



News BLAST

Port Townsend Pickleball Club

Port Townsend Pickleball Club (PTPC) News Highlights

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The newly resurfaced courts with permanent nets at Mountain View

As winter approaches, our hardy players continue to play, both outdoors and indoors, and here is what's happening with Port Townsend Pickleball Club (PTPC).

Update on Mountain View Project

The Mountain View Courts were repaved in September with most players approving of the new surface even when wet! The permanent posts and nets were installed last week. Unfortunately the project hasn't proceeded as quickly as anticipated due to contractor supply chain and staffing issues, but we are consistently moving forward. The next step is to contract for fencing, and we do not know when it will be installed. A heavy-duty rollaway net is ordered for the third court, but it will not be rolled out until the fencing is done. Once the entire project is completed, the Club will hand over the courts to the City.

The Board has reached agreement with the City that there will be three types of play at the new Mountain View courts. These include,

- **Open Play** where players drop in and wait to rotate in and out of games with others, which results in a mix of skill levels and everyone being welcome.
- **Scheduled Play** where players organize their own game and again everyone is welcome.
- **First Come-First Served Play** where courts are available to whoever arrives first with a one-hour time limit.

The Board has also been working on a schedule for PTPC dedicated hours at Mountain View. The City has approved the hours of 11:00am – 3:00pm, Monday through Saturday. Details of the schedule are being finalized and again must be agreed upon by the City. To be clear, dedicated hours does not mean that PTPC has exclusive use of the courts during this time. The Club will manage any programs during these times and all use is open to the public.

Scheduled vs. Open Play

Some of the veteran pickleball players in our community lament the good old days when Open Play was the norm, you could go to the courts and rotate in at any time, and socializing was as much a part of the game as playing. Fast forward to now and court time is at a premium, and scheduled play has become preferred by many players. Players like to organize groups with people they know, often according to their skill level.

A tension between Open Play and Scheduled Play exists around the country, including here in Port Townsend. The challenge for the Board has been to find a way to accommodate both types of play. Social Saturday and Rated Play, both essentially drop-in programs, have been immensely popular and will continue. During the summer we had as many as 40 players show up for Social Saturday. That shows that players still like the socializing aspect, connecting with friends and meeting new people. Kudos to the more experienced players who play with those who are still learning and help them improve their game. Round Robins and MOTHS, while skill-based, were also very successful and provided more opportunities to play with a variety of players.

As far as Scheduled Play goes, those players who want to organize their own groups will have plenty of court time to do that, both at the Mountain View and Port Townsend High School (PTHS) courts. In fact, the majority of the PTPC dedicated hours at Mountain View will be Scheduled Play, and there will be ample time for Open and First-Come-First Served Play outside of the PTPC's dedicated hours. The club's programs, like Social Saturday, Round Robin, Drills, etc. will continue at the PTHS because it is the only site that can accommodate such high participation.

The bottom line is that our community needs more courts. The PTPC is committed to developing more places to play in Jefferson County, both indoors and outdoors. Meanwhile, I hope that PTPC members will continue to welcome curious bystanders to the game, volunteer your time to help beginners, exhibit good sportsmanship, and exemplify the openness and inclusiveness that makes pickleball such a unique sport.

Happy Pickling! --Lynn Pierle (President)

Change of Day for Drills

The day for club-organized pickleball drill practice will be changed from Wednesday 11:00am - 1:00pm to Tuesday 11:00am - 1:00pm at the PTHS courts. This schedule will begin on Tuesday, November 15th. To participate in the organized drills please sign up using Playtime Scheduler. The first 16 to sign up will be able to participate.

When you are playing on your own, do not forget that the best way to improve your game is to drill. Perhaps the first 15-30 minutes of your court time might best be spent by practicing the basic shots: dink, volley, serve and drives from the baseline. As your game develops, drill third shot drops, resetting, lobs and other strategies.

Mountain View Court Information



Caption: Jim Dow, Lynn Pierle, and Eric Seder install the first permanent post

Permanent posts and nets were installed by enthusiastic volunteers late last week. If necessary, tension on the nets can be adjusted with a wrench that is in the lock box (see photo below).



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