



PICKLEBALL HAMILTON ETIQUETTE RULES

ALL MEMBERS: Please read and follow all the “Pickleball Hamilton Court Etiquette Rules”.

1. Good sportsmanship is mandatory.
2. Respect all players.
3. Do your best to ensure equitable court time for all members.
4. Always begin a game by introducing yourself, especially if there is a player or player(s) that you do not know.
5. If you are open to game improvement suggestions from your partner, please mention that to your partner. Try to avoid offering unsolicited tips to your playing partners.
6. Call out the score loudly before you serve.
7. Wait until everyone is ready before you serve.
8. NEVER yell at, swear at, or say a hostile or sarcastic word to your partner or your opponent, especially in anger.
9. Hit to both players on the court (don't single one player out) – everyone wants to take part in the match.
10. Don't exploit someone's physical limitations just so you can “win.” It is not cool!
11. Only call balls on your side of the net. Not on the other side.
12. If you and your partner cannot determine if the ball was in or out – or if you disagree with your partner on a line call – the benefit of the doubt goes to your opponent.
13. If you step into the kitchen on a volley, or if your partner does, call it on your team.
14. Don't celebrate when your opponent makes an error.
15. Don't over celebrate when you or your partner make a great play.
16. If you hit a ball into another court, immediately yell “Ball”. Do not enter another court to retrieve your ball unless invited to do so.
17. When somebody inadvertently hits a ball onto your court from an adjacent court, retrieve it, make eye contact with someone from that court and then directly tap them the ball. Do not hit the ball back into their court without looking.
18. If you are the weakest player on the court, appreciate the time that the other players have spent with you. However, do not take advantage of their graciousness by staying on the court with them for an indefinite period of time.
19. If you are asked to play with a group that is of a lower skill level than you, graciously accept and play a game with them. They will likely appreciate your graciousness and understand that you may want to get back to similarly skilled players after the game.
20. If you are obviously the strongest person in your foursome, tone down the competitiveness and hit balls to your opponents that they can return. Work on a new skill – perhaps it is a great time for work on that third shot drop shot.
21. Thank the opponents for the game.
22. Do not cross the court behind a match until play has stopped. It's not only a distraction, but it can be very dangerous as well.