



Return to Sport Guidelines – Indoor Pickleball

PICKLEBALLBC recognizes and appreciates the authority and guidance role of [viaSport BC](#) in the development of this Return to Sport Pickleball (RTS-P) document.

This RTS-P document focuses **solely** on indoor pickleball activity. ALL pickleball activity whether within local club authority or not falls within this RTS-P document.

A reminder to all **PICKLEBALLBC** and Pickleball Canada (PCO) members - compliance with all applicable laws is a requirement of the PCO insurance policy. As well, the BC Ministerial Order No.M183 related to Protection Against Liability of Sports only protects those organizations that are properly implementing applicable emergency and public health guidelines.

All pickleball clubs of whatever nature and size have the responsibility to create their own specific Return to Sport Guidelines in compliance with the **PICKLEBALLBC** Return to Sport Guidelines and viaSport Return to Sport Guidelines.

Every individual pickleball player, whether part of a club, **PICKLEBALLBC** or Pickleball Canada have the obligation to be in compliance as well. This obligation extends to all non-members as well.

Indoor pickleball facilities vary across the province but for the most part the courts are not owned and operated by clubs or organizations. They are usually leased by groups and organizations or paid for as used by individuals. It is the owner/operator who is responsible for the facility review; touch map, off limit areas, ingress and egress, one-way flow of players, hygiene and safety protocols, posters to remind players about physical distancing and hand washing, sanitization of the facility. See [viaSport RTS Appendix G](#). Those who rent, lease or use the courts however must be aware of the review and communicate the expectations of the review to all who are using the courts.

The following are pickleball specific recommendations and considerations as you decide to return to pickleball:

Restarting Pickleball Concerns

- Do a risk assessment and control analysis - refer to viaSport RTS Appendix G
- Understand and maintain conditions that should prevent individuals from participating
 - You are sick or not feeling well in any way
 - You have been in close contact with someone who is sick or has COVID-19 symptoms
- Be cognizant of current (updated) PHO and Government directives
- Limit group or cohort size
- Maintain physical distancing
- Drop-in pickleball play and random partner mixing is not recommended



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Cleanliness Concerns

- Review / repeat general personal cleanliness instructions
- Consider common equipment cleanliness issues - balls, paddles
- Consider high touch points cleanliness specifically - chairs, benches
- Develop court access plans - ingress and egress routes

Control or Management Concerns

- Pre-booking of courts by cohorts is preferable
- Cashless and prepaying of courts is preferred
- All plans need to have *what if* controls in place
 - Cohort recourse if a player violates the guidelines
 - Individual's response to violations
- All plans should consider a waiver or participant agreement - [viaSport RTS Appendix D](#)
- All plans need to have contact tracing plans
- All plans must be clearly communicated to all potential participants - [viaSport RTS Appendix E](#)

The specific details of any localized plan are the responsibility of that club or community.

PICKLEBALLBC is available for consultation at all times. Email contact: info@pickleballbc.ca

There is an abundance of supportive current information on the viaSport website. The Guidelines and the [RTS FAQ - viaSport](#) set are very good resources and should be considered required reading.

We are the safest when we ALL abide by the same rules

Approved by
PICKLEBALLBC
Board of Directors
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