



The Pickle Vine

Volume 3, Issue 2
February, 2021

FEBRUARY, 2021

2021

While this is the February issue, it is also the first one to be published in the new year, so we extend to all members our best wishes for a much better 2021. With the increasing availability of the covid-19 vaccine, we should find a growing number of PRP members returning to the courts for leagues, lessons and social play and look forward to increased participation in all activities.

The USA Pickleball Rules Committee has released new rules changes, with an effective date of 01/25/2021. While most changes affect tournament play, there are some that we will see in everyday play.

The 81 page document can be found on the PRP website at:

<https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/2021-rule-changes>

A continuing friendly reminder

With COVID-19 still present, please remember to practice social distancing and proper hand sanitizing. If you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the virus, please do not play at the courts for 14 days. As always, please be considerate of your fellow players.

The Pickle Vine team welcomes any comments, submissions or suggestions

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Tournament reporter : Maureen Blanton - mblanton116@gmail.com

Peace River Picklers

Annual Meeting Notes

Held on a chilly Sunday, January 10th at the outdoor pavilion at Lashley Park in Punta Gorda, PRP members received a review of 2020, plus plans and thoughts for 2021.

Below is a recap from President Deb Sarkisian of her 2020 review.

Dear Picklers,

Happy New Year to all of you. Thank you so much to all of the PRP members who attended the annual meeting on Sunday, January 10th. It was so nice to see our members and get a chance to say hello.

This was the year of **You Asked** and **We Heard You**. Our first meeting as a new board took place on January 23 and at that meeting we determined who would fill which positions. My first meeting as President was at the end of February. One of our first actions as a new board was to conduct a survey of our membership, which took place in March with results published 3 weeks later. In the survey results, You asked for a website that was easier and more efficient to use. We rolled out a new and improved website in early July. You asked for better educational opportunities and higher level instruction. We developed a new and exciting educational plan with the help of Sarah Saari (our 5.0 USAPA and IPTPA certified coach) that included free high level training to our volunteer teachers. Our first session incorporating our new educational curriculum and advanced clinics was rolled out in September. You asked for skill assessments of player levels. This pilot was rolled out in September, but we found these assessments were not part of our core competencies so we decided to put this activity on the back burner for now and revisit going forward. Some of the other updates and improvements that took place were a revised mission statement, a new logo, and a revamping of our membership and league fee structures. All of these changes were rolled out to the membership by the end of June. In August, we designed a new banner sporting our new and improved logo and installed it on Court 12 at Pickleplex. In April we said goodbye to Ginny MacDonald Sue Meyers after two years of Picklevine publications and passed the torch to Jack Laflamme, Katie Gove and Maureen Blanton. Donations made for 2020 were to the Back to School Bash, the St. Vincent De Paul food bank, and most recently two of our portable nets were donated to Compass Center Rehab program which is a county run program that helps local youth. This is a program which Ricky Delar, one of our PRP endorsed coaches, is heavily involved.

As you can see, 2020 was a very busy year for PRP and the PRP board!!

In addition, each board member presented a review and summary of their respective activities and subject areas, from leagues, skills and drills, club income and expenses, pickleball education, net maintenance, city and county relationships, the need for and value of volunteers, area pickleball facilities, recognition awards for Judy Robertson, Jim Mays and Doug Gammie, election of Tom Ward as new director and the separate roles of Peace River Picklers and Pickleplex®.



Practicing social distancing



Jean McGee, Vice President

Scenes from the PRP annual Meeting



Deb Sarkisian, President



Bruce McPhee
Director



Doug Gammie
Retiring
Director



Tom Ward
New Director



Heater Washik, Treasurer



Laurie Price
Secretary



Mary Stewart
Director



Meeting in progress

A Note From Our New Board Member

OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING

In a few short weeks PRP will be launching its second winter offering of league play and skills and drills. PRP is YOUR club and can only function with everyone pitching in to make these activities successful. We need members to volunteer to teach skills and drills and to be our league leaders. Your PRP Board is in the process of organizing those activities now so that we have teachers and leaders in place for the membership as a whole. Please volunteer now through any one of these three methods:

- 1) Click on the VOLUNTEER tab at the top of the PRP website (<https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/>) and fill out that form. You can see a position description within the form.
- 2) Email us at peaceriverpicklers@gmail.com.
- 3) Contact me directly at rocknpickleball@gmail.com or phone or text me at (269) 375-7895.

This is a great opportunity for you to give back to this wonderful club and support your pickleball community.

Tom Ward, Volunteer Coordinator

New 3.5 Level Clinic

Peace River Picklers 4.0 & 3.5 Advanced Clinic Openings

In addition to PRP offering the 4.0 Advanced Clinics, we are now opening the clinics to our 3.5 skilled players. Both clinics will offer the same content!! This expansion is based on recommendations that clinics work best when all players are at the same skillset level. We have been challenged meeting our ratio of instructor/player level, and splitting the teams will enable a more sustainable ratio and allow instructors to focus more on the individuals.

The 3.5 Advanced Clinics are now open for signup and will begin on Monday, January 18, 2021. Please go to [PeaceRiverPicklers.com](https://peaceriverpicklers.com) (<https://peaceriverpicklers.com>) to sign-up for this event.

Thank you!



Peace River Picklers Changes



From Deb Sarkisian, President

On behalf of myself and the PRP board, I would like to thank Doug Gammie for his many contributions. Doug is leaving the board after six years of dedicated service to Peace River Picklers. We thank you for all of your help and guidance along the way during this past year. Doug is our club historian and our go-to-guy for net maintenance. Thank you for continued support to help with the nets. We appreciate all you have done for this organization!! You will be missed.

And with Doug's departure we gain a new board member - Tom Ward. Tom, we welcome you to the board of Peace River Picklers and look forward to your fresh perspective and new ideas to help further elevate this club to the best pickleball club in Southwest, FL. 2021 is going to be a great year for PRP!!



The Pickle Vine — Changes

Pickle Vine Editor Katie Gove has advised that she must regrettably relinquish her position for health reasons, although she will continue to author occasional articles of interest to pickleballers. We are very sorry to see this development, but thank Katie for her significant contributions and wish her all the best.

Of course this means that we could now use a new editor, preferably someone who would be interested in reporting on local PRP events and activities and could also include some associated photographic content.



Since this is the February issue, we would like to post a lovely relevant quote from David Viscott:

“To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides.”

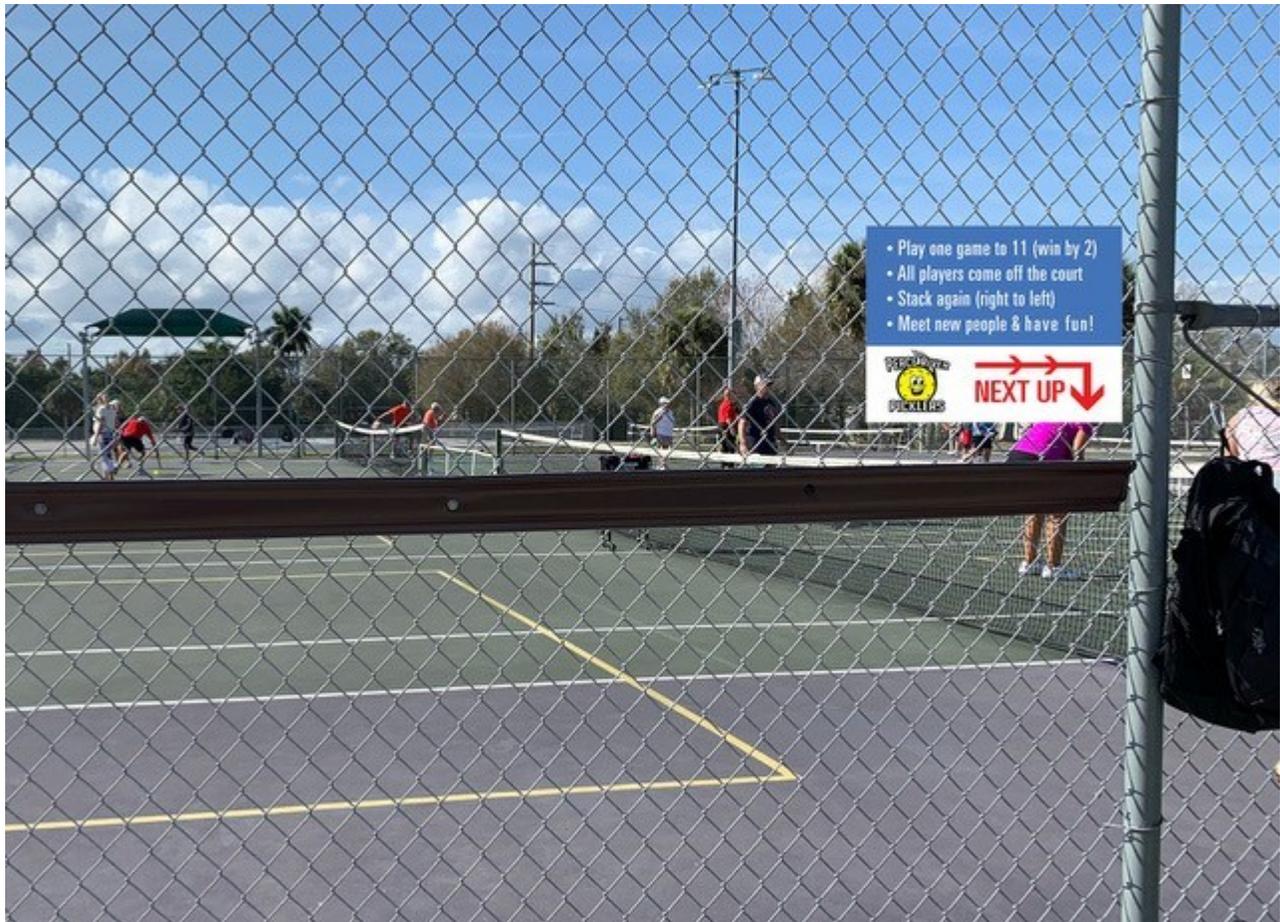


New Paddle Troughs at South County Regional Park

New paddle troughs have been installed at South County Regional Park to facilitate social play. With eight lighted courts, available portable nets, adjacent covered gazebos and seating, abundant parking, a portable john and now paddle troughs, it is a superb resource for Charlotte County pickleball players.

PRP members can find the combination for the net locks, which was changed at the annual meeting, at:

<https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/net-code>



“Trough definition: a long, narrow, open receptacle, usually boxlike in shape, used chiefly to hold water or food for animals.” Or paddles! Are dictionaries saying something about pickleball players?

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.

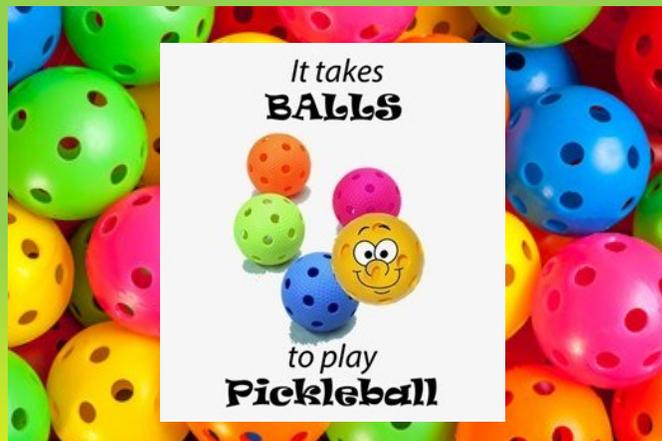
Make sure you enter & exit the courts when you have all 4 players together. ***Move on/off the court quickly*** so that you are not holding up another group’s game. ***Close the gate after last person enters or exits!***

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!

Following these simple Pickleball “court etiquette” guidelines will create a fun & enjoyable open play experience for all!!



Pickleball Around the Web

The Drop Serve

The USA Pickleball Rules Committee has released new rules changes for 2021. These include a few surprises, like elimination of the “let” serve and introduction of a provisional drop serve. With an effective date of 01/25/2021, there are some changes that you can expect to see in your games soon.

One of the most significant impacts on every day play is likely to be the drop serve. If you choose to use the drop serve, you will not have the restrictions of a regular serve i.e. contact below the waist, swinging upwards at contact, etc.

The below youtube video link provides information on ways to effectively use this new “provisional” serving technique.

<https://youtu.be/dPYTI6ly08k>

Capturing the NVZ

Once again, PickleballMAX produces an article that avid pickleball players can certainly relate to. The subject is the non-volley zone (NVZ), aka “the kitchen”. We have all heard that points are more easily won when both partners are positioned at the NVZ line. On offense, it provides better angles to more easily attack the ball by hitting it downward at our opponents’ feet. On defense, it makes it tougher for opponents to hit the ball where we are most vulnerable....at our feet. But for the average player, rushing to the kitchen may not always be the best move. Pros and cons are discussed here.

<https://www.pickleballmax.com/2018/10/capturing-the-nvz-strategic-advance-or-kamikaze-mission/>

5 Intermediate Mistakes

Mark Rennison of Third Shot Sports wrote an interesting article aimed at the majority of pickleball players...those of us at the “intermediate” level. While acknowledging a considerable amount of variability in our sport—ball height, speed, spin, distance and direction plus player movement, wind and sun—he cites several habits and mistakes that may be common to many of us. A good review for us mid-of-the-roaders....

<https://www.thirdshotsports.com/articles/2018/3/15/5-intermediate-mistakes>

And on the same page, Mark, a 5.0 pro player and coach, has a video entitled “Pickleball Strategy: Avoid the Middle”, using a plastic chair as a partner to explain his reasoning. Some good competitive logic in this clip.



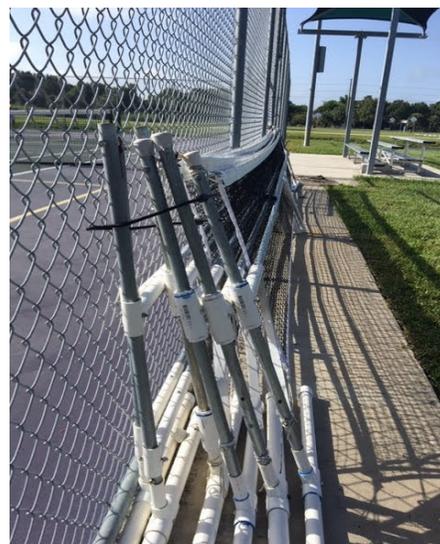
Pickleball Nets



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.



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

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

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.**

The Board of Directors appreciates your adherence to this Code of Conduct. Please feel free to contact any one of us with any concerns.

Deb Sarkisian, Jean McGee, Laurie Price, Heather Washik, Bruce McPhee, Mary Stewart and Tom Ward

Professional Pickleball Player Rankings

Note: Numerous groups rank the pros and all do not agree.

See the basis for rankings in the following two organizations.

(Note: No change in rankings or points since previous issue)

Top pro rankings as listed by the Professional Pickleball Association as of 01/13/2021

Ranking based on player results in tournaments on the PPA Grand Slam Tour.

Player	Points		Player	Points
Men's Singles			Women's Doubles	
Ben Johns	3000		Simone Jardim	3000
Tyson McGuffin	1510		Lucy Kovalova	3000
Zane Navratil	960		Jessie Irvine	1950
Women's Singles			Mixed Doubles	
Simone Jardim	2500		Simone Jardim	3000
Irina Tereschenko	2250		Ben Johns	3000
Michelle Esquivel	1600		Jessie Irvine	1660
Men's Doubles			Jeffrey Warnick	1660
Ben Johns	2700		Lucy Kovalova	1650
Matt Wright	2700		Matt Wright	1650
Riley Newman	1730			

Top Pro Rankings as listed by Pickleball Global as of 01/13/2021

Ranking based on the best 12 tournament results during the last 52 weeks.

Player	Points		Player	Points
Men's Singles			Women's Doubles	
Ben Johns	11000		Simone Jardim	8450
Tyson McGuffin	6850		Lucy Kovalova	7800
Jay Devilliers	5250		Irina Tereschenko	3950
Women's Singles			Mixed Doubles	
Irina Tereschenko	5200		Ben Johns	11000
Simone Jardim	5000		Simone Jardim	10600
Michelle Esquivel	3950		Lucy Kovalova	6150
Men's Doubles			Riley Newman	6150
Ben Johns	10750		Matt Wright	5800
Riley Newman	8100		Irina Tereschenko	5700
Tyson McGuffin	7900			

Pickler Playgrounds

Englewood, FL

Englewood Sports Complex	1300 S. River Rd, Englewood, FL 34223	941-681-3742
Tringali Park recreation Center	3460 N. Access Rd, Englewood, FL 34224	941-861-5000

Port Charlotte, FL

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, FL

Rotonda Community Park	100 Rotonda Blvd, E Rotonda, FL 33947	941-681-3742
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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





Future Events

G\$ Play Mix for Ca\$h @ Pickleplex®	Jan 16-17, 2021
G\$ Mens/Ladies for Ca\$h @ Pickleplex®	Jan 23-24, 2021
G\$ for First Time Tournament Players @ Pickleplex®	Jan 30, 2021
World Pickleball Championship	Feb 3-7, 2021
Spring Fling @ Pickleplex®	Mar 19-21, 2021
For the full calendar of PRP events & details: https://www.peacriverpicklers.com/ For Pickleplex® event details: https://www.pickleplex.org/calendar	



Mission Statement

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.

Upcoming Southwest Florida Pickleball Tournaments

Lucy Kitcher Gamma Sundial Championship....Sanibel, FL 01/16-18/2021

American Pickleball Endless Summer Series....Fort Myers, FL 01/22-24/2021

Winter Classic....Naples, FL 01/29-31/2021

American Pickleball Endless Summer Series....Fort Myers, FL 02/12-14/2021

St. Pete Grand Slam....St. Petersburg, FL 02/13/2021 (see PRP FB page)

Simone Jardim PPA Florida Grand Slam....Tampa, FL 02/25-28/2021

Southern Tropics....Naples, FL 03/06-08/2021

2021 Hopen its Open....Esterro, FL 04/08-11/021

Minto US Open Pickleball Championships....Naples, FL 04/17-24/2021

Lucy Kitcher Gamma Sundial Championship....Sanibel, FL 09/24-26/2021

More info on these and other tournaments can be found at:
https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt_main.pl