

Town of Onondaga “Return-to-Play” Pickleball guidelines

The following are suggestions and a general outline of procedures to help mitigate risk and allow for a return of semi-regular play of **ADULT PICKLEBALL**. Many of the suggestions and the attached waiver outline were pulled from USAPA (USA Pickleball Association) Return-to-Play guidelines as well as recommendations from the Town of Lysander, Town of Camillus and the CNY pickleball association. The recreation department recommends these measures to increase the safety for participants while still accommodating the recreation and leisure needs of the community.

Social distancing

- Limit the total number of participants (based on current state regulations on gatherings) on a “first come, first served basis.” Attendees who arrive after max capacity is reached will be asked to stay in their cars until someone leaves.
 - *Our program has not seen outdoor attendance go over 15 on any given day. The average number is usually 8, so maintaining an attendance of 10 participants should not be difficult.*
 - *We will start with a max group size of 11. We can expand on this number as approved size of gatherings is increased.*
 - *The program facilitator will be counted in the number of max attendees.*
- No spectators will be allowed on courts during the time of play.
 - *There has been no history of spectators at our pickleball programs in the past so we do not anticipate this happening anyway.*
- Participants who are not currently playing need to be wearing masks and practicing social distancing.
 - *Will mark waiting areas near courts with tape where people can stand or place their chairs to make social distancing easier to comply with.*

Sanitizing

- Program facilitator will sanitize sharable equipment at the end of each session before putting it away.
 - *Nets will be sprayed with a bleach/water solution.*
 - *Balls will be sprayed with a bleach/water solution.*
 - *(1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water)*
- Hand sanitizer will be made available to use near sign in station.
 - *Use of a sign in sheet requires a pen and clipboard be used by everyone who attends.*

Minimizing contact

- All players will need to bring their own paddles.
 - *Players should have wipes to disinfect paddles before and after play.*
- Players will be encouraged to bring their own balls.
 - *If people need to use our balls, each player will be given a marked ball which only they will touch while serving.*
 - *Balls should be rolled back by using a foot or paddle, not thrown or rolled by hand.*
- Individuals should bring hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes to use between games.
 - *We will also encourage that players wash their hands before arriving and when they return home.*
- Handshakes and high fives will be highly discouraged between both teammates and opposing teams before, during and after the game.
- Players will be allowed to use PPE (gloves) as long as it does not interfere with the game or create a safety hazard for players.
 - *Ex. no hard masks, large plastic sneeze shields, full body surgical suits or large goggles.*
- Individuals should bring their own (full) personal water bottles for each session.
 - *Water fountains at King Park are not functional anyway so there should be no issues.*
 - *Individuals will be responsible for cleaning up any trash left after games.*
 - *No sharing of drink containers or use of communal water jugs.*
- All players will need to bring their own paddles.
 - *Discontinue use of shared/borrowed paddles*
 - *Players should have wipes to disinfect paddles before and after play.*
- Players will be encouraged to bring their own balls.
 - *Each person will have their own ball to serve with.*
 - *Balls should be rolled back by using a foot or paddle, not thrown or rolled by hand.*
 - *Borrowed balls will be marked and participants will use one ball for serving for the entire session.*
 - *Town balls will be sanitized before and after each session of play by program facilitator.*
- Encourage participants to avoid touching fences, gates and benches.
 - *Participants will be encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs to use for resting periods*

Reducing liability

- Have participants sign a liability waive, which will be attached to the sign in sheet.
 - *All participants must sign in to track numbers and help with contact tracing if necessary.*
- Continue to post signs and mark off equipment not cleared for use by public.
 - *Signs should be posted near the tennis court entry point.*
- Individuals not following program guidelines will be asked to leave.
- Public bathrooms will remain closed

Prohibiting Play

- Individuals SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE if:
 - They are exhibiting any symptoms of the coronavirus: mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, coughing, difficulty breathing, or other symptoms identified by the CDC.
 - Have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
 - Are a vulnerable individual with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, asthma, or whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy and other conditions requiring such therapy.
- Persons displaying obvious symptoms will be asked to leave.
 - *Any time a player is asked to leave, it should be noted by the program facilitator and reported to the office withing 24 hours.*