

Orcas Island Pickleball

Be active. Be inspired. Be Connected.

PICKLEBALL ETIQUETTE

1. **Playing.** Typically, we verbally communicate after each match to configure teams. Don't be shy! And, people will ask you to step in. On busy days (usually just a few weekends during the summer), use the white board to organize groups and the order for the next available court.
2. **Safety.**
 - If you hit a ball towards another court, loudly say, "Ball on Court." Players are accustomed to immediately stopping play to avoid injuries.
 - If a pickleball enters your court during a point of play, also say, "Ball on Court" in case your partner/players aren't aware, pick up the ball and return it to the correct court. You will then replay the point.
 - Avoid lobbing the ball to mobility-challenged players unless you are lobbing to return a serve during recreational/social play.
 - Refrain from crossing behind courts when a point is being played.
3. **Conduct.**
 - Acknowledge your partner and opponents before beginning. If you are playing with or against unfamiliar players, make brief introductions. At the end of the game, meet at the net to tap paddles, and offer a positive remark like "thanks for the game" or "nice playing."
 - Please avoid using profanity.
 - Avoid providing unsolicited advice *during* play unless someone asks for your input to avoid creating a negative environment, interrupting the flow of the game, and/or distracting your opponents. The best time for constructive feedback is after your game once you are off the court, unless coaching is agreeable to all players and courts aren't busy.
4. **Calling.**
 - Before serving, call out the score loudly; this will ensure all players know the score and are ready to play.
 - If the ball lands on or close to the sideline or baseline, the receiving team has the final say on calling the ball "in" or "out."
 - If you are uncertain of the call, during social play, call it "in" giving the benefit of the doubt to your opponent.
 - If you disagree with your partner on a line call, the benefit of the doubt goes to your opponent.
 - If both you and your partner are unsure about the call, you ask your opponents (not spectators) if they had a better view.
 - *Generally speaking, the person not receiving the ball may have a better view as the receiver is primarily focused on the ball.*
 - Call on yourself if you or your partner land in the kitchen on a volley.