



E.H. Pickleball Club

151 ROBERTS STREET · EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

COURT POLICY Open Play Guidelines

SHOW UP ♦ CONNECT ♦ TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

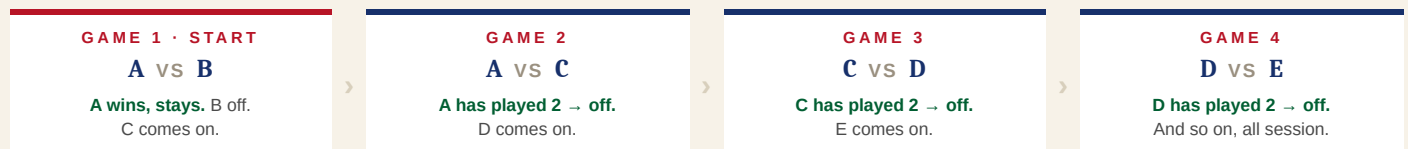
Open play is the front door of this club. You can walk in alone and leave with five people who know your name. These guidelines exist for one reason — so that every player who steps on a court here gets a fair game, a fast rotation, and a welcome. **This is A Place For All.**

1 BEFORE YOU STEP ON A COURT

- ♦ **Check in at the desk. Every player, every session.** No exceptions, including members and guests.
- ♦ **Waiver on file.** One time, first visit. Guests sign before they play, not after.
- ♦ **Non-marking court shoes.** Running shoes and street soles mark the surface and roll ankles. If you're not sure, ask.
- ♦ **Paddles are available** at the desk if you don't have one. Bring water.
- ♦ **Reserve your spot on Court Reserve** — search **EAST HARTFORD RACQUET CLUB**. Walk-ups are welcome when there is room.

2 HOW THE ROTATION WORKS

- 1 **Stack your paddle.** Place your paddle at the back of the rack when you arrive and every time you come off. Your paddle holds your place — you don't have to stand there.
- 2 **Two paddles up, that's the next team on.** Players come on in pairs and stay partners for their whole turn.
- 3 **Games are to 11, win by 1.** Traditional side-out scoring.
- 4 **First game only: winners stay, losers off.** Two new players come on. That is the only game in the session where winning keeps you on the court.
- 5 **Every team after that plays two consecutive games — win or lose — then rotates off.** Two fresh players come on, the team that has played one stays for their second. Nobody camps the court and nobody waits twice as long as the person next to them.
- 6 **Sessions run two hours** as a rule — some blocks on the schedule run longer. Check the posted schedule or Court Reserve.



Every team gets the same thing: **two games on, then back in line.** Winning does not extend your turn and losing does not shorten it. A team rotates off **every single game**, so the line never stalls.

3 COURT ETIQUETTE — THE NINE

- ♦ **Call your own lines.** Benefit of the doubt goes to your opponent, always. If you didn't see it clearly, it was in.
- ♦ **Call the score before every serve.** Loud enough for all four players.
- ♦ **Ball on the court?** Everyone stops. Call "BALL!" the second you see it. Replay the point. Nobody plays through a stray ball.
- ♦ **Retrieve and return.** If a ball leaves your court, hold it until play stops next door, then roll it back — don't fire it.
- ♦ **Paddle taps at the net.** Every game. Winners and losers. It costs nothing.
- ♦ **Coach only when asked.** Unsolicited instruction during open play is the fastest way to make someone not come back. If they ask, help generously.
- ♦ **Keep the pace honest.** No stalling between points, no long stories at the kitchen line while three people wait.
- ♦ **Say the name.** Introduce yourself to the three people you didn't know before the first serve. This is the actual assignment.
- ♦ **Reset the court.** Balls in the bin, water bottles and towels off the deck, gate closed behind you.



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COURT ETIQUETTE · SKILL LEVELS · SAFETY

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4 FINDING YOUR LEVEL

LEVEL	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE
New	You are learning the rules, the serve, and the kitchen. Start with a free intro lesson or a coached session — you'll enjoy open play far more a few weeks in.
3.0 – 3.5	You keep the ball in play, you serve consistently, and you understand the kitchen. You're working on the third shot and staying out of no-man's land.
3.5 – 4.0	You can dink with intent, you get to the line, and you're building a reliable third shot drop. You know where your partner is without looking.
4.0+	Consistent drops, resets under pressure, patient hands battles, and real strategy. You control points instead of surviving them.

IF YOU ARE BRAND NEW

Tell the desk. Say the words "this is my first time" and we will hand you off to someone — a coach, a staff member, or a regular who volunteered. You will not be left standing at the fence trying to figure out how this works. Nobody here started knowing.

SELF-RATE HONESTLY — IN BOTH DIRECTIONS

Rating up hurts the people you play with. Rating down hurts you. If you don't know, ask a coach for a read — it takes one game and it's free. Levels here are a tool for good games, not a ranking of people.

5 SAFETY & THE LINE WE HOLD

- ◆ **Stop for injuries immediately.** Any player on any court can stop play. Get a staff member — do not move an injured player yourself.
- ◆ **Know where the AED is.** Ask on your first visit. It takes ten seconds and it matters once.
- ◆ **No food on the courts.** Water only. Spills come off the surface with somebody's shoe.
- ◆ **Staff can move players between courts** to balance levels or open capacity. It is never personal — it is how we keep games good for everybody.
- ◆ **Zero tolerance for abuse.** Toward players, staff, or officials. One conversation, then you're done for the day. We take care of each other here, and that includes protecting people from the person who forgot to.

THE ROOM

4 courts · 20 players

16 on court, 4 in line. That is the cap, and it is why the rotation is strict.

YOUR TIME ON COURT

About 80% of the session

A team rotates off every game, so your wait is roughly one game — about ten minutes.

SESSION LENGTH

Two hours

Some blocks run longer depending on the schedule. Roughly 8 games per player.

A Place For All

SHOW UP · CONNECT · TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

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E.H. Pickleball Club · Est. 2025

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Booking: Court Reserve — **EAST HARTFORD RACQUET CLUB**
The three pillars come from H.E.A.L. picklebALL commUNITY L.L.C.