

FAQ for Cornwall Park during Phase 2

All Bellingham Park courts are open to the public. Court “hosts” will not be present during Phase 2. We ask that all users help by reminding each other of the protocols.

Why do we need these restrictions?

Protocols were established in collaboration with the Bellingham Parks & Recreation Department (BPR) and the Bellingham Pickleball Club (BPC) to create a safe environment for all within Washington State and Whatcom County health guidelines. All Bellingham Park courts should follow the same rules.

Why can't we just show up and find people to play with?

We need to limit congregating, as well as minimize the number of people interacting with each other. Additionally, in the event that a player tests positive for Covid-19, it is important that individuals can recall everyone they interacted with at the courts. Anyone wishing to join a player contact directory or “match making” survey in order to make connections for playing, can do so by joining the Bellingham Pickleball Club (with a “pay as you choose” option down to \$0).

What is the Wait Policy? Why can't we have a line & go to the next available court?

Social distancing is a key element in preventing the spread of Covid-19. One line encourages too many players to gather in one place, which is what needs to be avoided. The safest way is for people to play continuously rather than substituting after every game. Players need to remain outside a specific court to avoid gathering with more than 5 people, and let others currently playing on that court know they are waiting. Once others are waiting, the maximum time limit for play is one hour. Hopefully players will be considerate and stop sooner if they have already been playing for a while. (This is similar to tennis rules.)

Do doubles players have priority over singles players?

No. We respect the right of everyone to choose at this time. Some will only want to play with household members, or singles (skinny singles or full court). Likewise, a single with a ball machine can take their turn.

If tennis players come do we have to vacate our “multi-use” court immediately?

No. Last summer, we expected pickleball players to vacate the tennis courts at the conclusion of their game. In September, the Parks Department decided that the courts would be designated as multi-use courts. Pickleball players have equal priority as tennis players on those courts.

Why can't we use the middle courts?

This decision is based on the desire to allow everyone to control their own safety. Using the middle court requires people to move between courts, possibly chase errant balls and does not guarantee everyone can control their own social distancing. When we reach Phase 2.5 or Phase 3, this will be re-evaluated.



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