

Return to Pickleball Play in Bellingham Parks

Reference Documents

Washington State 4-Phase Approach:

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/chart-washingtons-phased-approach>

USAPA: COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY; Guidance on Safe Return to Play

https://www.usapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-RETURN-TO-PLAY_USAPA.pdf

Phase 2 Universal Guidelines for All Bellingham Park “Sport-Courts” & Surrounding Area:

Recreate & gather in a group of no more than 5 people outside your household.

Maintain 6 foot distancing between non-household members.

Wear a mask when 6 foot distancing from non-household members isn't possible.

Avoid sharing equipment or belongings unless using proper hygiene methods to minimize transmission.

Rationale:

These elements allow each individual who comes to play to have control over their own health and safety, without endangering others.

Likely Elements of Return to Pickleball Play (in collaboration with Park Dept):

(Still in draft)

- > All relevant local and state guideline are in effect.
- > BPC postpones all hosting, scheduled sessions, big group play, & shared use of equipment until Phase 3.
- > We don't yet know if City of Bham will allow only singles, household member doubles partners, and/or all doubles. (We are hoping they will allow doubles.)
- > Pre-arranged play in small groups as there is to be no drop-in, mixing between court groups, or congregating in large groups.
- > Only 4 dedicated pickleball courts available @ Cornwall, as the middle ones will not be in play.
- > Each court will be entered & exited separately.
- > No shared equipment, but players can bring net to set up on “multi-purpose” courts. *(Same rules apply)*.
- > Each court will be allowed only one group waiting at a time. The group or representative will wait outside that court.
- > One-hour maximum play once others are waiting for your court.
- > Court play should be spread-out between sun-up to sun-down to maximize court availability.
- > COB policy currently bans reservations for all Bellingham Park facilities through August 31st. We will continue to pursue an online system that allows for “court use priority”, but unfortunately we don't expect that to happen soon.

Some Elements That Need Addressing

Will Park Dept allow doubles?

Potential for online “Court Use Priority” (or reservation) system?

How will pickleball players “self-monitor” for adherence to key guidelines?

Will BPC supply members with any balls? (Either at no-cost or for a small fee?)

Ongoing court maintenance issues re: court debris;

Reducing opportunities for vandalism;