



Volume 3, Issue 12
December 2021

The Pickle Vine

DECEMBER 2021

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Note to readers: The Pickle Vine is best when viewed on a larger screen, e.g. a tablet, laptop, desktop, TV, projection screen, outdoor movie screen or even an IMAX

The Pickle Vine team expresses thanks to the Peace River Pickler community for their support during our tenure.

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Tournament reporter : Maureen Blanton - mblanton116@gmail.com

MESSAGES FROM THE PRP BOARD

Deb Sarkisian, President

Gobble Gobble Picklers,

Happy Thanksgiving to all. Hope you are taking the time to enjoy family and friends this holiday season, as well as getting in some great pickleball play. The weather has been glorious and we are finally getting to experience the temperatures we all enjoy. Please take advantage of open play at South County while we take a slight break for the holidays. But note that our January session is right around the corner. Be sure to mark your calendars for open registration starting the morning of **December 3!!**

I think all of us at Peace River Picklers would agree that there is much more to Pickleball than the game itself. While it certainly is a driving force, one can argue that it is the friends we meet along the way that make all the difference!! You have told us in past surveys that you would like even more opportunities to socialize with these new found club friends. With that in mind, please consider joining us for our annual

🎄 **Christmas Bash** 🎄 at Twin Lakes Country Club on **December 12th**. Those who have attended in the past will tell you it is a classy event and well worth the money. There will be dancing and live entertainment by Escape. Great food and great giveaways. Come celebrate the holiday season and catch up with your "snowbird" friends while we welcome in a new year of Pickleball. The **November 28** deadline for ticket sales is quickly approaching!! Tickets can be purchased by going to our website and clicking on the button in the upper right-hand corner where it says Picklers Annual Christmas Party. Hope to see you there.

On a final note, our Annual Meeting is right around the corner. The date is **January 16th** at Twin Isles from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. We hope you will join our Board as we share valuable information about 2021. Our meeting agenda will include Committee reports, Volunteer recognition, Bylaw approval, Elections and a question and answer session. At this time, I would like to thank our Nominating Committee for their hard work at finding five new candidates to fill the five future Board openings. Thank you Karen Harrod, Pete Parsil and Patti Pate for all of your efforts!! If there are any members that are seeking election, but were not nominated by the committee, please submit a petition signed by 10 members of the club at least seven (7) days prior to the elections. You will then be considered as nominated for election to the Board of Directors.



Thanks everyone and Happy Pickling!!

Deb Sarkisian

DRILLS & PLAY

Tom Ward / PRP Director

PRP will be changing its Skills and Drills Program to "Drills and Play". What that means is that in place of doing 90 minutes of drilling, we will be drilling on a couple of different skills for about an hour, followed by 45 minutes of playing time. The playing time will emphasize the skills we have just worked on.

Skills and Drills has historically been one of PRP's most popular offerings to the membership. The new Drills and Play format will be offered at the 2.0/2.5, 3.0, and 3.5 skill levels and will run for six weeks. Participation will be limited to the first 18 players that sign up. Registration will open on December 3 for our January/February sessions. These slots will fill quickly.

You may call, text, or email me if you have any questions. 269 375-7895 rocknpickleball@gmail.com.



DECEMBER 12, 2021

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP

Date: December 12th | Time: 5 pm (check in) to 10 pm

Where: Twin Isles Country Club

Price: \$45 / person

TO REGISTER

[CLICK HERE](#)

VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

Tom Ward / PRP Director

PRP has recently completed another six-week session of Skills and Drills and Drills and Play. Judging by the feedback from the participants each of the classes was an overwhelming success.

The key element to our success is our dedicated volunteer staff of instructors. Five of our instructors have completed and graduated from a professional instructor certification process themselves. All of them have taken both private and group instruction themselves in order to improve their own skill set. Not only have they given hours of their personal time to this program but they have also traveled each week from as far away as Sarasota, Venice, Fort Myers, Burnt Store Marina, and North Port.

Their volunteer spirit is the epitome of what the PRP community is all about. So on behalf of the PRP Board and the PRP membership our deep gratitude and appreciation go out to:

Dave Brotzman

Kim Brotzman

Sam Cessna

Lin Coe

Susan Frass

Kellee Gabel

Mark Gabel

Steve Hocker

Renee Jackson

Jay Knupp

Mike O'Donell

Dave Pike

Dee Popper

Judy Robertson

Kathy Seward

Mary Stewart

Jenny Townsend

Tom Ward

Joan Wedekind

Mark Wesaw

What a great team and great group of pickleball ambassadors to be associated with.

FALL 2021 LEAGUE RESULTS

Julie Frainier / PRP Director

We had another wonderful season of league play this fall. We wrapped up play on Nov. 13th. Below is a list of the Leagues, the leaders of those leagues and our winners of each of the leagues. We can not thank our leaders enough for the volunteer contribution to make these leagues happen!!! Thank you Thank you Thank you!

League Name	League Leader	League Winner
Mixed 2.0/2.5 Shootout	Lin Coe/Jean Standifer	Linda Beemer
Mens 3.5 Round Robin	Sue Meyer	Ron Horton
BSM Mixed 3.5 - 4.0	Jon Ralph	Tom Van Wingen
Ladies 3.0+ Shootout	Susan Frass	Gabby Thompson
Mixed 60+ 3.0-3.5 Shootout	Jean McGee	Mike Sutherby
Mixed Ladder 3.5-4.0	Kim Brotzman	Ron Horton
Mixed Team Round Robin	Cheryl Bellio	Tom/Paula Ward
Ladies 3.5 Round Robin	Renee Jackson	Diane Liberti
Mixed 3.0-3.5 Shootout	Anastasia Settle/Lori Larson	Mike Jackson
BSM Ladies 3.5 Shootout	Kathleen Harrigan	Qun Wang

Winter league registration begins **Dec. 3rd**. Leagues will run **Jan. 3rd - Feb.12**, Here are the upcoming offerings.

LEAGUE NAME
W22A Mens 70+ 3.0+ Shootout
W22A Mens 3.5 - 4.0 Round Robin
W22A Burnt Store Marina Coed 3.5 - 4.0 Shootout
W22A Ladies 3.0+ Shootout
W22A Coed 60+ 3.0-3.5 Shootout
W22A Coed 3.5-4.0 Ladder
W22A Ladies 60+ 3.0+ Shootout
W22A Coed 3.0+ Shootout
W22A Coed Team 3.5 Round Robin
W22A Coed 2.0/2.5 Shootout
W22A Ladies 3.5 Round Robin
W22A Ladies 2.0/2.5 Shootout
W22A Coed 3.0-3.5 Shootout

If you are interested in volunteering to Lead one of these upcoming leagues, reach out to me; Julie Frainier (jafraulier@gmail.com) or Ron Horton (akh115@comcast.net).

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Board Nominations

There are five upcoming openings on our Board of Directors.

Two members will remain.

The slate of five candidates includes Susan Bell, David Brotzman, John Hace, Dave Pike, and Pam Volk. Their bios are presented below for your information.

Elections will take place at the PRP Annual Meeting on January 16, 1:00 pm at Twin Isles.

PEACE RIVER PICKLERS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Deb Sarkisian	debsarkisian@aol.com
Vice President	Jean McGee	jmmcgee@comcast.net
Secretary	Laurie Price	lauriep81@gmail.com
Treasurer	Heather Washik	hwashik@att.net
Directors		
	Bruce McPhee	bjmcphee@me.com
	Mary Stewart	marytomstewart@gmail.com
	Tom Ward	rocknpickleball@gmail.com



CURRENT SLATE OF BOARD CANDIDATES

Susan Bell

My name is Susan Bell. We moved from Branson, Missouri to Florida in 2010. My husband, Jim, and I have lived in Punta Gorda for 3 years. Before retirement I was an educator for 40 years, the last 15 as a principal. We have a daughter who lives in Palm Beach Garden and is a clinical psychologist at the VA hospital. I think that our club offers so much to so many pickleball players. I would love to be a part of the process that keeps the standard and fun high.



David Brotzman

I was born and raised in Wisconsin, but have lived and worked all over the world - from South Dakota, New Jersey, Colorado and Connecticut to Russia, India, The United Kingdom, Venezuela, Germany, Poland, Taiwan and Trinidad.

Over the years, I led several manufacturing, software development, telecommunications

infrastructure and distribution companies - until I met my lovely wife, Kim, and decided to change career paths and become a chef. Together, we owned and operated a successful restaurant in Connecticut for 11 years until we sold it in 2017.



I was introduced to Pickleball by a USAPA Ambassador and Certified Referee in 2019. It's been a passion ever since! I continually strive to improve and grow in the sport through clinics, lessons, studying videos and hosting Pros in our home.

Being a member of the PRP was one of the first things my wife and I did when we moved to Florida. Volunteering for tournaments and leagues as well as helping beginners through the PRP Skills and Drills is how I've tried to help grow this wonderful sport.

Kim and I try to play with new people whenever we travel. We've found the pickleball community to be fun, inviting and competitive everywhere we play. We've found lifelong friends along the way, and that is one of the truest beauties of this sport.

CURRENT SLATE OF BOARD CANDIDATES

John Hace

On our first winter migration 9 years ago we landed in Punta Gorda and joined Peace River Picklers. They welcomed us with open arms where we made many friends. PRP sealed the deal and now we are snowbird owners and look forward to our winter migration to Punta Gorda each year.

PRP offers Pickleball/social opportunities for people of all ages, levels and interests to enjoy an active life in retirement. My interest in joining the board is to assist the present board members in promoting, delivering and improving programs for its members.

I have been playing Pickleball for 10+ years both in Minnesota and Florida. You would think I would get better but no such luck. I have won some and lost some games but enjoyed them all because of the people I had a chance to meet.

Please be aware I am only available on site for only 3-4 months.



Dave Pike

My life with Pickleball began about 10 years ago while visiting Palm Creek RV resort in AZ and it has been part of my life ever since. I got the bug there and it quickly turned into an addiction that has had immeasurable impact on my life. It has quickly become my "Fountain of Youth."

Fast forward (2017) to Festival Ranch AZ (Home of the first six national tournaments). While there I was president of a 600 + member club and saw the venue grow from 8 courts to 24, which is currently far short of what is needed. I also ran a program called "Top Shot" which was a program to quantify improvement in basic shots needed to have a well rounded game.

In 2016-17, I traveled 6,000 miles in a dinghy promoting Pickleball (USA Pickleball Ambassador At-Large) in over 20 states as I passed through. Some say that is how I got my nickname (Dinghy Dave). Others will suggest there are other reasons!



CURRENT SLATE OF BOARD CANDIDATES

Dave Pike continued...

In 2019, I became a Certified Coach with the Professional Pickleball Registry and have enjoyed passing on knowledge gained from the experience.

In my professional life as a civil servant for over 30 years, I learned to value, coach, and respect others and their ideas. I believe I would bring that experience to the table along with a significant passion for a silly thing called Pickleball.

As we get older, I have come to better understand the value of volunteering in something we believe in. My investment in Pickleball has given back to me many times over. I am healthier, happier, and have accumulated many lifelong friends along the way.

Having recently moved to Punta Gorda as a full timer, I consider it a privilege to continue my Pickleball journey with the Peace River Picklers.

Pam Volk

I joined Peace River Picklers a couple of years ago when I started playing in PRP leagues. At the time I was making the 45 minute drive from LaBelle, but this past May my husband and I purchased a condo in Punta Gorda Isles. Tom and I have been married for 45 years, and also have a home in Toledo. I plan on being in Florida 8-9 months of the year.

I have always enjoyed paddle sports-from ping pong, badminton, platform tennis, racket ball to a bit of tennis. Gave it all up when my three children and I started showing horses. If only I knew then how handy a two handed backhand would be I might have reconsidered that decision. We eventually bought a small farm in Michigan where we retired several of our horses, as well as boarded horses.



The herd eventually thinned, and I moved to Indianapolis which is where I discovered pickleball. I had a kind neighbor who took me out to a tennis court and taught me the basics of play as well as court etiquette-without him I might never have had the nerve to drop in to open play at our local gym. Since then I have tried to pay that forward. I received my PPR (Professional Pickleball Registry) certification this past winter.

Through pickleball I have formed lifelong friendships and met an amazing variety of people. I have enjoyed and benefitted by being a member of PRP, and appreciate being considered to serve on the board.

UPCOMING SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENTS

American Pickleball Sundial Resort....Sanibel, FL 12/03-05/2021

Florida Challenger....Bonita Springs, FL 12/09-12/2021

The Holiday Paddle Battle....Fort Myers, FL 12/17-19/2021

Sanibel Island Pickleball Classic....Sanibel Island, FL 01/07-01/09/22

American Pickleball Endless Summer Series....Punta Gorda, FL 01/14-01/16/2022

Naples Pickleball Center Championship....Naples, FL 02/04-02/06/2022

Florida Satellite PeakPerformance Pickleball Academy...Naples, FL 02/17-02/20/2022

Pickleball for Prevention—Bonita Springs YMCA...Bonita Springs, FL 03/24-03/27/2022

PicklePlex 2nd Annual Spring Fling—PicklePlex...Punta Gorda, FL 03/18-03/20/22

Pickleball for Prevention—Bonita Springs YMCA...Bonita Springs, FL 03/24-03/27/2022

HOPEN its OPEN—Pelican Sound, Seasons...Estero, FL 04/14-04/17/2022

Minto US Open Pickleball Championships...Naples, FL 04/23-04/30/2022

More info on these and other tournaments can be found at:

Wherever you may be, you can find a tournament near you by visiting:

https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt_main.pl

https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt_main.pl

For a full calendar of PRP events & details:

<https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/>

FOLLOW MAJOR LEAGUE PICKLEBALL NEWS HERE:

<https://www.majorleaguepickleball.net/>



RECENT LOCAL RESULTS

PicklePlex Halloween Haunt

Fri 10/29/21 thru Sun 10/31/21

Men's Doubles Skill/Age

3.0: bracket 60-69 — SILVER: Jim Trowbridge and Peter Feldhusen
— BRONZE: Tom Bassett and Ricky George

3.5: bracket 70-79 — GOLD: Fred Graham

4.0: bracket 60-69 — GOLD: Mile Schiffer and Thomas Sweeney

3.0: bracket 50+ — BRONZE: Scott Wojton

4.0: bracket 19+,35+,50+ — BRONZE: Jon Ralph

5.0: bracket 19+,35+,50+ — GOLD: Scott Tingley

Mixed Doubles Skill Groups

3.0: bracket 19+,35+,50+ — SILVER: Kesha Dreher

3.0: bracket 60+ — GOLD: Susan Sitzberger and Lawrie Yearsley

3.5: bracket 65+ — GOLD: Nancy Price

3.5: bracket 50+ — BRONZE: Lee Freeman

3.5: bracket 60+ — BRONZE: Cindy Schiffer and Mike Schiffer

3.5: bracket 70+ — SILVER: Su Chaplin

— BRONZE: Mary Stewart and Fred Graham

4.0: bracket 19+,35+ — GOLD: Liz Ameruoso and Martin Pickup

4.0: bracket 50+ — GOLD: Sal Fuller

— BRONZE: Karen Harrod

4.0: bracket 60+,70+ — GOLD: Kren McManus

— SILVER: Kathy Seward and Tom Ward

— BRONZE: Colleen Blakley and Steve Roforth

Women's Doubles Skill/Age

3.0: bracket 60-79 — SILVER: Susan Sitzberger

— BRONZE: Sue Meyer and Barbara Dundee

3.5: bracket 60+ — BRONZE: Cindy Schiffer and Anniemal Sweeney

4.0: bracket 60-69 — BRONZE: Toni Roby and Colleen Blakley

**Members, if you have recently placed in a tournament, especially if it was not in Punta Gorda,
please email Maureen Blanton at mbanton116@gmail.com.**

Please provide your name, name of tournament, the event entered and placement.

Pickleball Around the Web

The logo for Pickleball University (PBU) features the letters "PBU" in a large, blue, serif font. Below "PBU" is the text "PICKLEBALL UNIVERSITY" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. The entire logo is centered between two horizontal green lines.

Pickleball University is an interesting website with a mission
"to inspire and equip you with custom content, information
and education in the pickleball world."

Here are some current articles including the following subjects:

Want to Win More Points in Pickleball? Try These Powerful Setups

<http://www.pickleballuniversity.com/home/want-to-win-more-points-in-pickleball-try-these-powerful-setups>

The Best Pickleball University Articles to Read if You're New to Pickleball

<http://www.pickleballuniversity.com/home/the-best-pickleball-university-articles-to-read-if-youre-new-to-pickleball>

The Ultimate Pickleball Paddle Spin Comparison

<http://www.pickleballuniversity.com/home/the-ultimate-pickleball-paddle-spin-comparison>

One of the Most Viewed Videos for Pickleball Beginners

<http://www.pickleballuniversity.com/home/one-of-the-most-viewed-videos-for-pickleball-beginners>

Warmup Tip

Aerobic Exercise: How to Warm up and Cool Down from Mayo Clinic

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/exercise/art-20045517>

USA Pickleball Area Ambassadors

The Role of Ambassadors

Ambassadors are volunteers who have pledged to promote the sport of pickleball and the USA Pickleball in the local area that they represent. They are individuals or couples who work with the communities, clubs, and other various recreational facilities to guide and help build pickleball programs for all to enjoy. These Ambassadors work together as a teams within their Districts and across their Region to enhance the development of the USA Pickleball and pickleball. The main prerequisite is a love of the sport and the desire to share our game with others of all ages.

Below is a listing of current ambassadors within a 25 mile radius of Punta Gorda.

Jorge Aguilar	Venice, FL	Ambassador: Venice; FL
Colleen Blakley	N. Ft. Myers, FL	Ambassador: Key West; FL
Sue Carman	Venice, FL	Ambassador: Sarasota County; FL
Linda Coe	Port Charlotte, FL	Ambassador: Port Charlotte; FL
Dick Crossland	Englewood, FL	Ambassador: Englewood; FL
Gloria Reilly	Punta Gorda, FL	Ambassador: Punta Gorda; FL
Robert White	Arcadia, FL	Ambassador: North Port; FL

A complete and searchable list of USA Pickleball ambassadors
and email addresses, can be found at:

https://www.memberleap.com/members/directory/search_USAPA.php?ambassadors

Further information on USA Pickleball Ambassadors can be found at:



The Peace River Picklers Merchandise Store

Have you visited the PRP online Store yet?

Available through the [Peace River Picklers website](#)....



Pickler Playgrounds

Englewood

Englewood Sports Complex	1300 S. River Rd, Englewood, FL 34223	941-681-3742
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Port Charlotte

Centennial Park Rec. Center	1120 Centennial Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33953	941-613-3230
Harold Ave Reg. Park Rec. Center	23400 Harold Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33980	941-627-1074
McGuire Park	21125 McGuire Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33952	941-681-3742
Midway Park	23023 Midway Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33952	941-625-7529

Punta Gorda

Bissett Park	12455 Path Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950	941-681-3742
Gilchrist Park	400 W Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda, FL 33950	
Pickleplex®@ FSW Campus	26300 Airport Rd, Punta Gorda, FL 33950	941-451-9923
South County Regional Park Rec Center	670 Cooper St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950	941-505-8686

Rotonda

Rotonda Community Park	100 Rotonda Blvd, E Rotonda, FL 33947	941-681-3742
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Peace River Picklers Pickleball club is a nonprofit organization established to cultivate the game of Pickleball through social play, competitive leagues and standardized, consistent educational programs for our members. These activities provide opportunities for players to realize their own potential in an environment that promotes socialization, fun & exercise.

FROM THE PEACE RIVER PICKLERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The purpose of the Peace River Picklers (PRP) is to promote the game of pickleball. This implies that sportsmanship, etiquette and generosity will be foremost in all PRP efforts. Pickleball can be competitive or it can be recreational. PRP will respect the wants and goals of all players, endeavoring to provide events, activities, and play to meet all members' needs.

PEACE RIVER PICKLERS (PRP) CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will not act in a way that threatens my safety or the safety of others.
- I will refrain from verbal outbursts which are profane, threatening or abusive.
- I will refrain from acts or language which harasses or belittles a teammate or opponent, or which creates turmoil and/or dissension among players.
- I will respect the pickleball courts and property and perform no action which may cause damage.
- I will comply with posted court schedules.
- I will make fair line calls and respect calls made by others. I will consider the ball to be "in" if uncertain of the line call.
- I will behave in a manner consistent with this code and, as such, will be an ambassador for the sport of pickleball.

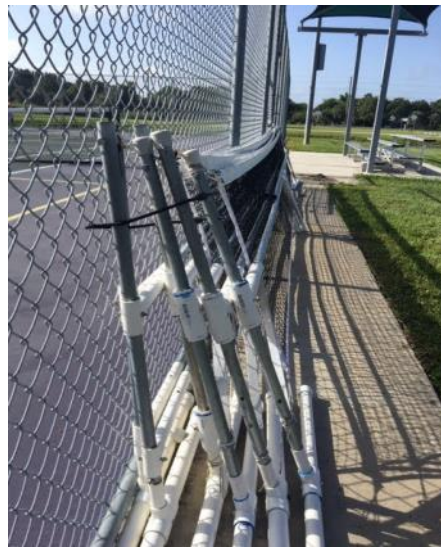


Pickleball Nets

The pickleball nets at South County Regional Park are owned by Peace River Picklers, with repair and maintenance work coordinated by Doug Gammie of PRP.

It is in our collective best interest to properly maintain these nets to insure quality of play and keep replacement costs and repairs to a minimum. Members of PRP are asked to review the following suggestions from Deb Sarkisian and Bruce McPhee that will help to prolong the “life and health” of our nets.

1. Nets should be stored at the two opposite ends of the courts—the parking lot end and the Cooper Street end. Nets brought onto the court from one side should be returned to the same side.
2. Nets should be stacked together with the center bars facing out.
3. Nets stored on the parking lot end of the courts should be secured against the wooden barrier structure on that end. Nets stored at the opposite end of the courts should be secured against the chain link fence.
4. Bungee cords should be wrapped around the nets as tightly as possible to keep the nets upright.



Should nets be found to be in need of repair, please contact Doug Gammie at gammie72@msn.com or 941-505-0893.

Combination for the net locks can be found at: <https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/net-code>

PRP Leagues, Skills/Drills, & Advanced Clinics Refund Process Update

We would like our membership to know that the PRP Board has updated our Refund Policy to include:

Any/all refunds will ONLY be given to those who make a request no later than two weeks prior to the start of the event. After that, no refunds will be issued.

NO EXCEPTIONS!

All of our events require a certain amount of players for the programs to function both physically and financially, thus the reason for this policy change!!

Setting up these events requires a great deal of work including:

- **Court Rentals:**
 - o Determine and pay for the number of courts required by event
 - o Work with South County Regional Park team to contract/rent the courts
- **Leagues:**
 - o Recruit enough volunteers to be League Leaders
 - o Define which Leagues to offer:
 - § Shootout
 - § Round Robin
 - § Ladder
- **Skills/Drills, Advanced Clinics, & PB101:**
 - o Recruit enough teachers to adhere to teacher/student ratios
 - o Recruit Skills/Drills Coordinators

Due to these events being driven by the number of members who sign up, it's a constant work in progress up until a few days before the events launch. Again, all of our events require a certain amount of players for the programs to function.

This doesn't get done easily. This process requires numerous volunteers working with PRP board to ensure all events are organized and ready to go when players arrive. Late/last minute requests are not acceptable.

I'm sure you can all understand the need for this change!

Thank you

Peace River Picklers Board



PEACE RIVER PICKLERS

South County Regional Park

Pickleball Court Etiquette Guidelines

South County Pickleball Courts are considered "Open Play" when Leagues & Skills & Drills are not in session. Please adhere to the following Pickleball court etiquette guidelines so that we make open play fun for everyone:

During open play, players' play 4 to a court, play to a score of 11, team must win by 2 points.

There are three gates to enter & exit from the courts. Please be respectful and use the gate that is closest to the court you are going onto or leaving. This will alleviate disrupting another group's game.

Make sure you enter & exit the courts when you have all 4 players together.

Move on/off the court quickly so that you are not holding up another group's game.

Close the gate after last person enters or exits!

If you have to cross an active court to get onto a vacant court or to leave a court, wait until their current point is over. Ask the players for permission to cross their court.

If your ball goes into another court during play, please call out "ball" to notify the team so they can stop play. We do not want anyone to get hurt.

If you are standing around waiting to play, please be assertive and ask any player if you can join next game. Open play means everyone has an opportunity to play, but you own making that happen!