



PICKLEBALL BC

Return to Sport Guidelines

Physical Distancing and Doubles Play

This document is an addendum to the Return to Sport Guidelines –Outdoor Pickleball – Phase 3 - posted June 28, 2020 and Indoor Pickleball – Phase 3 – posted Nov 16, 2020.

All recommendations and considerations from the Return to Sport Guidelines – Indoor and Outdoor Pickleball – Phase 3 are foundational to this document.

Considerations:

- Recreational pickleball play is approximately 95% doubles play
- Court size

The court is 20 ft wide and 44 ft long with a centre net. Each end is divided into right (even) and left (odd) service areas and a Non-Volley Zone that extends from the net 7 ft towards each base line. These zones or areas are all delineated by painted lines.

- General play format or conditions

The Non-Volley Zone near the net is an area where players cannot stand and volley a shot. This effectively keeps players 7 to 8 ft away from the net and therefore between 8 and 16 ft from opposition players for the vast majority of all play time.

The right and left service areas also define tacitly the primary play area of partner 1 and partner 2. This is my side - that is your side. Poaching is not a good practice as you get drawn out of position. There are times when player 1 goes wide to make a play and player 2 comes over. We say this is being tied with an 8 ft rope - basically no closer or further.

Outdoor play is identical to indoor play with respect to conditions and play format.

The conventional play tactics and Pickleball rules of play make close physical proximity scenarios very rare and brief.



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Special considerations and recommendations:

- Pickleball etiquette – the etiquette of paddle taps at the end of the game/match is not recommended
- In between play
 - Switching sides after winning a point requires that players continue to physical distance
 - Stacking also requires that players maintain physical distancing

Position of PICKLEBALLBC:

PICKLEBALLBC has every confidence that doubles pickleball play can be safely enjoyed while maintaining the desired physical separation.

Approved by:
PICKLEBALLBC
Board of Directors
November 16, 2020