



Washington County | Waukesha

HOUSE RULES and ETIQUETTE for PICKLEBALL

WELCOME. At UWM-Waukesha, our “open play” pickleball is an inclusive program where all skill levels are welcome. Please be considerate of everyone by following the guidelines below. We want our pickleball program to be safe, fun, and appropriately competitive for players of all abilities. UWM-Waukesha Continuing Education has the right to change any of the below as the program needs change. To make the program a success, please remember as we make changes to be patient and flexible.

Prior to registering and playing in UWM-Waukesha’s open play, a player must meet at least one of the following two requirements:

1. Within the past 5-6 months, complete a class for beginners, for example at UWM-Waukesha, the class ***Pickleball for Beginners***. Get on a waitlist for the next scheduled class if one is not available. Otherwise complete any comparable class taught by a certified pickleball instructor.
2. Meet the criteria for a “beginner”. See the document ***Criteria for Playing on Designated Courts per Skill Level***. The criteria are questions based on skill assessment sheets published by USA Pickleball and IPTPA.

During open play, court time should not be taken for instructing someone who does not meet one of the two requirements described above.

SAFETY & ETIQUETTE:

- Follow UWM-Waukesha’s safety procedures and *Code of Conduct*.
- Follow what’s in USA Pickleball’s *Sportsmanship Guide*: <https://usapickleball.org/member-news/usa-pickleball-sportsmanship-guide/>. Keep the pickleball community safe, fun, and inviting. Promote good sportsmanship among all players. Examples:
 - When in doubt, don’t call it out. Make all questionable calls in favor of your opponent.
 - Yell “Ball, ball!” and stop play when a wayward ball goes on another court.
 - Don’t give advice unless a player asks for it. Check if the player wants more.
 - If any players are Deaf, please reference the supplied American Sign Language score cards

RULES & TERMINOLOGY:

- Know the rules of the game from the current year's **Official Rulebook** from USA Pickleball.org. A copy of the current year's rulebook should be available on the courts to help educate players, and to resolve all disputes about a game scenario or about a specific rule.
- Follow the rules of the game including how to serve legally, how to keep and say (or sign) the score correctly, how to make line calls and "fault calls", and how to play without faulting in the NVZ.
- Use the proper terminology for the sport including the terms "rally" "volley" "groundstroke" "side-out" "service court" "double-bounce" and "non-volley zone". See rulebook Section #3.
- Follow the general expectations of where a player should stand and move on the court especially at the start of every rally. However, there are **no** rules in pickleball that dictate where a player can or cannot stand except for the server at the time of serving.
- Follow "house rules". See below.

HOUSE RULES for UWM-WAUKESHA INDOOR PICKLEBALL:

- **WHAT IS THE STANDARD BALL?** Onix Fuse indoor ball - orange. Non-standard balls should not mix with – or substitute for – this standard ball which is provided by UWM-Waukesha.
- **WHO SERVES FIRST and WHAT'S the STARTING SCORE?** The team with their backs to the outer wall serves first. By rule, the starting score for every game is "Zero-Zero-Two".
- **WHO WINS THE GAME?** Normally the game is won by the first team getting eleven (11) points but must win by two (2) or more points. To shorten games, a Court Coordinator may declare games are won by the team first to eleven points *without* having to win by two points. To shorten games more, it may be declared games are won by the first team to nine points.
- **WHAT IS THE PLAYER ROTATION? *** For UWM-Waukesha's open play pickleball, the standard player rotation is described below. This rotation is intended to help ensure no two players stay together dominating the courts, and so players mix with each other, playing with different partners. The standard rotation for all courts (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Flex) is . . .
 - When a game is over, the two players who lost the game must leave the court and go to the end of the waiting line (end of the paddle queue line).
 - The next two players waiting to get in, come on the court and split, one on each side of the court.
 - The winners of the completed game stay on the court but split to play the next game on opposite sides.
 - **However**, if a winner has just won two games in a row, then that player must leave the court (with the losers of the game) and go to the end of the waiting line. The next

player waiting to get in comes on the court and plays with one of the other three players.

* The above rotation assumes there are no players waiting in the queue for the court(s) within a designated level. If after checking and confirming there are no players waiting, then four players could play another game with the expectation they switch partners.

Player rotation is subject to change based on the determination of UWM-Waukesha.

- **HOW WILL THE COURTS BE MONITORED for house rules, court designations and player rotations?**

1. The Pickleball Court Coordinator who has pickleball experience and authority granted by UWM-Waukesha.
2. A UWM-Waukesha Staff person.
3. In the absence of a VPCC, players by consensus should self-manage the house rules including the court designations and player rotations with support from the Staff person as needed.