

## Tustin Pickleball Policy for Drop-In Play

Tustin Pickleball offers organized, skill-level play using a drop-in format between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (noon) on **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays**.

The following policy applies to these days only:

**Court Designation** - Players should play/challenge on to courts designated for their skill level (see Skill Level Definitions). To challenge on, players should place their paddles near the base of the net on the bench side of the court in a way that does not interfere with play.

In the event of an unoccupied court, players of a higher or lower skill level may temporarily play on that court, provided there are fewer than four players of the court's originally designated skill level waiting on other courts. Once four or more players of the court's originally designated skill level are waiting to play on other courts, the temporary players must vacate the court. Exception: Court 10 is reserved for 5.0 players only.

**Player Rotation** – At the conclusion of the first game, winners stay on and split, and:

- If one person is waiting, one loser comes off;
- If two people are waiting, both losers come off.

When more than two players are waiting to play at the majority of courts for that skill level, player rotation will change to:

- If three people are waiting, both losers and one winner come off;
- If four or more people are waiting, all four players come off.

Players wishing to play together as a team (e.g. for tournament practice) must ask permission of the other players on the court to do so. If permission is granted, the team must come off or split after two consecutive wins.

**First Service** – The team on the north side of the court serves to start the game.

**Playing Up** – When wanting to play with or against players of a higher skill level:

- Ask first and be flexible as to if and when you are accommodated.
- Ask towards the beginning or end of a play session.
- Be considerate by not overstaying your welcome. As a general rule, if you're on the losing end of a lopsided score two games in a row, it's time to leave.
- Hit to the strongest player.
- Be open to coaching and show your appreciation for their help and time.

**Playing Down** – When stronger players are approached to play with or against players of a lower skill level:

- Remember where you came from and be willing to "pay it forward."
- Don't patronize or be overly aggressive. Instead, make the experience personally beneficial by working on a specific shot, or focusing on consistency and keeping the ball in play.

- Ask if the person playing up would like feedback. If they agree, limit your feedback so as not to overwhelm them.
- If you feel the need to reject a play-up request, try to offer another time when you would be willing to accommodate the player.

### **Non-Organized Play Guidelines**

Outside of its organized, drop-in play schedule, Tustin Pickleball, in partnership with the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD), promotes the following guidelines for court use:

- Court use, in order of priority: 1) TUSD for school or district use; 2) Holders of a TUSD Facilities Use Permit; 3) Walk-on players and/or groups.
- For walk-on players and/or groups, courts are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- A walk-on player or group may remain on a court for one hour beyond the time at which other individuals or groups arrive to play, provided all other courts are occupied.
- Drop-in players are not automatically guaranteed opportunities to play into a group on non-organized play days. However, in keeping with the spirit of Tustin Pickleball and the international Pickleball community, groups are encouraged to include drop-in players whenever possible—provided they are of the same skill level.