

KENDAL PICKLEBALL CLUB - CODE OF CONDUCT

The following code of conduct outlines expectations for everyone at the club to ensure fair play, mutual respect and enjoyment for all participants. By adhering to these principles, we foster an environment that embodies the spirit of Pickleball.

1 Respect and Sportsmanship

- 1.1 All players must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants and not unlawfully discriminate against anyone or treat anyone less favourably or unfavourably, by reason of age, disability, gender, ability, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins), cultural background, religious beliefs, or sexual identity.
- 1.2 Treat everyone with kindness, respect and courtesy, regardless of skill level or background, at all times.
- 1.3 Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, win or lose, by tapping paddles with your opponents at the end of the match and thanking them for the game.
- 1.4 Avoid profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any behaviour that might be considered disruptive or demeaning.
- 1.5 Unsportsmanlike conduct, verbal abuse, shouting and bullying are strictly prohibited.
- 1.6 Give your opponents time to get into position before you serve.
- 1.7 The server should clearly announce the score before they serve.
- 1.8 If a player claims there was a major distraction while hitting the shot (e.g. a ball bouncing onto the court), do not hesitate to replay the point.
- 1.9 Players are responsible for identifying foot faults. Be the kind of player that identifies their own foot faults.
- 1.10 In-game coaching should be avoided unless you are explicitly invited to do so by your partner.

2 Honesty in Line Calls

- 2.1 Players are responsible for making accurate line calls on their side of the court.
- 2.2 If you or your partner cannot determine if the ball was in or out the ball should be deemed to have landed in. Be generous - if in doubt the ball is in.
- 2.3 Only call a ball out if you are absolutely certain it landed outside the boundary lines.
- 2.4 Avoid excessive appeals to your opponents; trust their calls unless there is clear evidence of error.
- 2.5 In recreational games disputes should be resolved amicably by replaying the point if necessary.

3 Safety First

- 3.1 Avoid actions that could cause injury such as reckless swings and hitting the ball aggressively directly at others. When playing a smash the ball should be directed towards the floor and not the player.
- 3.2 Always call "BALL" loudly when a stray ball lands on an adjacent court. Play must stop immediately when this happens.

- 3.3 Avoid walking on, close to or standing by an adjacent court whilst play is in progress.

4 Respect for Rules

- 4.1 All players must take responsibility in ensuring they are up to date with the rules, understand and adhere to them.
- 4.2 Abide by the official rules of Pickleball as outlined by USA Pickleball, a copy of which can be found in the club files on Spond.

5. Positive Engagement

- 5.1 Celebrate good play by opponents and partners alike; refrain from belittling anyone's efforts.
- 5.2 When watching the matches on court please encourage positively but please do not attempt to influence calls, disrupt play or intimidate players.
- 5.3 If you arrive early for your session and a game is still in play please do not chat loudly or congregate around the court
- 5.4 Resolve conflicts by defusing them - stay calm and controlled; listen actively. De-personalise.
- 5.5 Escalate issues to the session host only when necessary.
- 5.6 Refrain from retaliatory actions or confrontations on or off the court.

6 Inclusivity and Community Spirit

- 6.1 Encourage players of all abilities to participate and grow in their enjoyment of the sport.
- 6.2 Be welcoming and supportive of newcomers to the game.

7 Failure to adhere to this code of conduct

- 7. Minor instances of breaching this code should be dealt with immediately in a friendly and professional manner by those involved. Major instances of breaching the code may be referred to the Management Committee for action. Sanctions, where applied, can range from a verbal warning to temporary suspension or permanent exclusion from the Club.

This Code of Conduct promotes a positive and enjoyable Pickleball environment while maintaining the integrity of the Sport.
All Club Members and Visitors are encouraged to uphold these values at all time.

