

J A N U A R Y - M A R C H 2 0 2 4



NEWSLETTER



Welcome!

This newsletter is issued to help keep members up to date on news and events related to the Tustin Pickleball Association.

Hope you enjoy our Newsletter.

The Tustin Pickleball Association is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It exists to provide a fun, healthy, recreational activity for community members, while promoting the exercise, development of skills, and the enjoyment of the game of Pickleball.

2024 Winter Edition

The 2024 Board of Directors is dedicated in keeping Tustin as a premier pickleball venue and to continue to grow our renown Tustin Pickleball program.

Below are the highlights of our winter season, covered in this edition of our newsletter.

- To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, on March 16th members put on their best green attire and had a great day of fun at the courts.
- On April 2nd, 2024 we will launch our new social media presence for the Tustin Pickleball Association with a new Facebook Page and Group, and an Instagram account.
- As membership continues to grow exponentially, the club is looking at different ways to deal with excessive wait times, especially on Fridays, Saturdays, and holidays.

Upcoming events and activities planned for this spring:

- Our next ladder event is planned for Sunday, April 7th. Format will be fixed mixed partners who will move up and down the ladder together based on wins and losses.
- Our inaugural Tustin Pickleball Team Challenge event is planned to kick off in April. Teams consisting of 4 mixed players will compete in a series of matches played over multiple weekends.
- Our next members-only free round robin event will be held on Sunday, May 26th (Memorial Day weekend).

Tustin Pickleball Goes Green!

It was a great day to wear green, play pickleball, eat treats, and have fun at our Saturday, March 16th St. Patrick's Day event!



We're Launching Our New Social Media Presence!

We are thrilled to announce an exciting step forward in how we connect, share, and grow as a community! On April 2nd, the Tustin Pickleball Association is expanding our social media presence to include a new Facebook Page and Group, along with an Instagram account, dedicated to bringing our vibrant community closer together.



What's New?

- **Facebook Page & Group:** Our new Facebook Page will serve as the official online home for our association, providing announcements, updates, and a space for member interactions. Concurrently, we're launching a new Facebook Group under this page, a dedicated space for you to share your experiences, ask questions, and engage with fellow pickleball enthusiasts.
- **Instagram Account:** Follow us on Instagram ([@tustinpickleball](https://www.instagram.com/tustinpickleball)) for announcements, highlights from our events, and a peek into the daily life of our thriving community.

Why Join/Follow?

- **Stay Informed:** Get the latest updates on court conditions, upcoming tournaments, social mixers, and more.
- **Be Heard:** Your suggestions and feedback are invaluable. Our new platforms provide an enhanced way for your voice to be heard.
- **Share Your Journey:** From local club events to national competitions, share your pickleball journey with a community that cheers on each other's successes.

Transitioning from Our Existing Group:

- We invite all members to join our new Facebook Group, as it will become the primary channel for all announcements and member discussions. The existing group will direct you to our new space, ensuring a seamless transition.

Starting April 2nd:

- **Join Us:** Make sure to join our new Facebook Group and follow us on Instagram ([@tustinpickleball](https://www.instagram.com/tustinpickleball)) to stay connected with the latest club news and events.

Need Help or Have Questions?

For any inquiries or assistance with joining our new social media platforms, please visit our Contact Us page at <https://www.tustinpickleball.org/contact>.

We're excited about this new chapter for the Tustin Pickleball Association and look forward to seeing you online!

Court Skill Levels & Player Rotation Rules

Given the number of new members at the club, it is very important that all members follow our court skill level designations and player rotation rules. This information is posted on signs at the courts and detailed in our “Policy of Play” document posted on our website at <https://www.tustinpickleball.org/policy-of-play>.


On any given day, there may be a need to change rotation rules and/or reassign court skill level designations. For example, if there is an excessive number of players at one particular skill level and their assigned courts are seriously impacted for wait time, then we will assess the other courts to determine if we need to reassign court skill levels for that day and move players around.

It is also important that all members play on the appropriate court for their skill level. Players who play on courts lower than their actual skill level are far less disruptive than players who play at higher level courts where they do not belong. Surely, everyone wants to play higher level players once in a while to see what types of shots they need to work on. And many, if not most players at the higher levels will accommodate lower level players...to a point. So, if you decide to play on a higher level court, please be considerate by not overstaying your welcome. As a guideline, we have a “2-7 Rule” that states if you lose two or more games by 7 or more points, you need to move down a level.

The decision to reassign the court skill levels and move players around will be made by the Board of Directors present that day. Failure to follow the directions of the Board members regarding the reassigned skill levels for the courts, or moving players to courts appropriate for their skill level, can result in the suspension or loss of the player’s membership in Tustin Pickleball.

It is the responsibility of all members to understand and adhere to the rules of the club. We thank everyone for their cooperation as we strive to create a program that is fair, equitable, and fun for everyone.

Guidelines & Rules for Open Play



Pickleball courts are grouped into rows that represent a range of skill and rating levels.

Court Number		Skill Level	Rating Level	
10*	9*	Advanced / Expert	4.0 to 5.0	
8	7	Advanced Intermediate / Advanced	3.5 to 4.0	
6	5	4	Intermediate	3.0 to 3.5
3	2	1	Novice / Intermediate	2.5 to 3.0

- Players should play/challenge on to courts designated for their skill level.
- Warm-up is limited to 2 minutes whenever players are waiting.
- If you lose 2 games by 7 or more points, you need to move down a level.

PLAYER ROTATION RULES

- Games will be played to 11 points, win by 2.
- Winners stay on and losers exit and place their paddles at the end of the queue. Next 2 players in the queue play the winners.
- Rotation continues with 2 players off, 2 players on. If only 1 player is waiting, that player will team with 1 of the losing players.
- Winners can stay on and win 2 games in a row. After the second win, all 4 players exit and place their paddles at the end of the queue. Losing players get priority in the queue ahead of the winners.
- Rotation changes to 3 or 4 on, 3 or 4 off, when 3 or more players are waiting on each of the courts of the same skill level. If only 3 players are waiting, 1 winner will stay on for the next game. Winning players get priority at the end of the queue ahead of the losing players.

* Courts 9 and 10 are Challenge Courts for advanced/expert players in which the above rotation rules do not apply. Regardless of the number of players waiting, winners can stay on and win up to 3 games in a row.

NOTICE

To maintain balanced competition and fun for all, if you lose 2 games by 7 or more points, you need to move down a level



Tustin Pickleball

As Membership Continues to Grow, How Can We Best Manage Wait Times?

As of mid-March, the club has added over 300 new members since the beginning of the year. As our membership continues to grow, we are seeing more instances of excessive wait times across all courts, especially on Fridays, Saturdays, and holidays. We anticipate more crowded days at the club as the year progresses into spring and summer.

To address the situation, the Board of Directors has been experimenting with different ideas to further balance wait times across the courts, and increase the frequency of game rotations. Below are some of the actions we have taken over the past few weeks, with good results.

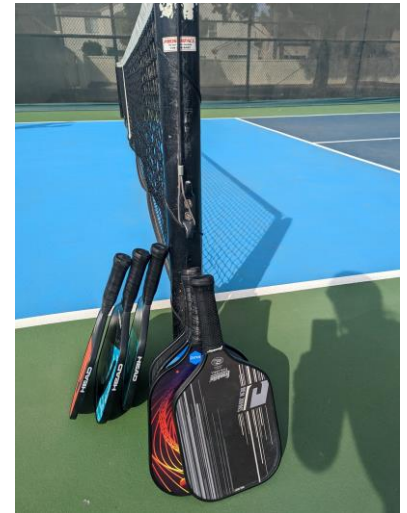
- It is estimated that 70 to 75% of our members are at the intermediate skill level (3.0 to 3.5), so we created additional capacity for all intermediates by designating court 1 as a “Temporary Intermediate” court on crowded Fridays and Saturdays.
- When there was an excessive number of high intermediate and advanced players on courts 7 and 8 (7 or more paddles on each court), we temporarily changed the rotation on challenge court 9 to “4 on, 4 off”.
- Players on challenge court 10 limited their games to 12 minutes when 5 or more players were waiting. With this approach, each game was played to 11 points win by 2, or 12 minutes in length, whichever came first.

As we get more experience with potential solutions, we will gather member feedback and ultimately decide what changes, if any will be implemented into our Policy of Play.

Other notes on this topic:

- Last April, the club held a rally scoring event to get member feedback on whether rally scoring could be used to shorten games and increase rotations. There were strong opinions for and against rally scoring.
- Based on a member survey, it was decided that rally scoring would not be used at the club until/unless USA Pickleball officially adopts a rule and standard format for rally scoring.
- Instead of rally scoring, the Board implemented the rule that when 5 or more players were waiting, games would be shortened to 9 points win by 1. After nearly a year, this rule never gained traction. Players overwhelmingly preferred to play full games to 11 points, especially after having to wait a game or two. As a result, the Board voted this month to rescind this rule.

Managing excessive wait times is a challenging problem with no perfect solution. However, the Board of Directors will always look for new ideas and welcomes any feedback from the members. If you have an idea or suggestion, please reach out to one of the directors or drop a suggestion into our blue suggestion box at the check in desk.



“Tustin Pickleball Drills” Program Update

Started by Carl Cheng last year, and originally known as “Drill with Carl”, our program continues to grow and evolve. We now have over 100 participants and are now conducting sessions 5 days a week, Monday through Friday, from 6:45 to 7:30am. Two additional advanced level club members, Bonnie Goodman and Kurtis Eng, have been added as drill leaders.

The objective of the program is to provide novice and intermediate players a chance to work on different aspects of their game. Through repetition, players can create muscle memory for each type of shot (similar to how golfers spend time at the driving range) and improve their overall skills set. A different shot is worked on each week, such as forehand and backhand groundstrokes, dinking, volleying, resets, lobs, and third shot drops.

Tustin Pickleball Drills are available only to Tustin Pickleball members, and are free of charge. Signups are limited to 4 players each session, and are managed using the TeamReach app. The TeamReach app allows us to create an event calendar, manage the sign-up process, and create a waitlist.

If you have any questions or would like to join the program, please text Carl at 914-263-8226.

Drill Leaders



Carl Cheng



Gus Asaad



Sidney Vianna



Terry Wong



Bonnie Goodman



Kurtis Eng

Registration is Now Open!

Tustin Pickleball Ladder Event Sunday, April 7, 2024

Registration is now open for our first 2024 Tustin Pickleball Ladder event, which will be held at our courts on Sunday April 7th. Fixed mixed teams will participate in fun, competitive matches where they have an opportunity to move up or down courts as they win or lose games. For this event, there will be four divisions:

- Low Intermediate (3.0) 7:30-9:30am
- Intermediate (3.5) 7:30-9:30am
- Advanced Int (3.5+) 10am-12pm
- Advanced (4.0+) 10am-12pm



- ❖ Starting position (court number and side) will be randomly drawn prior to the event.
- ❖ Each match is played to 11 points win by 2, or until 12 minutes (whichever comes first).
- ❖ At the end of each match, the winning team will move up a court and the losing team will move down a court.
- ❖ The goal is to win games and advance to a higher court, with court 1* being the highest position on the ladder (*our courts will be temporarily renumbered for this event).
- ❖ All participants will play in 8 games total, with up to 2 hours of overall play.
- ❖ Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 teams in each division.

For a complete set of rules, and links to our “Need a Partner” and wait lists, go to our website at <https://www.tustinpickleball.org/upcoming-events>

Cost is \$40 per team. Participants must be Tustin Pickleball members. Space is limited to 10 teams per division. To sign up, use the QR code below to go to our registration and payment site. We will also have links to the registration site on our “Upcoming Events” page on our website.



Tustin Pickleball Team Challenge

April 20 to May 5, 2024

Sign Up Now!

Can you play strategically and win with different partners? Do you have the X factor to elevate your team above the competition? Can you jell with your teammates and create the chemistry needed to win it all? These are some of the elements beyond dinks, drives, and drop shots that make team pickleball exciting and unpredictable. If this sounds like fun to you, step up and sign up for our inaugural Tustin Pickleball Team Challenge.

Team Challenge will consist of two divisions with 4 teams in each division. Division I will consist of a mix of advanced intermediate and advanced level players (approx. 3.5+ to 4.0). Division II will consist of a mix of low intermediate and intermediate level players (approx. 3.0 to 3.5).

Teams will consist of 4 players – two men, and two women. Each match will consist of 4 games – men’s doubles, women’s doubles, and two mixed doubles. Team standings for the playoffs will be based on matches won and total points differential.



Team Challenge matches will be played over 3 consecutive weekends in a round robin format. Saturday matches will be played from 11am to 12pm (noon) right after regular organized play ends at 11am. The playoffs for gold, silver, and bronze medals will be played on Sunday May 5 from 8 to 10am. Two courts will be used for each match to allow for continuous play. Division 1 matches will be played on Courts 7, 8, 9, and 10. Division II matches will be played on courts 3, 4, 5, and 6 (courts 1 and 2 will remain open and available for other members). The complete match schedule is shown below.

Match 1	Saturday April 20	11am-12pm	Team A vs. Team B, Team C vs. Team D
Match 2	Saturday April 27	11am-12pm	Team A vs. Team C, Team B vs. Team D
Match 3	Saturday May 4	11am-12pm	Team A vs. Team D, Team B vs. Team C
Playoffs	Sunday May 5	8am-10am	Top 2 Teams Play for Gold, other Teams play for Bronze

This event is open to Tustin Pickleball members only. Registration fee is \$20 per player. If you are interested in playing in the Team Challenge, use the QR code to add your name and information to our sign-up list by Friday, March 29. The event directors will create teams based on the sign-up list (if we do not get enough players to create the requisite number and composition of teams, the format and/or schedule may be modified). The \$20 registration fee will be collected through our Cheddarup.com payment site, once all of the teams are created.



What happens in pickleball...



...Stays in pickleball

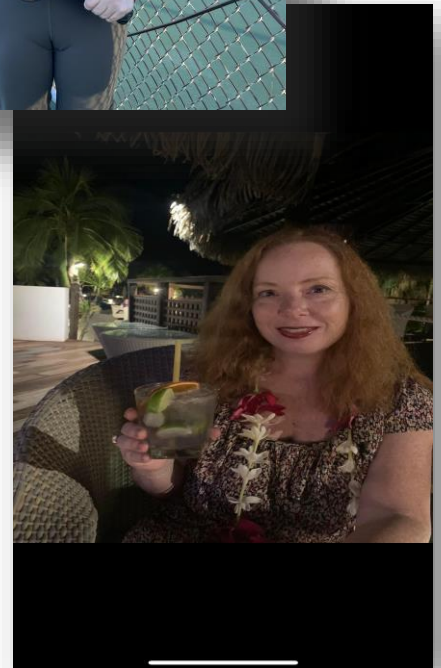


Member Spotlight Karen Altwein

Say hello to Karen Altwein. Karen, her husband Ryan and son Conner live in Ladera Ranch. Ryan is with the California Army National Guard and son Conner will be graduating from college this year. When she's not on the pickleball courts you can find her at her place of business called The Game Chest. Need an educational or unique toy or board game? Stop by and pay her a visit, she's located in the Irvine Spectrum.

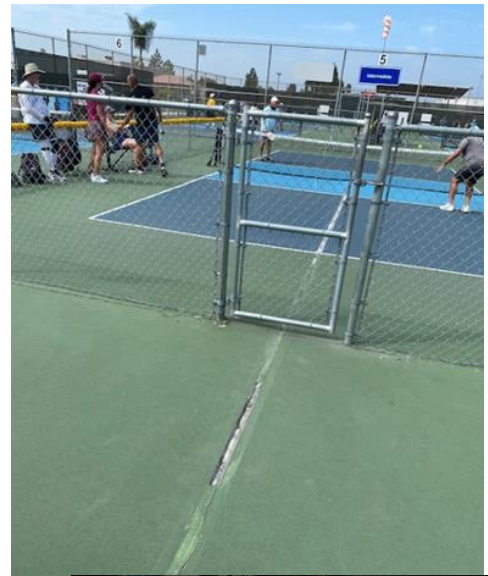
She enjoys concerts, playing board games and fine dining. While not a fan of Elon Musk, she does fancy her Tesla. It includes free supercharging for life which allows her to cruise about without waiting too long to juice up. She's an avid traveler who enjoys finding distilleries and speakeasies both domestic and abroad. Did you know she's a wee bit of a mixologist? Yup, Madam Mix-a-lot, a nickname I just gave her. LOL!! Her favorite creations are lavender lemon drop, gin basil gimlet and an espresso martini. Oh, and this fiery redhead is a huge fan of gin especially all the different variations of Hendricks. Maybe her next drink will be pickleball inspired. What say you Madam Mix-a-lot; a 3rd shot drop or Dink mule, wink, wink? 😊

Karen found her way into pickleball through her friend Helane's Facebook posts. It piqued her interest and have been playing for year and a half. She also plays at other local courts but to her Tustin Pickleball is the best. It affords her the convenience of drop-in games and the opportunity to participate in the drills offered free to members. But most of all she loves the people and have made some amazing friends. You will find her and her gal pals at the lower courts where not a day goes by when you hear her say, *"was that out? Are you sure that was out?"*



Facilities Update

- In February, the club provided a donation to TUSD to repair the expansion joint (crack) that runs through courts 2 and 5. A contract was signed with the construction company and TUSD to proceed with the project. Due to the recent heavy rains, we are waiting for the underlying ground to dry before scheduling a start date. We hope to complete this project by mid-year.
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
 - The club has an AED device located in the storage shed that is accessible during club hours in the event of an emergency.
 - The AED is a medical device designed to analyze the heart rhythm and deliver an electric shock to restore normal heart rhythm to victims of sudden cardiac arrest.
 - We have purchased new AED pads and have entered into an agreement to have our AED inspected by TUSD on a monthly basis. In addition, we have contracted with the AED Institute for a basic AED Maintenance Program that will provide automatic reminders when our AED pads need to be replaced.
- We have purchased four rectangular, retractable, rotatable umbrellas that can be used to provide sun shade on courts 1, 2, 4, and 5. These umbrellas will be available for check out by members during organized play hours.
- We have received confirmation from TUSD that they will soon trim the tree branches that overhang into the north parking lot. We will be given at least 24 hours' notice before work begins so that we can inform players not to park in affected parking spots.



Tustin Pickleball Gear

Tustin Pickleball gear is available for purchase at the check-in desk at the courts.

We have an assortment of t-shirts (long and short sleeve), hats, sweatshirts, embroidered patches, keychains, and water bottles for sale. Some examples are shown below. Please inquire at the check in desk for available items, styles, sizes, and colors.

**A4 Cooling Performance Crew,
N3142 / NW3201 (\$20)**



**Bella + Canvas Unisex Heather CVC
V-Neck Tee, 3005CVC (\$20)**



**Port Authority Dry Zone
Cap, C838 (\$15)**



**OTTO UPF 50+ Cool Comfort Performance
Stretchable Knit Cap, 19-1256 (\$15)**



Tustin Unified School District (TUSD)

Our Tustin pickleball courts are owned by the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD). We have been privileged that the school district allowed us to continue to play pickleball on their school grounds for the past 13 years. We need to re-iterate some of the rules bestowed upon us as we have so many new members and some may be hearing this for the first time.

The court gates are unlocked by the school district's security team every morning and locked at night. The courts are available to the public daily and most holidays except when otherwise noted, such as special school events, or tournaments/round robins.

Our club obtains a use permit to reserve the courts for open play and special events. The permit also grants us access to the School District's restroom/water refill station.

To maintain our reputable relationship with the Tustin School District, please adhere to the following:

1. *Abide by the School District court rules. These rules are posted on the fences outside the courts.*
2. ***Do NOT park in the School District parking lot on the weekdays, Monday - Friday!** Parking is only allowed on the street or the small lot on the east side of the courts. **Cars will be towed. Membership may be revoked if parking ordinance is violated.***
3. *While in the School District building, remember we are guests. Keep the noise level down and the bathrooms clean.*
4. *No dogs allowed on school property unless approved by the School District.*
5. *No Smoking on the courts!*
6. ***Please contact a Board member, NOT the School District if you have any concerns about the courts.***



Tuesday Street Sweeping

Street sweeping no-parking hours on Service Road and School Lane is every Tuesday from 7:00am to 11:00am. The city was contacted regarding the impact to our drop-in play held every Tuesday during this time. Here is the city's response:

Street sweeping will begin on Service Road around 7:00am with a Tustin PD officer following to ticket any vehicles parked in the sweeper's path. Once the street has been swept, typically by 7:30am, players may park on the street. The city has assured us that the Tustin PD officer will not make a second pass on the street to write tickets once the street has been swept. Please note Carfax St by court 1 is also scheduled for street sweeping on Tuesdays. Street sweeping on Carfax St is later in the morning. We suggest that you do not park on Carfax St during their no-parking hours.

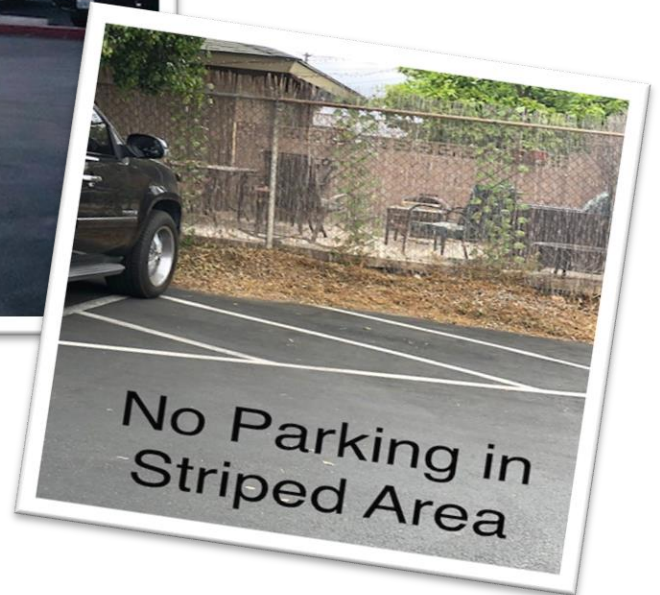
TUSD Maintenance Parking Lot and Restroom

There is NO PARKING ALLOWED in the TUSD Maintenance and Operations parking lot adjacent to the pickleball courts on Mondays thru Fridays, from 6:00am to 3:30pm. The Tustin school district will have your car towed.

TUSD maintenance requests that there is no drop off, U-turns, or drive throughs in the parking lot. Also, members should not drop off passengers along the right-side curve (marked as a red zone) going from Service Road to School Lane. This is a very dangerous blind spot for westbound vehicles. Also, there is no parking in the striped area in the parking lot behind the courts. Cars have been ticketed and may be towed.

The restrooms are available to Tustin Pickleball members from 7:00am to 11:00am only, on organized play days, Mondays - Saturdays. Members should not ask TUSD employees to open the restroom door outside of these hours.

We are fortunate to have a great partnership with the Tustin Unified School District. They have made several accommodations to work with Tustin Pickleball and not following their rules and guidelines can and will jeopardize our program's existence.



2024 Membership



Thank you for your support. Your membership fee helps pay for Tustin Pickleball's expenses such as permits, court usage fees, equipment, restroom access and insurance.

Membership is for the calendar year, January - December.

The benefits of membership include club discounts on pickleball merchandise at select websites, voting privileges, qualifying to be a Board Member, and participation in club sponsored events, such as round robins and ladder tournaments.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to another great year in 2024.

Retail Member Discounts

Pickleball Central – 5% off plus 5% goes back to Tustin Pickleball! Go to www.pickleballcentral.com to shop for equipment. Use CRTUSTIN at checkout to receive the discount. Pickleball Central will donate 5% of the proceeds to our club!



Suggestion Box

Got a suggestion for making your Tustin Pickleball even better? Here are three ways to share your awesome ideas:

- Send an email to info@tustinpickleball.org
- Share your idea with any Board Member at the courts
- Drop your idea in the suggestion box on the check in table by court #8

Lost and Found

Items not claimed will be donated to Goodwill or The Salvation Army on a quarterly basis. Last chance to claim your items will be March 31st, June 30th, September 30th and December 31st.

Website

www.tustinpickleball.org

Email

info@tustinpickleball.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/tustinpickleball

Be safe, be courteous, and have fun!

Your 2024 Board of Directors, Tustin Pickleball

President - Terry Wong
Vice President - Chiko Wong
Treasurer - Gerry Rowland
Secretary - Stella Inta
Membership - Beth Arkin
Communications - Bonnie Goodman
Instruction & Events - Carl Cheng
Facilities - James Pham
Member-at-Large - JoAnn Spiegel