

## **BPC Pickleball Etiquette & Best Practices**

### **1. Be Respectful & Welcoming**

- Show courtesy to all players and visitors.
- Greet newcomers and make them feel included.
- Compliment good plays—your teammates and your opponents.
- At the end of the game, meet at the net to share thanks and sportsmanship.

### **2. Crossing Courts with Care**

- Wait until a rally is over before crossing an active court.
- Get players' attention before moving through.
- Walk briskly together as a group to minimize disruption.
- Never cross while a player is preparing to serve.

### **3. Tennis Court Consideration**

- Use dedicated pickleball courts first.
- If playing on a tennis court, be mindful of tennis players and offer them the court when appropriate.

### **4. Calling "Ball On"**

- If a ball rolls onto your court or a neighboring one, loudly call "Ball on!" to alert players.
- Return the ball directly to a player, not just anywhere on the court.

### **5. Serving Etiquette**

- Ensure the receiving team is ready before serving.
- Call the score loud and clear before each serve.

### **6. Know Your Skill Level**

- Use the **BPC Skill-Level Self-Assessment Rating Scale** on the website to assess your level and find areas for improvement.

### **7. Inclusive & Balanced Play**

- Engage all players to make the game enjoyable for everyone.
- Avoid targeting weaker opponents unless in true competition—winning isn't everything!

### **8. Play with a Variety of Skill Levels**

- While it's common to prefer similar or stronger opponents, consider playing with those less experienced.
- If you are significantly stronger, moderate your game and use it as a chance to refine specific skills.

### **9. Fair Play & Line Calls**

- When in doubt, make line calls that favor your opponent.
- Call your own faults, including kitchen line (NVZ) violations.
- Do not make line calls on the other side of the net (foot faults may be called if clearly seen).

### **10. Coaching & Advice**

- Avoid giving unsolicited coaching or advice.
- If you'd like to offer a tip, first ask if the player is open to suggestions and respect their response (verbal or nonverbal).
- If you want feedback, don't hesitate to request it!

### **11. Stay Informed**

- Review the **court use guidelines calendar** posted.
- A BPC court host may be available to answer any questions.
- By following these guidelines, we can all contribute to a positive, fair, and fun pickleball experience!