

Huntsville Pickleball Club

Policies and Rules

As of September 26, 2017

The purpose of the Huntsville Pickleball Club is to: provide members a fun, recreational and competitive social activity; establish policies for the safe and equitable use of any equipment or facilities owned or utilized; promote and encourage participation in the programs and activities of the Huntsville Pickleball Club; and promote and develop Pickleball in Huntsville and surrounding areas. To this end, the following policies and rules have been established.

1. United States of America Pickleball Association (USAPA) and International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) Policies and Rules will be the foundation of the Huntsville Pickleball Club's on court play.
2. At all of our playing locations, we have a supply of paddles for new players to use while they are first experiencing the wonderful game of Pickleball. During the first few weeks of play, we encourage participants to decide whether they want to continue playing Pickleball with the Huntsville Pickleball Club. To continue participating in all activities of the Huntsville Pickleball Club, you are required to pay the annual membership dues (currently \$20.00 for the calendar year) and supply your own paddle.
3. Our regular system for equitable play is to line up paddles. To signify your desire to play, you would place your paddle to the far right (overlapping those paddles in line) of the existing group of paddles. The first four paddles in the line (left to right) represent the next four people playing on the designated court. At times, other systems and rotations may be used to facilitate play. Examples of other systems:
 - a. Winners of a game stay for the next game, but must change partners, with the next two players in line. A player can not play more than two successive games unless there are no players waiting.
 - b. Paddles are lined up with the winners of each game going into one line and the losers going into another. The first four players alternately from winners line and losers line play the next game.
 - c. Groups of two players can 'bundle' their rackets (create a group that will play together). They have to move backward, as required, in the selected rotation to insure they fall into the next grouping of players scheduled to play.
4. The following "Levels of Play" may be used at times for court designation, available playing times and locations, tournament brackets, etc.:

Competitive (A) Semi-competitive (B) Recreational (C) Beginner/Novice (D)

5. If a person chooses to answer their cell phone while playing a game, they must leave the court for the remainder of the game. If they wish to play another game, they will put their paddle at the “end of the line”. The player leaving the game will be replaced by the next person in line wanting to play. At the conclusion of that game, the person “substituting” will be allowed to place their paddle back where it was in line (or at the front of the line if their previous position has already passed).
6. If a player is not “readily available” when their turn comes up, their paddle will be placed at the rear of line.
7. Line calls are to be made by players on the court in harmony with Section 6 of the IFP Rulebook. Non-Volley Zone Faults (IFP Section 9) and Service Foot Faults (IFP Section 4.D.) may be called by designated persons if available. A team may request that line calls be made by designated persons if available.
8. The best locations for beginner/novice play are Max Luther and Brahan Spring, where we have the most availability. Site representatives and other more experienced players will be on hand to work with these players. New players will be encouraged to read the Pickleball Rules (available on-line via our web site pickleball-huntsville.com) and attend beginner clinics before they compete at a site. As players’ abilities grow, they are invited and encouraged to play at all locations and to help in the development of newer players.
9. Member’s cannot currently reserve court time through the club. Friends can practice outdoors any time at the following locations: Willow Park (Weatherly and Bailey Cove Road), Phipot Park (near Optimist Park), and The park on California Street. For those who do reserve court time, the agreement is between the City of Huntsville and the group who reserves the court time. Huntsville Pickleball Club has no involvement.
10. All players are expected to help set up and take down nets at all playing locations and to pick up stray pickleballs at the end of their game.
11. The Site Representative (member of the Executive Committee representing that site) is the final authority for the type of game being played and the rotational system in use at any time. Based upon waiting time for courts, the site representative may alter the scoring in use for games, e.g., play to nine points and win by one or two; play to eleven points and win by one or two; play to fifteen points and win by two; or use scoring where every point counts instead of just counting the points made by the server.
12. According to Huntsville Recreation Department, you must be 18 or older to play without a guardian present prior to 3:00 PM Monday thru Friday and 16 or older to play without a guardian present after 3:00 PM Monday- thru Friday and on the weekends.