

## **Pickleball Etiquette Guidelines**

Pickleball is an exciting, fast-moving, engaging sport that is both physically and mentally challenging. According to the Sun Lakes Pickleball Club Cottonwood (SLPCC) By-Laws, the purpose of the SLPCC shall be:

- To play and to promote the game of pickleball in Cottonwood Palo Verde at Sun Lakes (CWPV) and
- To provide a fun, healthy, recreational activity for all members of SLPCC, including those with some limited movement issues.

At SLPCC, we have over three hundred members that have access to 4 available courts that are used for instruction and clinics, practice and game time.

One role of the SLPCC is to create an enjoyable experience that utilizes court space most efficiently and provides an opportunity for members to improve/maintain fitness while playing and competing at a level that is the most comfortable, challenging, fun and safe for them.

In order to enhance each player's Pickleball experience, a set of Pickleball Etiquette Guidelines have been created. They provide a framework for all who utilize the facilities to maintain a respectful, engaging and fun Pickleball environment at the Cottonwood Courts. Each member of SLPCC is expected to understand and apply these guidelines during Pickleball play and Pickleball related activities.

### **Pickleball Etiquette Guidelines**

1. Use the Pickleball schedule to identify the time slots available for play for your skill level. Sign-up for court time for your skill level using the online system.
2. During Club court time, only Club members can use the courts. If there is an empty court, a Club member from a different level than the level designated for that time may use the empty court for practice or play. However, if at anytime, a player at the level designated for that time wishes to use the court for practice or play, the non-scheduled player must vacate the court immediately upon being asked.
3. If you are leaving or entering the court area, wait to move through other courts of play until a point is finished and before the next serve occurs. In order to limit the amount of disruption to the games still in progress, please coordinate court exit/entry with other players and move through the active game as **quickly** as possible, shutting and latching the gate after entering or exiting the courts.

4. During organized play, after the first game is completed, the losing team exits the court of play, the winning team splits up and two new players enter the court of play. For the remainder of organized playtime, after playing two games in a row, players exit the courts so new players can rotate in.
5. Players waiting to rotate into play should place their paddle on the green paddle-board in the order of the next available space on the board, beginning with the left side of the paddle-board. This allows players to play with and against a variety of players.
  - a. If your scheduled "level" playtime is in the A/B courts, use the A/B section of board, and if your scheduled "level" playtime is the C/D courts, use the C/D section. If all 4 courts are reserved for the same level, use the full board.
  - b. If you wish to rest longer or mix the four-some you are playing with, you can move your paddle farther to the right on the paddle board to allow others to play ahead of you.
6. During play, the team receiving the ball is responsible to call if the ball is in or out. If the two players on the team are not certain about the call, the advantage of the call is given to the other team.
7. All players will vacate the court area at the end of their scheduled court time to allow the next group to have their full court time. Court clocks are provided for reference.
8. Be respectful in interactions. If there is a difference in understanding:
  - Avoid triangulation. Talk directly with the individual you have a concern with regarding the situation...not with others.
  - Get the facts before you act.
  - Listen to the other person and seek to understand them.
  - Refrain from using foul or threatening language
9. All members of SLPCC will also abide by the Sun Lakes HOA 11 Homeowner Code of Conduct.