



# SCOV Pickleball Club Newsletter December 2025

<https://scovpb.org>

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

- Pickleball Rules You Should Know!
- What's New on the Courts
- Court Ball Usage
- Club News
- Fall Welcome Back Social Fun
- Tips to Improve Your Play



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

### **Volley Serve 2026!**



An interesting proposal eliminating the volley serve for 2026 was debated and eventually rejected. The volley serve will remain in effect.

For 2025 a volley serve is defined as serving the ball before it bounces. You may toss the ball up, but the arm must contact the ball in an upward arc, contact cannot be made above the waist, and the paddle head must be maintained below the wrist.

The argument in favor of elimination of the serve was a perception of widespread illegal manipulation of the technique. The rules committee ultimately decided that improper serving technique was not a pervasive problem and that in those circumstances where referees determined that an infraction occurred a re-serve would be required.

Stay tuned!



## WHAT'S NEW ON THE COURTS!

**ID your Paddle.** A simple way to ID your paddle is to use the return address stickers we all seem to have. Cut off the funny stuff, cute pictures, address etc. and stick it on each side and top of your paddle. When your paddle stands up in the rack, it is easy to see who's next to play!

Bill Brown has agreed to organize the **Mixed Doubles Year End Pickleball Tournament** again! Typically held the final weekend of the year, we invite teams from Rec/Casual and Competitive to enter in separate brackets for a fun morning of friendly competitions. While final details will follow we encourage you to find that special partner to compete with for bragging rights!

By popular demand, we will add a **"Highly Competitive Round Robin"** to the winter schedule. This provides an outlet for the most highly skilled players in our club to enjoy the same format that is already in place for the rest of the club. This is aimed at players who typically compete at the 4.0 time and/or are rated at 3.75 or higher by APPL, DUPR, IPF, etc. All players in this category, whether seasonal, renters or permanent residents are welcome. This promises to be a fun weekly event. Contact Phil Rose ([rosegp@msn.com](mailto:rosegp@msn.com)) with questions.

**Private Open Play:** We are formulating an idea for winter which will encourage and provide an outlet for SMALL GROUPS of players looking for an opportunity to play together without needing to compete for limited court reservations. "Private Open" play would give groups of 4 (or more) players who enjoy court time together to simply arrive and play together during designated times. IMPORTANT: this time is NOT limited by gender or skill level. All members with a small group of at least 4 players are welcome and as this is open time, guest policy is in effect. We can handle seven private groups at a time. If more than seven groups are present for court time we simply rotate the next team in at the conclusion of each game. Our new paddle racks are ideal for this format, should this prove to be a popular format. Stay tuned for more information. This is a seasonal trial and will be monitored closely. Expect more guidance as the winter schedule comes online.

The **Winter Scheduling meeting** is December 9, 10:30 at the KIVA room. Contact Cindy Gerk by email at [cgerk@yahoo.com](mailto:cgerk@yahoo.com). Last year's template is our default schedule with expected modifications.

If you are **new to pickleball** or just consider yourself having beginner skill sets, we have a team of volunteers ready to meet with you during the beginner's time slot. Simply email Doyle Ranstrom at [doyle@doylearanstrom.com](mailto:doyle@doylearanstrom.com) to arrange for a mentor to meet with you and instruct you at a level you are comfortable with. Visit our FAQ page of the website for additional mentors.

**Ready, Set, Paddle** is a way for members to give back to our local schoolchildren. This excellent after school program gives you an opportunity to teach pickleball locally to VERY eager students hungry to learn from you. Interested in team teaching? You control your schedule and availability. Contact Frank at 646-919-1484. Many thanks to club member Jeff Rusch for bringing this cause to our club for participation!

The maintenance crew from the HOA will be pressure washing our courts during the week of January 5. The exact two days of washing are still TBD.

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CLUB BALL USE

Part of your club dues pays for pickleballs on each court. In the past each individual had to bring a ball to play with. One year we decided to raise our dues to cover providing balls. This has proved to be a very successful decision. There are many manufacturers of balls. Our Club buys 100 at a time, which currently amounts to about \$2.00 per ball when on sale.

Balls must meet USAPA specifications, and we currently provide two different balls on our courts. Our Franklin X-40 ball is currently preferred by most members but this ball gets brittle and cracks below 55F. We try to store these X-40 balls during the cold weather months. For temperatures below 55F we provide either a yellow Onix Fuse G2 or the Neo Selkirk Pro S1. The Selkirk and the Onix have no temperature restrictions.

Cracked balls: Cracks that span between holes should be placed in the “Bad Balls” bag that is hung on the fence closest to pool side. These cracked balls will soon be recycled. If the crack is small and does not spread to another hole, continue to play with it until the crack spans to an adjacent hole.

Balls should be gathered and stored in Club Box at court 1 for overnight storage. Secure the Club Box with the provided chain and lock. This is to prevent balls from accidentally going home away from our courts during “Open” schedule times. It also keeps the weather from deteriorating the balls.

We are using about 500+ balls per year for play not counting the approximately 550 balls per year for practice/machine balls. The red practice balls are only Franklin X-40. We have found that using the same ball in the machines makes them more consistent to use. Please do not mix different types of balls provided with each machine.

If you prefer a different ball, then please bring it and let us know why you like it.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 3PM.**

**The club is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social**

**More information to come!**



# CLUB NEWS !

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PICKLEBALL CLUB BOARD NOMINEES!

Your 2026 Board Members are Phil Rose, Ralph Perillo, Louise Everett, Laurie Brown and Beth Nuveen

The new board will be meeting soon to decide on board positions.

## FALL Welcome Back Social Fun!

A huge Thank You to all who helped organize and put on the Fall Welcome Back social: Suzie Rose, Cindy Gerk, Beth Nuveen and Kathy Foster. Additional helpers on the night of the event were Becky Reiley, Lola Schapkohl, Phil Rose, Dale Foster and Brian Gerk. The Music Man on the night of the event was Michael Vollinger.

The Game Winner was **Monica Anderson** (she is pictured bottom right with a lime green blowup pillow around her neck and is screaming).

The Best Pajama Winners: 1st place: **Chuck & Linda Chokel** 2nd place: **Roger & Teresa Mathieu** 3rd place: **John & Cheryl McConnaughey**.

Fun was had by all..... we hope.



# Tips to Improve Your Play!

## Mastering Pickleball Shot Selection



Pickleball's all about picking the right shot at the right time. Whether you're a newbie or a seasoned player, knowing which shot to use can make or break your game. From the soft dink to the powerful overhead, each shot has its own place on the court.

### Mastering the Art of the Dink Shot

#### When to Use a Dink Shot

The dink shot is a clever move in pickleball, designed to keep your opponents on their toes. It's best used when both opponents are at the net, making it tough for them to launch an aggressive attack. **The dink's magic lies in its ability to neutralize your opponent's advantage.** If your opponents are at the baseline, avoid the dink unless you're confident they can't reach it. Instead, keep them back with deeper shots.

#### Techniques for a Perfect Dink

Achieving the perfect dink requires precision and control. Here are a few tips to get you started:

1. **Soft Touch:** Hit the ball just hard enough to clear the net but not so hard that it can be easily volleyed back.
2. **Aim Low:** Keep the ball low over the net to make it harder for opponents to return aggressively.
3. **Practice Patience:** Dinking is about waiting for your opponent to make a mistake. Keep the rally going until you see an opening.

#### Common Dink Shot Mistakes

Even seasoned players can slip up with dinks. Here are some pitfalls to watch out for:

- **Hitting Too High:** This gives opponents an easy chance to smash the ball back.
- **Poor Placement:** Aimlessly hitting the ball can lead to your opponents gaining control.
- **Overuse:** While the dink is handy, relying on it too much can make your play predictable.

The dink shot is a game-changer in pickleball. Mastering it can shift the momentum in your favor, turning a defensive play into an offensive opportunity. With practice and patience, you can make the dink an essential part of your pickleball strategy.