

# RECREATIONAL PICKLEBALL ETIQUETTE 101

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- Be courteous & respectful. Welcome newcomers. Compliment other players on the court, including opponents. When the game is over, share thanks. Have fun!
- Before crossing a court in play, wait for the rally to end and get the attention of the players. Walk together “as a group” quickly to minimize disruption. Don’t cross while players are getting ready to serve.
- Loudly call “BALL ON COURT” to alert the players if a ball enters your court, or a neighboring court. Make eye contact and return the ball to the player.
- When serving, make sure the receiving team is ready. Then call the score loud enough for everyone to hear before you serve the ball.
- Reviewing the Skill Level Assessment Rating Scale can help you identify your current level, as well as skills to improve.
- It makes a more inclusive game if play involves everyone, and it will provide a chance to work on your skills. Don’t just play to the weaker opponent. It’s not always about winning.
- Play with players of similar skill level.

**STAY SAFE. PLAY SAFE. BE KIND.**

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- While many people prefer to play with players of similar or better skills, consider playing a game or two with those less skilled. If you are significantly better or stronger, moderate your game and use it as an opportunity to work on specific skills.
- When in doubt, make calls that favor your opponents. Do call your own faults, including kitchen line faults. Don’t make line calls on the other side of the net. You can however make a foot fault call on the other side (but only if you can see it clearly!)
- Refrain from giving coaching or advice, unless requested. Most players are not welcoming of unsolicited advice. Alternatively, you could ask if a player is interested in a suggestion at this time. Respect their response, including body language. On the flip side, if you want coaching or advice, it’s ok to request it!
- Familiarize your self with the court use guidelines and schedule posted on the VPA Facebook page and website. A court host may be available to answer questions.

**Have fun and pickle on!**

