



# SCOV Pickleball Club Newsletter February 2026

<https://scovpb.org>

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

### **DID YOU KNOW...**



In 2026 the Rules Committee aimed to prevent the serve from becoming too dominant due to advanced paddle technology but rather as a more neutral simple initiation of play.

Verbiage has changed to add the word "CLEARLY" to the prior rule. A volley serve must CLEARLY be from an upward motion, underhanded, with paddle head CLEARLY below the wrist at ball contact and ball contact CLEARLY below the waist. This gives referees and even opponents the ability to challenge a serve which is ambiguous in fulfilling these requirements. NO spin may be imparted on the ball from the hand or fingers at release.



## WHAT'S NEW ON THE COURTS!

**SPRING CLINICS:** The spring pickleball clinics will be held on the following dates (all Tuesdays): March 3rd, March 10th, March 17th, and March 24th. The sessions will be from 1:00-2:00 PM and 2:00-3:00 PM. **Sign up for the clinics** on Wednesday, Feb. 11th at 12:00-1:00 PM in the Hopi Room. If you have questions, please call Laurie Brown at 360-951-6973 or email her at [Cougmom442@comcast.net](mailto:Cougmom442@comcast.net)

**Maintenance:** Ralph Perillo, board member, requests that anyone arriving to a dirty or leaf strewn court, please use an available leaf blower located in the storage room to blow the court off as a courtesy to others that will follow you on the court.

An updated **Ball Distribution Practice** is being developed since the retirement of Nelson Brown as the designated "Ball Czar". Member Al Jones has agreed to fill this important role. Balls will be placed once weekly in the member bin locating by court 1 to be used by members upon arrival. If no one is following you on the court please return balls to the bin as a preservation measure. The Board members request that the last scheduled group of the evening please return all balls to the member bin for safe keeping overnight. Many thanks for helping us preserve our pickleballs from premature disappearance!

**Ordering Pickleball Name Tags:** There are many vendors that sell name tags, silicone bands, etc. An internet search will help you find them. The paddle badges that some members have ordered in the past are from Abilene Awards and Logos Inc. To order, email to: [sales@abileneawards.com](mailto:sales@abileneawards.com) or call 303/755-0337. The cost is \$9.50 each plus shipping.

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.

## ANNUAL PICKLEBALL POKER RUN!

"Save the Date" for the annual Pickleball Poker Run fundraiser for Southern AZ Food Bank. Friday, March 27 is Competitive play, beginning at 9:00AM and Saturday, March 28 is Casual play. Be prepared to sign up early as this event usually fills up fast! We will need day of play volunteer card dealers, court monitors and all-purpose assistants. This is one of the most fun weekends that the PB Club offers each year so do not miss out.

If you would like to have a spouse/partner or club member recognized "In Memoriam" for the poker run, please contact Phil Rose at [rosegp@msn.com](mailto:rosegp@msn.com). Requests need to be made ASAP. Watch for more information via email and posted on our courtside bulletin boards in early February.

# CLUB NEWS !

The Annual meeting/ice cream social was well received with 162 sign-ups. Attendance was definitely affected by the competing football game between the Denver Broncos and Buffalo Bills!

Nelson Brown was recognized for his long and tireless service to our club, and he was presented with a new paddle.

The Board of Directors will hold a forum for those interested in the behind-the-scenes discussions regarding pickleball growth in the community. Stay tuned and read your email so your voice can be heard. The date is yet to be determined.

The **Lost and Found** bin is almost overflowing with various articles of clothing and other miscellaneous items. Please come and claim them or they will be donated to Goodwill by mid-February.

The Social Committee is already hard at work planning our **Annual Spring Party**. The April date, location and theme will be announced ASAP, and you can be assured that it will be both creative and fun for everyone!

## CONGRATULATIONS!



**Carolyn Chambasian and Lindy Holder**  
**Silver Medalists**  
**Senior Olympic Games!**



**Lindy Holder and Ralph Perillo**  
**Silver Medalists**  
**Senior Olympic Games!**

# 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.

### Strategic Use of the Lob Shot

#### Offensive Lob Strategies

The offensive lob is a sneaky move that can catch your opponents off guard, especially when they're glued to the no-volley line. The trick is to make it look like you're about to dink or drive, then send the ball soaring over their heads. Timing and placement are key here. You want the lob to land deep in the court, but not so deep that it goes out of bounds. A successful offensive lob can turn the tide of the game, putting your opponents on the defensive.

#### Defensive Lob Techniques

When you're in a tight spot, the defensive lob can be your best friend. It's not just about getting the ball over the net; it's about buying time to get back into position. Aim for a high arc that lands deep in the opponent's backcourt. This forces them to take a more challenging shot and gives you a moment to regroup. Remember, the goal is to transition from defense to offense smoothly.

#### Timing Your Lob Shot

Timing is everything with lob shots. Pull it out when your opponents least expect it, like during a dink rally. But don't overuse it, or they'll catch on. Think of it as a secret weapon in your arsenal. When the moment feels right, go for it, and watch as your opponents scramble to adjust.

*In pickleball, the lob isn't just a shot; it's a strategy. Used wisely, it can shift the momentum of the game and keep your opponents on their toes. Keep practicing, and you'll master the art of the lob in no time.*