

# St. Albert Pickleball Club

## Board Policies

### Operational

#### Social Play

##### **Policy:**

Along with play opportunities at rated play levels, SAPC will at times provide play opportunities for its members where players and guests of all abilities can play together in an event designated as Social Play Pickleball.

##### **Purpose:**

Provide scheduled playing times that are open for players of all fitness levels, skill levels and years of experience to mix together and to have fun playing pickleball as is part of the SAPC vision.

##### **Clarification:**

Social Play stands for play where competition takes a back seat to the social aspects of meeting people, making everyone feel welcome, and enjoying the beautiful game the way the game's creators envisioned it: fun for everyone.

This could be during Open House play with the public, a "Fun Tournament", or at a Volunteer Appreciation event.

The Board has adopted the following guidelines for Social Play:

1. Be willing to play with any other player, regardless of skill level, when it is that player's turn to play. As in all club organized play, do not try to manipulate the rotation of courts or paddles to get a more competitive game. Social play is about fun, not competition.
2. When the opponents are unequal in skill, do not always play the ball to the weaker player just to score points. That is a competitive strategy that is meant for tournament or skill-level play, and is not fun for the player who is being targeted. Likewise, not playing the ball to the stronger player makes the game no fun for that player either.
3. If you are the strongest member of the group, focus on shots that will improve your overall game, like the 3rd shot drop and the dinking short game--important skills to practice as you move up the skill ladder.

4. Stronger players may also seek to improve their game by intentionally hitting the ball with appropriate pace and spin to a spot that will specifically allow a weaker opponent to return the shot. That is, the stronger player seeks to prolong the point rather than to end it. This gives everybody involved more practice.
5. Respect players' physical limitations and do not take advantage of them to win a game. One of pickleball's great advantages is that people with physical conditions that preclude them from playing other sports can play and enjoy this game.
6. Intentionally hitting an opponent with the ball to score a point is a strategy for competitive play. Refrain from using it in social play

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