

The Pickleball Club sent out its semi-annual update for paddles recently (and are still following up). Some people do not understand why we keep doing this. It took close to five years to get our Pickleball Courts approved and built. The building only took a few short months; the approval process was much longer. Our biggest concern was not disturbing our neighbors. After failing the sound study, we decided to be proactive.

We discovered the Sun City Grand “quiet paddle list”. They have an acoustic engineer test every paddle sent to them (at no cost!), to determine the noise it generates. Many manufacturers now routinely send all new paddles to them, as literally hundreds of communities do the same thing we do – only allow paddles on the list to be used on their courts. Not only private communities, but public ones as well.

We also found a ball with a slightly softer composition, the Onix 2 Pure, which makes it quieter. So, the Onix 2 Pure became the only ball allowed at The Villages. Further investigation found “acoustifence”, which is an acoustical barrier that provides noise reduction. To make it more attractive to our neighbors, a redwood fence was placed behind the padding, further blocking noise.

It is of paramount importance we are good neighbors – both to fellow Villagers and those behind our courts. Having done the hard work, it’s important that all players register to use the courts, which includes registering and using paddles on the “quiet list”. We do not want to be one of those communities in the news who are complained about. This article is continued on our website with more information, and a link to the approved paddle list. Please remember – USAPA approved paddles are NOT necessarily approved for noise. USAPA ratings are simply grading material content and total surface space.

There was a recent inquiry about the life of Pickleballs. Our balls are softer, so they last longer. Professionals replace their balls every 3-5 games. But we aren’t professionals. Most people use their balls six+ months with average (3x a week) play. If you play hard, they may crack or become deformed (no longer uniformly round) before then. Remember – members can buy Onix 2 Pure balls at a discounted price through the club (\$2.50 each). Non-members pay \$4.00 each. [Click here to request balls.](#)

Thank you and happy Pickleballing!

Sign at Berkeley Pickleball Courts:



11/30/22 – Wall Street Journal – [‘It’s Been Awkward’ Pickleball is Pitting Neighbor Against Neighbor](#)

Note: Green Zone Paddles discussion in this article.

6/30/23 - New York Times – [Shattered Nerves, Sleepless Nights: Pickleball Noise is Driving Everyone Nuts](#)

3/11/23 – CNN – [Pickleball is America’s fastest-growing sport.](#)