



## Special Issue

June, 2020

### **Pickleball in Punta Gorda Resumes as players cautiously return to the courts**

On Wednesday, May 6th, The Punta Gorda City Council gave the go-ahead to reopen recreation spots around the city effective Friday, May 8th. As of Friday, the city's pickleball courts at Gilchrist Park were available for play, as were the Charlotte County courts at South County Regional Park.

PicklePlex® of Punta Gorda also announced the reopening of their courts on the campus of Florida Southwestern State College effective Friday, May 8th.

This special issue is in celebration of our return to the courts!



We welcome newsletter submissions, suggestions, comments.

Co-editors: Katie Gove (keg.5671@gmail.com), Jack Laflamme (ccb50@comcast.net)

Tournament Correspondent: Maureen Blanton (mblanton1160@gmail.com)

# Pickleplex® Re-opening – May 8th, 2020

The re-opening of Pickleplex® brought back numerous familiar faces to the courts, with appropriate social distancing and an increased frequency of singles play and hand sanitizer. Below is a collage of some of the many players who welcomed the opportunity to get back on the courts.



# From the PicklePlex® Board of Directors

May 6, 2020

## PicklePlex® COVID-19 Pickleball Etiquette

Yeah! We are going to be open again! The eyes of Charlotte County will be upon us, so we need to demonstrate what we know to be true---- Pickleball players know how to follow the rules. Open Friday, May 8. Sunrise to sunset (no lights) daily.

### Required practices:

- Social distancing is a must- please stay 6' apart from each other especially when waiting for your next game.
- Please do not touch your face and wash your hands often.
- Please bring your own chairs. There will be no seating at the tables.
- Please wait until the previous group is completely out of the court and away from the gate before you begin to enter.
- Please bring your own hand wipes or sanitizing liquid. (a mixture of 4 tsp. of laundry bleach to 1 qt. of water works well)- please use outside the court area only!
- Please bring your own water. The drinking fountain will not be available.
- Paddles will be stacked in single file so that the handles do not touch. Please only touch your own equipment - no sharing or trading of paddles. Clean the handles and balls between games.
- Please do not touch paddles or high five at the end of games - just say "Good game" or wave your paddles.
- When you have finished play, please practice social distancing. It is better not to stand around visiting until other statewide restrictions are lifted.

### Suggested practices if you need to be more cautious when playing:

- Set up play dates with your own group of players.
- Play singles or skinny singles- one game to 11 win by 2 then exit the court if others are waiting to play
- Play in the afternoon when the courts are less crowded.

## From the City of Punta Gorda

# PICKLEBALL GUIDELINES

Social distancing required; no gatherings of more than 10 people.

Schedule games among your own group of players and consider playing during times when courts are less crowded.

Wait until the previous group is completely off the court and away from the gate before entering.

Practice good hygiene and sanitize equipment frequently.

Use your own equipment—no sharing or trading of paddles.

Play singles or skinny singles and one game to 11 win by 2 when others are waiting to play.

Be a good sport by acknowledging play verbally or with a wave of paddles at the end of a game.

When finished, please do not gather around to watch others. Spread out and enjoy the rest of the park.



Stay home if you're sick or if someone at home has COVID-19.



No gatherings of more than 10 people.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



Keep at least six feet between you and other people.



Punta Gorda

# PARK AMENITY CDC GUIDELINES



Stay home if you're sick or if someone at home has COVID-19.



No gatherings of more than 10 people.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



Keep at least six feet between you and other people.

For more information please visit  
[www.cityofpuntagordafl.com](http://www.cityofpuntagordafl.com)



Punta Gorda

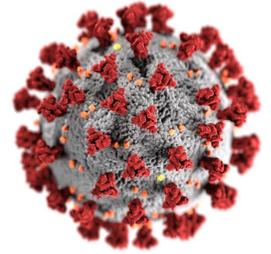


# Images that became a part of daily life

 **COVID-19 RESPONSE**  
Beginning **Monday, March 23, 2020**, the City of Punta Gorda's Pickleball Courts are **CLOSED** due to the COVID-19 situation. For up to date information please visit [www.cityofpuntagordafl.com](http://www.cityofpuntagordafl.com)



**Punta Gorda**



## **Picklers in Charlotte County are looking for ways to help.**

The landscape has changed since the December World Pickleball Championship at the PicklePlex®. As we inch back during reopening, life has shifted from the nets down, empty courts, and community closure. Today, as we work toward reopening, we see many changes.

### **We see a community in need.**

In response to the COVID-19, to stay safe and keep our community healthy, we went into quarantine. The effects are devastating and far-reaching. The economy came to a standstill. With the business of pickleball down, revenues that help run the courts disappeared. When the US Open Pickleball Championships in Naples, Florida, canceled, money was lost. According to Jack Wert, executive director of the Naples, Marco Island Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau, the estimated loss in taxes and hospitality is 2 million dollars in Collier County. PicklePlex® and Peace River were also affected after receiving no tournament income due to cancellations; the fees for leagues and court rentals also disappeared. Hopefully, we can get back to our tournament schedule soon.

### **How can the pickleball community help prevent the Coronavirus from further impacting our friends and neighbors in Charlotte County?**

All sectors of our community have been affected. One of the hardest hit is the hospitality industry as many out of work are finding themselves in the food lines. The players felt helpless. How could we help? Typically, over the year, we would run several food drives at the courts for the collection of non-perishables. With no play and social distancing, members from Peace River and the players from Pickleplex® set up a virtual food drive.

### **Non-profits helping non-profits.**

The fundraiser, posted on Peace River Picklers Inc. and Pickleplex® Facebook pages, generated four times the expected goal! As of this writing, 61 people contributed, coming in shy of \$4000.00. Thank you. The all-volunteer local food banks at St Vincent de Paul will use the funds for food to replenish their shelves. The volunteer resources and supplies are still low, demand is high, and we will continue to see our non-profits, who serve the community in need, as well as the clients they serve.

### **Now what? Check out the new normal.**

As we slowly venture out, armed with the knowledge on how to stay safe, get out and safely visit the neighborhood. Check out your favorite mom-and-pop restaurant. Maybe they have a great set up for take out, if not safe dining. Call in a take out order, or set up a delivery. See if our local shops are selling online or taking appointments. Keep an eye out to see where and how you can help. When you do go out stay safe and social distance on.

**Let's do what we can to get Charlotte County back up and running.**



PEACE RIVER  
PICKLERS

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of Peace River Picklers, Inc. pickleball club is to promote pickleball through education, clinics and competitive tournaments to residents of Charlotte County and surrounding areas as well as providing opportunities for competitive and social pickleball activities. Our overall theme is to encourage sportsmanship and camaraderie through fun and exercise.

## Up for a creative challenge?

We are looking for your suggestions on a slogan for the new pickleball social distancing and safe play guidelines. While we hope to return to something near “normal” at some point, that point might be a while in coming. In the meantime, we would like to find a slogan, a phrase, an expression that could represent the current guidance for play on the pickleball courts. If you have a proposal, please submit it by June 1st to either of our editors listed on the first page.

Of course, we would need to recognize the best entry with an appropriate reward....we’re thinking maybe a bottle of hand sanitizer, a mask and a package of wipes. Plus recognition in the July/August issue of that prominent and widely read pickleball publication



**Future Events**

Memorial Day	May 25th
Flag Day	June 14th
Fathers' Day	June 21st
LevelUp Pickleball Camp (with Tyson McGuffin) @ Pickleplex®	Oct 16, 17, 18
PicklePlex® Tournament	Oct 31– Nov 1
World Pickleball Championship @ Pickleplex®	Dec 16–20
APP Master's Tournament @ PicklePlex®	Jan 6–10, 2021



**FOR ADDITIONAL  
News and Events  
on the Web**

Peace River Picklers

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

Facebook :Peace River Picklers

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PicklePlex®

<https://www.pickleplex.org/>

Facebook: Pickleplex of Punta Gorda

As your new editors, we take this opportunity to express our thanks and gratitude to Ginny MacDonald and Sue Meyer for founding this club publication and doing a fantastic job of nursing it through its first two years. They were the architects, the creators, the designers of this fine club resource and we will be hard-pressed to follow in their shoes. Their efforts are much appreciated, and they will always be “Editors Emeriti”.



# In Memoriam

May 13, 2020

We lost one of our local pickleball players this week. Johnny Carroll, best known as “Johnny Two Shades” lost his battle with his pain. He will always be remembered as that colorful, unique personality. Almost always with 2 pairs of glasses, sometimes with two paddles and a cane, he would still hit some amazing shots! He loved his music, stuffed bear, and his pickleball friends. We understand that he was an outstanding college basketball player and a poker player by profession. With all his physical injuries, he was still a competitive pickleball enthusiast. We imagine that we all have our favorite “Johnny” stories. We invite you to come out and celebrate his life by wearing an outfit that Johnny would have approved to play pickleball to music and share your stories on Wednesday, May 20th. Plan to gather around 6 pm.

Facebook posting by Ted Kegeris, President, Pickleplex® of Punta Gorda, Inc. on May 13, 2020

