

WINKLER PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

CODE OF CONDUCT

The mission of the Winkler Pickleball Association is to facilitate the growth of pickleball for the enjoyment, health and social engagement of all players offering organized recreational and competitive play, by ensuring opportunities for the continued development of all players in an inclusive environment.

The Winkler Pickleball Association has adopted the following Code of Conduct on and off the courts:

Learn and play by the official rules of pickleball as set out by the USAPA and supported by Pickleball Canada.

Always display behaviour that demonstrates values of respect, fairness, integrity, to all other players both opponents and partners, volunteer officials, and coaches.

Good sportsmanship must always be exhibited when playing or observing others. Refusing to play with a less experienced player is considered unsportsmanlike— win with modesty and lose with dignity. However, light-hearted ribbing is part of pickleball.

1. Do not take advantage of an opposing team whose skill level may be lower by running the score up. In one-sided games, use the opportunity to practice different shots, or even, with permission, offer to coach your opponent, in a positive, helpful manner.
2. A) Announce the score before each service. Players will call the lines on their side of the court. Spectators are in no position to make any calls.

B) No players should question an opponent's call unless asked. All "out" calls must be made "instantly", otherwise the ball is presumed "in" and still in play.

C) In doubles play, if one player calls the ball "out" and the partner calls it "in", then doubt exists, and the ball must be declared "in".

D) All calls should be promptly signalled by hand or voice, regardless of how obvious they may seem.

All players should strive for accuracy in making calls. But remember that if there is any doubt, the ball is "in".

3. While play is in progress, limit distractions to players, such as entering on the courts or creating a distraction that will disrupt the game. Stop play whenever an unsafe situation arises, such as a stray ball, or injured player.
4. Under no circumstances should any member display any behaviour or action that constitutes harassment. Harassment is defined as a comment or conduct directed towards an individual or group, which is offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, degrading or malicious.
5. Under no circumstances should any member use profane language or gestures during or after play on the courts.

When a member of the Winkler Pickleball Association displays ongoing non-sportsmanlike behaviour toward any member or non-member during any club activity play, the offender will be subject to disciplinary action.

Any individual that wishes to bring an incident of non-sportsmanlike conduct to the attention of the Board must do so in writing.

After the investigation of the incident, the offending individual will be provided with a written statement outlining the infractions and the resulting disciplinary action, as follows:

First Offense – a written warning from the Board of Directors.

Second Offense – suspension of membership privileges.

Third Offense – termination of membership rights and privileges.

No membership refund will accompany termination.

The documentation of the incident and reasons for the disciplinary actions will be kept on file by **The Winkler Pickleball Association**.

The decision of the Board is final.