

Whistler Pickleball Association

Return to Play Event Plan

Whistler Pickleball Week – Aug 8-16 2020

The Whistler Pickleball Association (WPA) recognises the need to modify how we organise, schedule, play and coach our sport in 2020 in light of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Traditional pickleball drop-in play with large groups, multiple partners and excessive socializing does not match the requirements of the provincial health authority.

The WPA board, staff and affiliates are committed to the health and safety of our members, guests, coaches, administrative staff, board of directors and our larger community. The WPA directors and staff have consulted with, and incorporated advice from Pickleball BC, Viasport and the BC provincial government and in creating this Event Plan.

This plan is for Whistler Pickleball week events held on RMOW courts between the dates of Aug 8-16, 2020

Facility Access and Use

This plan is for **outdoor play at the Resort Municipality of Whistler community courts.**

There are 6 locations that may be used for the event:

Meadow Park, Bayly Park, Myrtle Philip, Brio, White Gold, Alpha Lake Park.

The maximum number of players that will be allowed on any given court area at any point in time is 12 plus up to 4 WPA organizers. If temporary pickleball nets are used then the maximum will remain the same. Court area is defined as one tennis court area which measures 60 feet x 120 feet.

Participants are required to observe the following procedures when accessing the courts:

- Familiarize yourself with any posted Covid-19 safety instructions and First Aid response protocol
- Sanitize hands before and after touching the gate
- Use appropriate physical distancing when entering and leaving the courts; stand clear of the gates if someone is exiting and if someone is entering while you are still on the courts, move to one side of the gate/net with adequate space and they will enter and move to the other side of the gate/net
- Do not enter the playing area early or linger around after your play time

Type of Play & Booking System

The goal of WPA organized play is to meet and exceed the BC Health Officials' direction and reduce risk through modifying (lowering) both:

- ❖ Contact intensity – how close you are to someone and for how long
- ❖ Number of contacts – how many people are in the same setting at the same time

There will be no drop-in play as part of this event.

All play must be pre-booked via the WPA website (www.whistlerpickleball.com).

The sessions taking place during this event are a “**Pickleball Quick Introduction**” as part of the “**Free Community Introduction Program**”. The sessions are lead by Volunteer Ambassadors. Each session consists of a quick skills introduction followed by guided gameplay – teaching rules and positioning.

Booking Procedure:

- Participants will request a timeslot and someone will reply to their request and record the booking in the WPA online booking software. Once the group is defined, all participants will be added to the class list for the timeslot in case there is a need to facilitate contact tracing.
- Groups of 4-6 are permitted to book one 40 min session for play within their group
- Only one participant (the “group leader”) will be able to reserve each timeslot, there is space for up to 6 participants per session, but the group leader is responsible for defining the rest of the group composition. We have been referring to these as “Bubble groups” and we encourage the inclusion of close family and friends only
- See attached schedule for times and locations of the event

Guidelines for Reducing Risk

Social/Physical Distancing:

- **Stay home** if you are sick or have come in contact with someone who is sick (14 days)
- Maintain **social distancing at the facility and respect other people’s right to their own space**
- Proper social distancing is harder to consistently achieve with a partner than with opponents
- across the net, so regardless of your group size, it is recommended to limit the number of doubles partners for each session
- All sessions 5 min buffer to allow players adequate time to exit the facility before the next group arrives, please do not enter the court before your playing time
- Ambassadors will meet participants outside the gate before the session start.

Sanitization:

- Avoid touching your face until you have washed your hands (soap and water or sanitizer)
- The WPA will provide one bottle of hand sanitizer outside the gate for the duration of the session
- Players should also carry their own hand sanitizer for use before and after each game.
- No sharing of equipment, balls, paddles, water bottles etc
- Sanitization of personal equipment is the responsibility of individual players
- The WPA will provide all required balls and will provide free use of rental paddles.

- Rental paddles are not to be shared with other players during a session
- The balls and paddles provided by the WPA will be sanitized before and after each session.
- No paddle taps at the end of the game; in order to maintain the tradition, players are asked to replace the paddle tap with a paddle wave
- Ambassadors will wipe down high touch areas such as the gate, bench and net post between sessions
- All participants should be aware of high touch areas such as gate, benches, net posts and minimize contact with them.

Communication Plan

All registered attendees will be emailed our Return to Play (RTP) policy along with this event plan prior to participating. Signage will be posted at the facility reminding people of key points of the plan.

Insurance

For this event, the WPA will purchase the RMOW recommended insurance and provide a copy to RMOW staff.

Waiver

All participants must sign waiver before participating. Please note, this waiver includes a covid-specific section. The online version of the waiver can be found here:

<https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/w/5f0d589347ac0/web/>

Individual Recourse (for not following WPA guidelines/policies/plans)

Any participant not following the event safety protocols may be asked to leave the event.

First Aid

If first aid is required, responders should wear a mask and gloves. Participants are encouraged to carry their own first aid supplies including cold packs.

Outbreak and Contact Tracing Plan

If someone contracts or is exposed to someone who contracts Covid-19, it is their moral responsibility to immediately report it to the WPA. The booking system will serve as a record of all participants who have accessed the facility, for this reason, it is imperative that everyone respect the registration procedures put into place for this event.

This plan is subject to modification based on updated guidance and/or new information received from RMOW, Pickleball BC, ViaSport or the BC Provincial and Local Health Authorities.

PLEASE RESPECT OTHERS AND THEIR OPPORTUNITY TO STAY HEALTHY WHILE HAVING FUN AT PICKLEBALL