

## Whistler Pickleball Association Return to Play Plan - July 22, 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. Your WPA directors and staff have consulted with, and incorporated advice from Pickleball BC, Viasport and the BC provincial government and in creating this Return to Play Plan.

### Facility Access and Use

This plan is for **outdoor play only**. Currently the main summer facility for WPA play is at the **Tantalus Resort Lodge Courts** which have 2 pickleball courts (permanently painted) on the lower fenced tennis court.

Subject to availability, WPA members will be able to book available courts throughout the day.

Facility access is restricted to WPA members and Tantalus Resort Lodge guests, staff and owners only. *Guests of WPA members can also be admitted for a nominal fee.*

Walk or bike to play, park cars outside of the Tantalus Resort Lodge property.

The maximum number of players allowed in the facility at any point in time is 12 plus up to 2 staff members. There is only one gate used to access the courts, there is a lock on the gate and all WPA members have access to the combination.

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

- Familiarize yourself with any posted Covid-19 safety instructions and First Aid response protocol
- Sanitize hands before and after touching lock or gate
- Use appropriate physical distancing when entering and leaving the courts; enter and follow arrows to far wall, exit along fence nearest to gate. Place your equipment in a spot against the wall or fence, at least 6 feet from other players' equipment
- Do not arrive too early or linger around after your play time
- If there isn't anyone waiting at the end of your slot, please lock the gate.

As other facilities come online, they will be added to this plan.

### Types 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 at the facility. All play must be pre-booked via the booking system and all participants must be registered online here: <https://app.courtreserve.com/Online/Portal/Index/5773>

### **Individual court bookings:**

- Groups of 4-6 are permitted to book one court for play within their group
- Players are encouraged to play with family or household members. Players are to bring all of their own clearly labelled equipment, balls, paddles, water bottles, sanitization means, first aid supplies, etc.
- Members can book up to 14 days in advance and are able to have up to 3 future reservations on a rolling basis
- The courts are open daily from 8:15 am to Dusk, 7 days per week with availability as scheduled in the online booking system.

### **Coach-Led Programs:**

- Includes lessons, drill sessions and organized play
- Multiple week sessions will be considered for lesson programs in order to establish a more consistent group of players each week. Maximum 8 players for a lesson group.
- Program design modifications to reduce risk:
  - ✓ Increased use of one-on-one drills
  - ✓ Limited use of cones/markers, students not permitted to manipulate equipment (including the nets, net frames, etc.)
  - ✓ Proper spacing of students during regroupings and demonstrations
  - ✓ The number of doubles partners will be limited during each session
  - ✓ Decreased focus on competitiveness and increased focus on practicing and consolidating skills
- Sanitized balls will be used for each session,
- Advance signup is mandatory.

## **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 court bookings have a 5 min buffer to allow players adequate time to exit the facility before the next group arrives, please do NOT arrive early or linger after your playing time

### **Sanitization:**

- Avoid touching your face until you have washed your hands (soap and water or sanitizer).
- Players should also carry their own hand sanitizer for use before and after each game.
- No sharing of equipment, balls, paddles, water bottles etc. Players should bring their own labelled ball
- Sanitization of personal equipment is the responsibility of individual players

- Rental rackets will be available on a limited basis and are not to be shared with other players during a session
- Sanitize the balls before bringing them to the court (20 second wash with soap and water).
- Sanitize ball after each game and in any situation where they have been contaminated
- 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
- Be aware of high touch areas such as gate, benches, net posts, etc..

### **Booking of Times**

- The online booking system is mandatory in order to have full participant records should contact tracing be required.
- Please do NOT enter the courts until everyone from the time-slot before your booked time has left.
- If there isn't anyone waiting at the end of your timeslot, please lock the gate.

### **Communication Plan**

All WPA members will be emailed our Return to Play (RTP) policy. Signage will be posted at the facility reminding people of key points of the plan.

### **Insurance**

All members of the WPA are automatically members of Pickleball Canada and Pickleball BC. This comes with general liability and participant accident insurance which is only valid if following all the guidelines in this plan. For more details on insurance coverage, visit:

[https://pickleballcanada.org/insurance\\_faq.php](https://pickleballcanada.org/insurance_faq.php)

### **Waiver**

All players (members & guests) must sign a digital waiver before participating. Please note, this waiver includes a covid-specific section.

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

Any member who violates the WPA policies may have their membership suspended.

### **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 and use the system.

This plan is subject to modification based on updated guidance and/or new information received from 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**