

FAQ

Q: What does mixed-level play mean?

Mixed-level play means that players of different skill levels come together to participate in games. In mixed-level play, you might find beginners, intermediate players, and advanced players all on the same court. This approach promotes inclusivity and offers opportunities for players of all skill levels to interact, learn from each other, and enjoy the game together. Mixed-level play is a great way to build a sense of community and create a more inclusive and welcoming environment on the pickleball courts. It allows players to adapt and challenge themselves while having fun with a diverse group of participants.

Q: Do I need to bring my own balls?

Yes, during Open Play, you are required to bring your own paddle and ball. However, if you are participating in the Foundations course or playing in the Ladder League, balls will be provided for you. We also offer the use of Premium Selkirk Demo paddles for your convenience.

Q: Why aren't the pickleball courts divided by skill level?

The decision not to divide the courts by skill level is rooted in our commitment to making pickleball an inclusive and enjoyable experience for everyone. We want players of all skill levels to come together and share in the fellowship that pickleball offers. If you prefer playing against similarly skilled opponents, we offer the option to join our Ladder League. This league allows you to meet new people and compete against others of similar skill, ensuring a balanced playing experience.

Q2: How does dividing courts by skill level affect the game?

Dividing courts by skill level can lead to imbalanced playtimes, as it's challenging to have an equal number of players across all courts once divisions are introduced. On some days, certain skill levels may lack enough players to form games, which goes against our goal of fostering inclusivity and encouraging players to connect, help each other, and share in the joys of pickleball. We believe that maintaining mixed-skill courts aligns better with our church mission, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the game together and contribute to the growth of our close-knit pickleball

community. If you prefer playing against similarly skilled opponents, we offer the option to join our Ladder League, which provides opportunities for play with similarly skilled players.

Q: Can't we just manage court allocation to even out skill levels?

Managing court allocation to maintain skill level balance would be a complex and resource-intensive endeavor. It would require constant supervision and active management, including the establishment of a rating committee or reliance on third-party software to assess player skills accurately. Officials would also be needed to manage and verify the skill levels of each player, which could pose a barrier to those who are visiting or just learning the game.

As an alternative, we encourage players interested in playing against similarly skilled opponents to consider joining our Ladder League. This league offers an opportunity to meet new people and compete against others with a similar track record, enhancing the overall playing experience for everyone.

Q: Why is a mixed-skill approach better for our community?

A mixed-skill approach aligns with our goal of inclusivity and community building. It allows players of all skill levels to interact, share tips, and enjoy the game together. This approach is in line with our church mission of fostering fellowship and unity among our members.

Q: What if I want to play with my partner and/or against certain people?

If you wish to play with your partner or against specific individuals, you have the option to move your paddle back in the queue or choose to skip your turn when it's your designated time to play. However, please note that you are not allowed to move your paddle forward in the queue, nor can you manipulate or move someone else's paddle out of the queue. This approach ensures fairness and equal opportunities for all players while respecting the queue system in place.

Q: Can we change this policy in the future?

We are open to reviewing our policies as our community evolves. Any changes would be made with careful consideration of the impact on inclusivity and fellowship within our pickleball community. You are free to email our Pickleball

Coordinator at perry.ywong@gmail.com with your suggestions or direct your concerns to our Director, Cherie Hurt at churt@warrenbaptist.org

Q: Can I rent or reserve a court?

No, we do not offer court rental or reservation services at our facility. However, if you are interested in renting or reserving a court for a private event, we recommend exploring other nearby facilities which may be able to accommodate your needs.

Q: How can I ensure I get a chance to play on crowded courts?

Our courts have a maximum capacity of 20 players during Open Play. If the number of players exceeds this, wait times between games may become lengthy, and you may be dissatisfied with the experience. You may consider joining our next Ladder League, which will guarantee that you have play time every Thursday afternoon.

Q: What is the ladder league?

The ladder league is a structured format of play designed to accommodate players of varying skill levels. It offers players the opportunity to meet new people and engage in structured gameplay. In our ladder league, players are initially organized into a ladder or ranking system based on their age level, and each player starts with 1500 points.

The league captain takes an active role in facilitating the league by assigning you a partner and your opponents each week. After each game, depending on whether you win or lose, you will either gain or lose points. Subsequently, when you play again, you will be matched with players who have a similar number of points. As the ladder progresses, you will find yourself playing against opponents of comparable skill levels.

The ladder league offers a fun experience without the need to worry about waiting in queues or wondering if there will be others to play with. It's a great way to ensure court time while challenging yourself and enjoying the game to the fullest. Give it a shot and join us for an exciting season of pickleball!

Q: I'm a novice and want to improve my skills?

We encourage novices to play with more experienced players. It's a great way to learn and grow as a pickleball player. Our community is welcoming and supportive,

and you'll find plenty of opportunities to enhance your skills while enjoying the game. You may also consider signing up for our Pickleball Foundations class where we drill together and learn various aspects of the game.

Q: What is the Foundations Class?

The Foundations Class is designed for individuals who are new to pickleball or consider themselves novice players. This class offers an opportunity to learn the game's rules, enhance shot-making skills, and build the confidence needed to participate in Open Play or the Ladder League. The class emphasizes fundamental aspects of pickleball such as serving, returning serves, volleys and scorekeeping. To ensure a quality learning experience, we limit each class to a maximum of 12 participants, and advance sign-up is required.

Q: Can I get rated?

To determine your pickleball skill level, we encourage you to refer to the official skill descriptions provided on the USA Pickleball website (<https://usapickleball.org/>). We understand that skill assessment is a complex issue, and the pickleball community is actively addressing it. While we can informally assess your skills and have a discussion about your comfortable playing level, we recommend signing up with our Pickleball Pro, who can provide a comprehensive observation and assessment of your current skill level.

Q: How do I get a name band for my paddle?

To get a name band for your paddle, you can easily purchase one by visiting www.mypadl.com/124pickleball. Simply follow the provided link or scan the QR code to place your order and customize your paddle name band to your liking.



Q: Can we block out the lights?

Reducing visual distractions is an important safety concern. Making changes to the aesthetics and structure of the facility, such as blocking out certain lights or windows, is a major facility change and undergoes a strict examination process. It's important to keep in mind that our facility primarily serves as a Church, and while we do allow pickleball to be played here, it's not a dedicated pickleball facility.

Active support and participation in our paid programs, such as the Ladder League, contribute to building a strong foundation for future requests and changes. Your involvement in our community helps increase the likelihood that such requests may be approved in the future. We appreciate your understanding and collaboration in making our facility a welcoming place for both Church activities and pickleball enthusiasts.

Q: Can we improve the lighting on the courts?

Improving the lighting on the courts is an important safety consideration, and we value your feedback on this matter. Changes to the lighting system fall under the category of facility enhancements, which, as mentioned previously, are subject to a strict examination process.

We appreciate your interest in enhancing the playing conditions for pickleball at our facility. Your active support and participation in our paid programs, such as the Ladder League, contribute to building a strong foundation for future improvements. While we cannot guarantee immediate changes, your input is valuable, and we will explore options for potential improvements down the road. Thank you for your understanding and commitment to our community.

Q: Can we get barriers between the courts?

Yes, we are actively exploring options for temporary barriers between the courts to enhance safety and the playing experience for our pickleball community. We are dedicated to finding a suitable product and solution that aligns with our objectives and purposes. Your participation in paid programs, such as the Ladder League, plays a crucial role in funding these initiatives. Your support and involvement contribute to the overall improvement of our facility and the comfort and enjoyment of all players.

Q: I want to play, but I don't know where to start

We're excited to welcome newcomers to the world of pickleball! Getting started is easy. You can begin by joining our Foundations Class, designed for new and novice players. This class provides a structured introduction to the game, teaching you the rules, shot-making skills, and boosting your confidence to participate in Open Play or the Ladder League. You can also connect with our community, ask questions,

and seek guidance from experienced players who are always eager to help newcomers. We're here to support you on your pickleball journey!

Q: I already know how to play; how can I join in on the fun?

That's great to hear! If you're already familiar with pickleball, you can easily join in on the fun by participating in our Open Play sessions or considering joining our Ladder League. Open Play is open to players of all skill levels, and it's a great way to enjoy friendly matches with fellow enthusiasts. If you're looking for a more structured and competitive experience, the Ladder League offers the opportunity to meet new players and test your skills against a variety of opponents. We're excited to have you be a part of our pickleball community and share in the fun!

Q: I want to drill and practice with someone, how can I do so?

If you're interested in drilling and practicing, we offer the option to sign up with our Pickleball Pro. Our Pickleball Pro can facilitate practice sessions either by drilling with you individually or by guiding and coaching you and your partner if you have one in mind. These sessions can be a great way to improve your skills, work on specific aspects of your game, and receive valuable feedback and guidance from an experienced coach. To arrange a session, please contact our Pickleball Pro for availability and scheduling.

Q: What pickleball paddle should I get?

We recommend consulting with our Pickleball Pro, who is also a Selkirk Fit Expert, for personalized guidance on selecting the right pickleball paddle. Our Pickleball Pro can assess your playing style, skill level, and preferences to help you make an informed choice that enhances your pickleball experience. Additionally, our Pickleball Pro may have a demo paddle available for you to try before making your purchase, allowing you to make the best decision for your game.

Q: Who is your pickleball pro and coordinator?

Our Pickleball Pro and Coordinator is Perry Wong, a highly experienced and certified pickleball instructor, referee, and competitive player. Perry's dedication to improving the skills and performance of recreational and competitive pickleball players is well-known in the community. He discovered the sport in 2017 and has since become a student and teacher of the game. He was intimately involved with the growth and development of pickleball opportunities around the area, to

include the Wilson Family YMCA, Patriots Park, Riverview Park and Montclair Pickleball Courts, as well as at Trinity and First Baptist Church.

Perry's instructional methods and techniques are a result of a diverse range of lessons and training, including clinics, workshops, and lessons from renowned organizations like IPTPA, PPR, and USAPB University. He has also received training from top players, coaches, and instructors such as Simone Jardin, Sarah Ansboury, Kyle Yates, Helle Sparre, and Morgan Evans.

Perry's expertise reaches beyond the realm of pickleball, as he possesses a robust foundation in technical instruction across diverse subjects. With experience in coaching adults on a wide spectrum of topics, including software and web development, military intelligence, and athletic training, Perry brings a broad range of skills to his coaching role. As a student in the fields of Kinesiology and Communications and holding certifications as a CrossFit Level 2 Trainer and Running Technique Specialist, he expertly relays his knowledge of kinesiology, motor behavior, and sports psychology to enhance his coaching approach.

Perry is dedicated to continuous improvement and regularly studies instructional methods to stay up to date with the latest techniques and approaches. His coaching philosophy emphasizes game strategy, sound stroke mechanics, progressive mechanics, efficient footwork, and movement. Perry's commitment to ongoing education, coupled with his extensive experience, make him a valuable asset to our pickleball community. He is also a veteran tournament player who has competed in various pickleball tournaments, including prestigious events like the US Open and US Nationals.