

# Court Etiquette for Recreational Play

**Remember to keep the fun in recreational games. Treat others how you want to be treated.**

## Prior to play

- Introduce yourself to your partner and opponents if you do not know them.
- If there are any special modifications needed due to player mobility or health issues (no lobs, etc.), agree to these modifications before you begin playing.

## Serving

- Before serving, make sure the receiver is ready to receive the ball. If the server calls the score incorrectly, stop, agree on the correct score, and then continue.
- If you are not ready to receive the serve, hold up your hand or turn around so your back is to the other team.

## During Play

- If a ball from another court enters your court or if a ball from your court goes onto an adjacent court, call “ball” and stop play. Replay any rally affected by the interference of a ball. If another player or spectator comes onto your court, stop play and restart the rally.
- Each team is wholly responsible for out-of-bounds calls on their side of the court. If the receiving team can’t make the call, assume the ball was in. Avoid making line calls that occur on the opponent’s side of the net unless they ask. Spectators should never signal in or out. Call the balls in or out fairly. If your partner calls a ball out, but you know it was in; correct their call.

- Because it is often difficult to hear, use “in” and “out” hand signals if the ball was close to a boundary line. In: flat hands/palms down or thumb or index finger pointing down. Out: arm up moving in the direction of the ball’s path or thumb or index finger pointing up.
- When entering or exiting the court, wait until a rally is over and then briskly walk past. If you are on an end court, you should walk the far side. If you aren’t playing, don’t loiter or chat near the baselines.
- If you are playing against a team that has a strong player and a weak player, avoid hitting the ball exclusively to the weak player. The strong player wants to enjoy some play, too.
- It’s also a good idea to call shots (yours, mine) to avoid accidentally hitting your partner with your paddle. A safety reminder: NEVER run backwards.
- Avoid hitting the ball very hard against players who are much weaker or don’t have the skill to defend themselves. It is polite to apologize for inadvertently hitting players hard with the ball.
- Provide positive reinforcement to your partner rather than a display of frustration. Avoid coaching unless asked to do so. Complement your partner or players from the other team if they make a good shot.
- Shouting at or gesticulating at opponents to distract them is strictly prohibited. Profanity is discouraged.

#### After the game

- Always meet in the center after a game, touch paddles, and thank the other team for providing the enjoyment of a game. Win or lose, they’ll be many more games to play.
- Collect your ball when your game is over and place it down on center court, in the ball bucket, or hand it to a player coming onto the court. Do not let the ball roll onto or near neighboring courts.