



Mono Pickleball Club Court Etiquette Policy

MPC MISSION

To develop and grow the sport of pickleball in the Town of Mono and surrounding communities by:

- Promoting and advancing affordable and equitable* access to the game of Pickleball,
- Making available opportunities for recreational as well as organized play at all levels,
- Providing an environment that encourages sportsmanship and where interactions are respectfully social, safe, and collegial

*Welcoming to participants regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic or racial origin, citizenship, religion or physical ability

Court Etiquette Policy

Rationale:

The overall purpose of this policy is to outline behaviors that will ensure an environment that encourages sportsmanship and where interactions are respectfully social, safe, and collegial.

1. You may praise your partner or opponent who makes a good shot or strategic play. No comment is appropriate when an error occurs. This is also true for the “spectators” (i.e., no “heckling” or coaching is permitted).
2. When a ball rolls onto your court, retrieve it and make eye contact before gently hitting or tossing the same ball back to the appropriate court.
3. When crossing a court behind a game in play, wait until the play has paused then jog past.
4. During recreational play, hit the ball to your opponents as equally as possible; this means not playing ‘keep away’ from the best player and not ‘targeting’ the weaker player.
5. If you are on a court during “open play” with players whose level is obviously different from yours, complete the game (following MPC court etiquette), and afterwards thank the players, and then move on to a game that is more appropriate to your level. Do not overstay your welcome.
6. If you have some “advice” for another player during a game, respectfully ask, “May I give you some advice?” If the answer is no, then accept the answer

and move on. Do not delay a game for more than 15 seconds to give this “informal advise”; instead take 1 or 2 minutes after a game to share your experience *if* it is wanted.

7. During recreational play, if you are obviously the strongest person in your foursome, tone down the competitiveness and hit your opponents’ balls so that they can be returned. Consider this as an opportunity to work on a new skill that you want to develop.
8. Comments re: age, gender, sexual innuendo, ethnic or racial origin are unacceptable, even if intended to be humorous.
9. If you and your partner can’t determine if the ball was in or out the ball should be called **in** without discussion (*This is actually an “official” rule*). As well, the benefit of the doubt on any call goes to your opponent.
10. If you have taken a “spot” by signing up to play at a particular day and time:
 - a. Cancel as soon as possible so someone else can fill your spot,
 - b. arrive on time so the “court monitor” can determine the method of play, particularly necessary for round robin play,
 - c. share the responsibility to prepare and set up/clean up and take down – do not always come at the last moment or leave as soon as time ends – thus avoiding these “shared” tasks.