

# RUNNYMEDE ROYALS PICKLEBALL CLUB



Runnymede Royals  
Pickleball Club

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## CODE OF CONDUCT

Alongside the Constitution of Runnymede Royals Pickleball Club (RRPC), this Code of Conduct aims to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members, both while engaged in sporting activity (including representative fixtures) and during club organised social events.

This Code of Conduct will apply in addition to the Club Disciplinary Policies and associated procedures.

### 1. Who does this Code of Conduct apply to?

- All Members of RRPC

### 2. Behavioural expectations

The behavioural standards expected of those associated with RRPC, to allow for a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment, are as follows:

- **Inclusive:** We strive to build an inclusive environment where all feel valued. We take pride in all opinions, perspectives and ideas because we believe it enriches our culture and drives success.
- **Respectful:** We create an environment where individuals feel safe to express their thoughts and concerns whilst respecting personal boundaries.
- **Honest communication:** We encourage open, honest, and skilful communication to allow us to learn and grow.
- **Active listening:** We strive for active listening, which is appreciative, empathetic, and constructively critical of ourselves and others.
- **Accountability:** We create together an environment where everyone is accountable for their actions and responsible for supporting expected behaviours.
- **Empathy:** We treat each other with empathy, kindness and understanding creating an environment where individuals can feel safe.

### 3. Behavioural examples

Examples of unacceptable behaviour, in accordance with RRPC's Disciplinary & Safeguarding Policies include:

- No event or process organised by a Group should involve bullying, harassment, humiliation, or isolation of any individuals.

- Violence against another person (including threats to hurt)
- Bullying and harassment, including indecent, threatening, intimidating or offensive behaviour or language (including that of a sexualised nature)
- Abusive comments (including those that relate to protected characteristics), in person or online
- Possessing, supplying or selling any controlled drug or psychoactive substance (such as cannabis, LSD, cocaine, MDMA)
- Significant damage or misuse of RRPC property or the property of other members, or visitors to the club
- Disruption of RRPC activities (including meetings, sporting and social activities)
- Contempt of the Club's disciplinary authorities

For the avoidance of doubt, the following behaviours are required:

- Comply with the laws of the sport as set out by the relevant governing body or organisation
- Promote fair play throughout representation of the RRPC
- The consumption of alcohol is not permitted during any training sessions and fixtures. This includes being consumed aboard provided transport e.g. hire car, minibus or coach
- Abide by the anti-doping laws as sated in the World Anti-Doping Code set by WADA

Note: this list is not exhaustive and will be subject to regular review.

#### **4. Social Media**

The club presents itself online and via social media to support our activities. Those who contribute to these platforms will be held personally responsible for their content. As such those that provide content should be aware and uphold the following:

- Ensure content supports the Aims and Objectives of RRPC as set out in the Constitution
- Do not make defamatory comments about individuals or other organisations and groups
- Do not post links to offensive, inappropriate, or discriminatory content

If in doubt, please liaise with the Committee to check content before it is published.

#### **5. Sanctions**

RRPC may impose sanctions on member/s who breach the Code of Conduct or the Club Constitution, as set out in the Club Disciplinary policy.

Note: sanctions are not exhaustive and will be subject to regular review.

Any RRPC sanctions are in addition to sanctions which may be imposed by a third party (e.g. the Police).

## **6. Conduct Expectations for Players, Officials and Spectators**

The following outlines expectations for players, officials, and spectators to ensure fair play, mutual respect, and enjoyment for all participants. By adhering to these principles, we foster an environment that embodies the spirit of Pickleball.

### **7.1. Respect and Sportsmanship**

7.1.1. All players must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants and not unlawfully discriminate against anyone or treat anyone less favourably or unfavourably, by reason of age, disability, gender, ability, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins), cultural background, religious beliefs, or sexual identity.

7.1.2. Treat ALL players, opponents, partners, officials, and spectators with kindness, respect and courtesy, regardless of skill level or background, at all times.

7.1.3. Always demonstrate good sportsmanship, win or lose, by tapping paddles with your opponents at the end of each match and thanking them for the game.

7.1.4. Avoid profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any behaviour that may be considered disruptive or demeaning.

7.1.5. We will not tolerate bullying, verbal abuse or shouting.

7.1.6. Give your opponent time to get into position before you serve.

7.1.7. The server should clearly announce the score before they serve – this is a rule of the game and leads to the point being awarded to the opponents if not adhered to.

7.1.8. If the opponent claims there was a major distraction while hitting a shot (e.g. ball bouncing onto the court), don't hesitate to replay the point.

7.1.9. Players are responsible for identifying foot faults. Be the kind of player that identifies their own foot faults!

7.1.10. During competitive play there must be no coaching by anyone off court in any language.

7.1.11. Players should be fair to others and take their turn 'sitting out' during sessions. When a paddle rack is in use, players should be aware and prepared if it is their turn to select who to play with - and do so in a fair, equitable and prompt manner.

7.1.12. Players should decide who serves first in a game by offering the serve to opponents if they have the ball in hand or, place the ball behind their back for them to choose which hand it is in.

7.1.13. Players should not attempt to distract opponents when they are serving and be mindful that causing a distraction during a rally can lead to the loss of the point.

### **7.2. Honesty in Line Calls**

7.2.1. Players are responsible for making accurate line calls on their side of the court.

7.2.2. If you or your partner cannot determine if the ball was out or you disagree – the ball was IN, meaning the benefit of the doubt goes to your opponents.

- 7.2.3. Only call a ball out if you are certain it landed outside the boundary lines.
- 7.2.4. Avoid excessive appeals to referees or opponents; trust their calls unless there is clear evidence of error.
- 7.2.5. In recreational games without referees, disputes should be resolved amicably by replaying the point if necessary.

### 7.3. Safety First

- 7.3.1. Prioritise safety by playing with control and being mindful of others on the court.
- 7.3.2. Please do not walk behind a court whilst a rally is in progress.
- 7.3.3. Avoid actions that could cause injury, such as reckless swings, paddling the ball aggressively toward others, or failing to call “ball on court” when a stray ball enters the area.
- 7.3.4. Adhere to any published procedures by the club committee, for example, on playing etiquette.

### 7.4. Respect for Rules and Officials

- 7.4.1. All players must take responsibility in ensuring they are up to date with the rules, understand and adhere to them.
- 7.4.2. Abide by the official rules of Pickleball as outlined by USA Pickleball.
- 7.4.3. Respect the authority of referees and tournament officials. Refrain from arguing calls or displaying hostility toward their decisions.
- 7.4.4. Follow all tournament procedures and guidelines, including warm-up times, match timing, and court rotations.
- 7.4.5. In the event of any dispute within a game, the game should be halted and the Tournament Director or referee found to address the dispute.
- 7.4.6. The decision of the Tournament Director is final. Any player not accepting the decision will be withdrawn from the event. No discussion will be entered into following the decision. (think we can take highlighted area out)

### 7.5. Positive Engagement

- 7.5.1. Celebrate good play by opponents and partners alike; refrain from belittling anyone’s efforts.
- 7.5.2. Spectators are encouraged to cheer positively but must not attempt to influence calls, disrupt play, or intimidate players.
- 7.5.3. Resolve conflicts by defusing them – stay calm and controlled; listen actively; de-personalise.
- 7.5.4. Escalate issues to club officials only when necessary.
- 7.5.5. Refrain from retaliatory actions or confrontations on or off the court.

### 7.6. Inclusivity and Community Spirit

- 7.6.1. Encourage players of all abilities to participate and grow in their enjoyment of the sport.
- 7.6.2. Be welcoming and supportive of newcomers to the game.

### 7.7. Failure to adhere to this code of conduct may result in:

- 7.7.1. A verbal warning.

- 7.7.2. Forfeiture of points, games, or matches in tournament play.
- 7.7.3. Temporary or permanent suspension from tournaments, events or facilities, as determined by the governing body or event organisers.

## **8. Consequences and Process following Inappropriate Conduct**

Anyone coming under the scope of this policy shall be liable to disciplinary action in accordance with this Policy if their conduct or behaviour is alleged to breach the codes of conduct, be inappropriate, incorrect, improper, unlawful or unsporting.

The following **non-exhaustive** list includes examples of conduct which may constitute a breach of Club Policy:

- 8.1 Failing to comply with Runnymede Royals Pickleball Club policies, constitution, and regulations
- 8.2. Doing anything which has the potential to harm Runnymede Royals Pickleball Club or bring Runnymede Royals Pickleball Club into disrepute
- 8.3. Failing to comply with a written agreement with, or a written undertaking given to Runnymede Royals Pickleball Club as part of any disciplinary process
- 8.4. Making an untrue written statement to Runnymede Royals Pickleball Club or a person acting on behalf of Runnymede Royals Pickleball Club
- 8.5. Committing a breach of this Code of Conduct
- 8.6. Failing to treat others in the sport with dignity and respect
- 8.7. Assisting or encouraging any person to breach this Policy.

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