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## Changes to the Policy of Play for 2023

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Over the past 3 years, the sport of pickleball has grown significantly. According to a 2022 report from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association, there are nearly 40% more pickleball players today than there were in 2020 and more than double the number of courts across the country compared to five years ago. During this time, the club has added hundreds of new members and has seen an increase in the percentage of novice to intermediate level players. These numbers have stressed the capacity of our mid-level courts and resulted in excessive wait times, players not playing on appropriate courts, and more disagreements around player rotation. Furthermore, we have seen a large number of players, including many highly skilled 4.5-5.0 players, move on to play at other venues where they can organize their own groups.

As the sport continues to grow and the needs of our members change, our club must evolve and change as well. Effective Monday, January 23, 2023 we will be revising our "Policy of Play" which includes the following changes:

- Our 10 pickleball courts will be separated into 4 skill level groups: Novice/Intermediate, Intermediate, Advanced Intermediate/Advanced, and Advanced/Expert.
- Player level ratings (3.5, 4.0 etc.) will no longer be emphasized to determine which courts a player can play on.
- Player rotation guidelines (2 on 2 off, 4 on 4 off) will be clarified and posted at the courts.
- Winning players on Challenge Court 10 will be allowed to win up to 3 games in a row, on all other courts winners will be allowed to win up to 2 games in a row before rotating off.

These changes are designed to make it easier to determine which courts to play on, reduce wait times, strengthen player rotation guidelines, and provide the best possible games for everyone regardless of skill level. More details about these changes (including the rationale behind them) can be found in the documents "[Changes to the Policy of Play for 2023](#)" and "[Policy of Play](#)," located on the Documents page of the Tustin Pickleball website.

As there is no perfect system, we must all work together through the initial transition, and expect some bumps along the way. All we ask is that everyone be patient and give the changes a chance to work. If you have any questions or feedback, please reach out to us.

As the leaders of Tustin Pickleball, we remain committed to providing a program that is recreational, social, and most importantly, fun for all community members. We thank everyone for their support.

Your 2023 Board of Directors  
Tustin Pickleball

