

Galway County Pickleball Club

Code of Conduct

Approved by the Committee of Galway County Pickleball Club - 24/02/23

- Galway County Pickleball Club Members and their guests who participate in the game of pickleball, training, and associated events, be it at any venue, agree to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner both on and off the courts.
- Members agree that the goal is to provide an environment where all players can play the game to the best of their ability, to learn, and most importantly, to have fun! Respect must be shown to all, both on and off the courts.
- Good sportsmanship must be always be exhibited when playing or observing others. Refusing to play with a less experienced player is considered unsportsmanlike.
- Under no circumstances may a member act in an intimidating manner or direct any form of foul or abusive language or gestures at others on or near the courts.
- Members must be respectful of opposition players and those on adjacent courts. Unnecessary interruptions are to be avoided.
- Members shall refrain from verbally or physically abusing opponents, officials, or spectators; any form of harassment, including sexual harassment; the use of profane, insulting, or otherwise offensive language or gestures; the use of power or authority in an attempt to coerce another person.
- Members shall respect the property of others and not wilfully cause damage.
- Members shall comply, at all times, with the Club's, policies, procedures, rules and regulations. They will also comply fully with all current health and safety protocols, as required by the individual venues.
- Members will not engage in any behaviour that would endanger the health, safety, or well-being of others.
- It is unsportsmanlike to over-celebrate points won or to taunt or degrade the opposition when they miss a shot or lose a point. Keep fun in the game. However, light-hearted ribbing is part of pickleball.
- Always respect decisions made by the team on the receiving side.
- Do not take advantage of an opposing team whose skill level may be lower by running the score up. In one-sided games, use the opportunity to practice different shots, or even, with permission, offer to coach your opponent, in a positive, helpful manner.
- Learn and play by the official rules of pickleball as set out by the IFP (International Federation of Pickleball).
- Members will dress in safe and appropriate attire, including proper footwear.
- To ensure safety, do not play on a wet court.
- Remain hydrated and bring water to all sessions.
- The Committee reserve the right to accept or reject, membership to those individuals detrimental to fun, sportsmanship, enjoyment of members or any persons creating undo problems for the Board. No membership refund will accompany termination.

RULES OF PLAY

If a ball is hit into another court, immediately YELL "**BALL ON COURT**". If the ball is to be returned to you, raise your paddle in the air to get the attention of the player returning the ball.

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If a ball rolls onto your court, call out "**BALL**". If you hear "**BALL**" called from another court, STOP PLAY AT ONCE! When attempting to return the ball to the appropriate court/server, return it in a safe and efficient manner.

Announce the score before each service.

Players will call the lines on their side of the court.

Spectators do not make line calls.

No players should question an opponent's call unless asked.

All "out" calls must be made "instantly", otherwise the ball is presumed "in" and still in play.

In doubles play, if one player calls the ball "out" and the partner calls it "in", then doubt exists and the ball must be declared "in".

Line calls should be promptly signalled by hand or voice, regardless of how obvious they may seem.

All players should strive for accuracy in making line calls.

The opponent gets the benefit of the doubt on the line calls made.

SAFETY ON THE COURT

If someone falls on the court, all play **STOPS** until their needs are addressed. A first aid kit is available at all venues. Player safety is a priority.

If you are crossing an active court to get onto a vacant court or to leave a court, wait until their current point is over. Let them know you are there before you cross. This is both an etiquette and safety issue.

Players are encouraged to wear protective eyewear, both indoors and outdoors, to avoid injury.

BE SAFE AND HAVE FUN!