

Pickleball Etiquette, by Joyce Kludt

Remember when you were told as a child to chew with your mouth closed and don't make fun of others? Well, the game of pickleball has rules of etiquette as well! Behavior on the court plays a vital role in upholding the etiquette and spirit of Pickleball. We have had lots of new members join since our last etiquette article, so it's time for another.

1. Good sportsmanship is the rule. Yes, we all love the game, but it is only a game. Respect all players.
2. Start each game by greeting other players.
3. If the ball is out and it's on your side, call it out **loudly**. If it's close, give your opponent the benefit of the doubt. (This is an official rule) This might be hard if the game is close, but do it anyway. Do **not** call a ball out or in if the ball is on your opponents' court.
4. If you or your partner step into the kitchen on a volley (no bounce) call it. Don't call it on opponents. (Many of us are at an age where our vision is questionable)
5. Sometimes spectators' comment on the plays, which is normal and fun. But, if their comments are loud, disruptive, argumentative, or hostile, ask them not to.
6. Don't play "keep away" from the best player on the other team during rec play just so you can win. They want to play, too.
7. If you are the strongest player in your foursome, tone down the competitiveness and hit your opponents' balls so that they can return.
8. Don't lob behind movement-restricted players during rec play.
9. Call out the score **loudly** before you serve.
10. Meet at the net after the game for paddle tapping...a sign of appreciation for good play or sportsmanship.
11. Always refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct like outbursts, loud cursing, or criticism.

We look forward to seeing many of you next Friday, July 12 at our Dink & Drink! You can play or just enjoy spectating and visiting!

Visit our website at <https://villagespickleball.vgcc.club>.

Wishing you a happy week of Pickleball!