

Central Park Tennis Club Pickleball Policy

General Information

The Central Park Tennis Club Board of Directors has authorized a “Pickleball Trial” to determine whether pickleball can be added to the Club’s offerings while still maintaining our traditional, superior tennis offering.

The Summer Trial ran from June through September 2022. The Fall and Winter Trial will run from October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023. Tennis court #18 (with additional lines and equipment) will be used to create four outdoor pickleball courts that can be used while still permitting tennis play on Court #18.

The rules for playing pickleball at Central Park are contained in this document, which is subject to change in response to the club’s experiences with coexisting tennis and pickleball. The rules are patterned off the Club’s rules for tennis and, in cases where no specific Club pickleball rule exists, members should refer to the Club’s tennis rules and adhere to them as closely as possible.

Three guidelines apply to all aspects of the Central Park Pickleball Trial:

- 1) Pickleball is intended to augment the Club’s tennis offerings, not replace them. Our tennis offerings will take precedence over the availability of pickleball.
- 2) The Pickleball Trial is intended to be as inclusive of all Club Members as possible – regardless of skill level or experience.
- 3) All members (whether they play pickleball or not) are encouraged to provide feedback on the Pickleball Trial by emailing CPTC.Pickleball@gmail.com.

At the conclusion of the Pickleball Trial the Pickleball Committee will:

- Solicit additional member feedback on the Pickleball Offering
- Compile a report for the Board and membership regarding utilization of the Pickleball offering, lessons learned about integrating pickleball at our tennis club, and feedback from members
- Help the Board to shape (or discontinue) the Club’s pursuit of pickleball in the future.

How and When can I play Pickleball at the Club?

During the fall and winter season, from October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023, pickleball (or tennis) may be played on Court 18 at any time on a first come, first served basis except during Sunday Open Play.

- “Open Play”: Sundays from 2:30 until 5:30 PM
- “Reserved”: all other times, on a first come, first served basis

In Open Play, members sign up as singly or with other people. Players line up their paddles to express interest in playing a game and the next four paddles in line take a court when it becomes available. Win or lose, they add their paddles to the line at the conclusion of the game and do it all again. Need a break? Need to leave early? Can’t show up until later? No problem...just keep your paddle out of the lineup until you’re ready to play again.

Who May Play Pickleball?

All members of Central Park Tennis Club may play pickleball during the times listed above. Wait-listed members may also play pickleball for the same fees as for tennis. Members may also bring guests to play pickleball, following the same guidelines as for tennis (\$15 fee, maximum 1:1 member to guest ratio on a court, maximum 6 times per calendar year for either tennis or pickleball).

How do I Sign Up for Pickleball?

Sign-ups for pickleball use the Gametime Reservation system at <https://cptc.gametime.net/>.

Sign-ups for “Open Play” Pickleball

Open Play Pickleball sign-ups are listed under the “Classes & Events” menu option, and work just like any other class or social. Unless specifically noted, Open Play registration is without charge. Members signed up for “Open Play” are not required to be present at the start of the session, nor are they required to play for the entire session.

Sign-ups for “Reserved” Pickleball

By default, all pickleball courts and times will be blocked as unavailable on the Gametime Pickleball tab. If a player wants to reserve Ct 18A-D for pickleball, the player should first check the Pickleball tab for that day and time to determine if it has already been opened for pickleball. If it has, they can reserve their own pickleball court in Gametime. If it hasn't, the member should call the Front Desk. Staff will mark Ct 18 unavailable for tennis on the Gametime Tennis tab, will sign up the caller for one of the pickleball courts, and mark the remaining pickleball courts as available for self-reservation on that day and time. Pickleball reservations are counted separately from tennis reservations. That is, a member may have one active pickleball reservation *in addition to* one active tennis reservation at any time. Likewise, playing pickleball on a reserved court does not preclude a member from being named on a reserved tennis court on the same day. All other aspects of pickleball reservations are the same as tennis reservations – with two exceptions:

- Up to six members can be signed up for a single court at a single timeslot.
- Failure to show up for a reserved pickleball slot or session will not incur “no show” fees during the Pickleball Trial.

As a courtesy, members should reserve pickleball courts in order (that is, 18A then 18B, then 18C, then 18D). This will keep pickleball's noise and stray balls farther from tennis on Court 17 and minimize the number of pickleball players who need to cross another, active pickleball court to get to their own. Pickleball players are reminded that up to 24 players could be on Court #18 at one time, and to be conscious of the noise and motion that might be a distraction to tennis players on Court #17.

Time to Play Pickleball!

Check-in: All pickleball players must check in at the front desk. Front desk staff can register walk-ons and add players to courts as necessary.

Positioning of Nets: Players on each pickleball court must roll their court's net from its designated storage corner to the appropriate position on their pickleball court. At the end of play each court's pickleball players will return nets to their corner locations – unless the subsequent group is playing pickleball *and is already present*. Please roll nets as close to the fences as possible to avoid hindering tennis play.

Paddles and Balls: Pickleball players may use their own paddles and balls. Additionally, the Club provides a limited number of paddles and balls on a first-come, first-serve basis. Club paddles and balls are in the storage boxes outside the gate of Court 18. Borrowers are responsible for returning equipment to the boxes upon completion of play.

Equipment Stowage: All pickleball equipment must be stowed by the pickleball players by the end of their time slot. Any damage to equipment or courts should be reported to the front desk.