tournament starting at 10 AM. There will be a signup sheet placed at the courts. If you have any questions or want to sign up a team, you can email Bill Brown at [bdbrownbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:bdbrownbaseball@gmail.com) or call 724-882-0143. There will be a limit to the number of teams, so find a partner and get your team signed up early.

### Fall Clinics - A Shoutout to Our Fantastic Instructors

Denise Hartman and Anne Wolfinger say a big “thank you!” to our club members who stepped up to instruct in the fall clinic series: Michael Voellinger, Beth Nuveen, Nelson Brown, Lola Schlapkohl, Dave Burnham, Phil Rose, Barb Hoffman, Diane Paton, Nancy Vander Ark, Ann Garlinghouse, Rick Brown, Laurie and Doug Brown, Laura and Bruce Dickinson.

Over 50 club members learned skills, strategies and drills over the four weeks. If you missed out or you want to participate again, stay tuned - clinics will be offered again in March.

**Name Tags:** Andrea Long has graciously agreed to coordinate ordering name tags for club members as she did last year. The name tag is in the shape of a PB paddle. Cost is approximately \$10 - \$12 and covers the name tag and shipping. She's doing this voluntarily and not for profit. Andrea will be at the courts on Thursdays at 10:30AM for 3 days only: Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, and Dec 19<sup>th</sup> only. Please come prepared with check or cash. Andrea will let you know who to make the check out to and the actual cost. Thank you, Andrea.

With the influx of new members this fall, we are having problems with members using different phone numbers and email addresses from when they first joined the club. You can go online to check your account by 1. Sign-in on [SCOVpb.org](http://SCOVpb.org), 2. go to *Members Only* tab, 3. Click on *My Account*, 4. Click on *My Membership*.

## Annual Meeting Save The Date

Watch for your invite to the 2025 Annual Pickleball Meeting on Saturday, January 11th at 4 PM.

Be part of the exciting changes coming in 2025.  
Be in the know on what your board has been working on this past year.  
Meet and mingle while enjoying wine and catered appetizers.  
Be the first to get your 2025 paddle sticker.

Be entered into a drawing for a \$300.00 Pickleball Central gift card!

Say you don't know what's going on? Come find out!

# Tips to Improve Your Play!

## HOW TO BEAT THE LOBBER ON THE PICKLEBALL COURT



The lob is becoming more and more prevalent on the pickleball courts. With the rise of the lob, it is more important than ever to know how to beat a lobber on the pickleball court. Generally speaking, there are three main strategies in beating a lobber or otherwise defending against the lob: (1) anticipating and avoiding the lob from your opponents; (2) hitting a strong overhead; and (3) effectively chasing down the lob to get back into the point.

### Best Shot to Return the Lob

When returning the lob on the pickleball court (assuming you let the pickleball bounce), the general goal is to reset the point. If you are not hitting an overhead (which is an offensive shot), then you are likely hitting a shot to get you and your opponents back onto neutral footing - in other words, hit a shot that allows you and your partner to get back to the Kitchen line. There are generally three options when returning a lob if you are letting the lob bounce:

**DRIVE:** Last edition covered the Drop Shot. The second option is to hit a drive off of the lob that bounces. This is a more difficult shot, as you are running backward, while, at the same time, trying to generate momentum forward for your drive. This is very difficult shot to execute, but can be unexpected if executed well. Generally speaking, it is recommended to use a drop over a drive to return the lob.

**LOB:** The last option is to hit another lob in response to the lob that bounces. This shot is a bit risky for the same reasons that you want to keep your opponent's back near the baseline in order to prevent the lob - it is a low percentage, as you may be likely to hit a poor lob that either results in an easy overhead for your opponents or sails out of bounds (especially if it is windy and the wind is not moving in your favor). However, another lob may be your only option if you are unable to get back in time to get ready for a shot (i.e. a drop). If you decide to throw up another lob, consider hitting the lob very high into the air. Many pickleball players will be uncomfortable with a very high shot. Plus, the high lob will give you and your partner time to reset your feet and prepare for the next shot.

In summary, anticipate and prevent the lob. If a lob still finds its way to you, try to take it out of the air with a killer overhead. If an overhead is impossible, chase down the lob and communicate with your partner in doing so, Then try to hit a quality drop shot to reset the point. With more and more lobs being hit on the pickleball court, it is important to know how to beat the lobber. And, with these pickleball tips, you are on your way to doing just that.

## December Mystery Member ... Who Am I?

My journey began in the evergreen state of New Jersey, where I first discovered a passion for sports. From the graceful swings and flips of Gymnastics to the exhilarating Dives into a pool, and the strategic plays of Baseball, I immersed myself in the thrill of competition.

At thirteen, my family relocated to Spokane, Washington, that has a great river running through downtown. This move marked a significant turning point for our family, new state, new job, etc. My father took on the role of Director of Forensic Chemistry for the Washington State Patrol, (just like NCIS). I continued to excel in sports, representing Washington State in the Junior Olympics for springboard diving.

My academic pursuits and springboard diving led me to Eastern Washington University, (EWU), where I majored in Chemistry and Business. My Junior year, I earned a full-ride scholarship to Texas A&M University allowing me to dive at a higher level, but a career-ending injury forced me to return home to EWU for graduation.

At twenty-four, I met my future wife, a beautiful, intelligent Air Force Brat. Brat-a badge of honor, means your parents were in the service when you were born, (thank you Veterans). She grew up living all over the great USA and in parts of Europe and Asia. Our love story blossomed, and we've been happily married for over four decades. She was in sales and a trainer at various local banks until children were born.

Throughout my professional career at Pfizer and Baxter, I held various roles in the hospital supply industry. This job allowed me to travel all over the great USA, and our family to take some fun and educational trips, because of all the travel credits earned at work. We moved a few times for the job, then settled in Vancouver, Washington, raising our family. We are now living in Kent, WA, near Seattle. We became Snowbirds and purchased a home in SCOV in 2019.

Family has always been at the heart of our lives. Our sons were both Rotary Exchange students for their entire Junior year of High School, (thank you Rotarians), one in Germany and the other in Italy. They are both Eagle Scouts, tried all sports and can carry a tune. It was fun seeing them grow and learn, as it brought immense joy to us all. My wife's dedication to raising our children and volunteering in the community has been truly inspiring. Then in 2007, my wife got a job 'pouring diet Cokes at 35,000 feet'. This has allowed us to continue exploring the world with travel.

As empty nesters, we discovered the joy of Pickleball. Introduced to it by my wife's dad and his wife, this sport has become a source of fun, friendship, and healthy competition. We've learned to appreciate the journey, the laughter, and the relationships, rather than solely focusing on winning. We enjoy sharing our love for Pickleball with others, encouraging new players to embrace the sport and have fun.

Looking forward to laughing on the courts with you.

**Can you guess who this mystery member is? Look for their name below.**

**Did you guess who our December mystery member is? Thank you, Jack and Monica Anderson, for sharing with us!**