

Relish Pickleball

Tallahassee Pickleball Players

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PB tournament this weekend

The Tallahassee Round Robin Tournament is finally upon us. About 50 players from Tallahassee, Destin, Monticello, Jacksonville, Orange Park, Niceville, Ponte Vedra, and Havana will be competing.

Tournament play begins Saturday morning with registration, warmups, and a player meeting at 8:15.

Men's beginner/intermediate and men's intermediate/advanced teams will start play at 9 a.m.

Women's beginner/intermediate and intermediate/advanced teams will have warmups and a player meeting at 1:20 p.m., with play beginning at 1:45.

Sunday features mixed doubles. Registration, warmups, and a player meeting begin at 10 a.m. Beginner/intermediate teams begin play at 10:30 a.m.

Intermediate/advanced teams will have a warmup time around 1:30, with competition beginning at 1:50 p.m.

If you have questions about the tournament schedule, contact Tricia Rizza at trizzateacher@gmail.com.



If you want to watch the tournament

If you didn't sign up but would like to watch the games, please join us. Chairs will be set up along the edge of the gym, but space is limited.

Stop at the front desk of Premier, 3521 Maclay Blvd. S., to sign in. Admission is free.

Two new Tallahassee pickleball options – Need your input

By Susan Campbell

The City is trying very hard to find additional locations for pickleball. Great plans are being made for the new Senior Center, but since that's at least five years away, there are some new options now.

- We now have one outdoor court at Hilaman Golf Course (2737 Blair Stone Road), but soon it will be two. These courts are marked with tape and have straps to lower the tennis net appropriately. There are lights at this location, making evening play an option. There is no need to make a reservation, but because the courts are available to tennis players, as well, it's first-come-first-play! The courts are not in great shape, but they're definitely playable. The good news is they may be resurfaced in the future and wind-screens may also be a possibility. While the City doesn't run the golf course or other amenities, there is a pro shop (you

can replace a forgotten towel or sweat band) and a small restaurant serving beverages and sandwiches. Of course, there are bathrooms in the pavilion. Give Hilaman a try for your early morning or evening pickleball – or, when it cools off, your afternoon match.

- Another location we may be able to use this summer is the Dade Street Community Center, aka Lawrence-Gregory Community Center at Dade Street, located at 1115 Dade St. This would be a summer location for evening pickleball on either Monday *or* Tuesday night. The Center closes at 9 p.m. We could have open play or a reservation system (\$10 per court for 1.5 hours, which is how the City offers play at Sue McCollum during the school year). The Dade Street site would be available from a date in early July until near the end of August. The

gym is larger than the one at Sue McCollum and could have three courts.

Your vote on Dade Street

If you would like to play at Dade Street in the evenings this summer, please send an email **by July 3** to susanbcampbell@gmail.com. Indicate your preference for Monday or Tuesday and whether you prefer open play or reserved time – only one day and one play system will be chosen.

There already is open play at the Senior Center on Tuesday night, and it's often very crowded. So one idea is to have reserved play on Tuesday night at Dade to provide more playing time for people at different skill levels. The Dade gym could have three courts.

We want your feedback to let the City know if there will be enough players at Dade Street to warrant taping the courts and getting nets.

Player spotlight

Each issue, we will highlight two Tallahassee pickleball players so that we can get to know one another better. This month, we feature the King and Queen of Tallahassee Pickleball: Barry Powers and Carolyn Allaire.

Barry Powers

While Barry Powers, 71, may be the King of Tallahassee Pickleball, he says it was City Pickleball Coordinator Glen Howe, the Godfather of Tallahassee Pickleball (sorry for the mixed metaphors), who introduced him to the sport nearly 5 years ago. Barry served as the initial pickleball coordinator at the Senior Center, spreading the pickleball love with the help of other volunteers and the Center staff. Barry is a retired Realtor and a former Lt. Colonel in the Army. While on active duty, he was ordered to 20 postings, visited/lived in 10 states and toured 10 countries. He says the most rewarding assignment was teaching English at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Barry hails from Ossining-on-Hudson, home of Sing Sing Prison, 30 miles north of New York City. Barry has been an athlete his entire life. He learned to ice skate at 2 and played ice hockey and baseball in high school. He even tried out for a Detroit Tigers scout. After the tryout, Barry got a handshake but not a callback. Oh, well. Barry took up downhill skiing in his early 20s, becoming a Qualified Amateur Ski Instructor and joining the national (United States) and international ski patrol (Germany). He plans to ski this winter – if his knees allow him to. As an older adult, he played organized fast- and slow-pitch softball. He also played tennis, racquetball, and squash. And then he discovered pickleball, which is much kinder to his knees. After a 3-month hiatus, he's heading back to the courts.

"Pickleball is easy to learn and downright fun. The sport also provides challenges as one moves up the competitive ladder," Barry says. He and his wife, Joan, have been married nearly 52 years. "Joan will say as I walk out the door, 'Have fun with your pickleball playmates,'" Barry adds.

Barry's advice to new players is to "just get the ball over the net! Watch videotape matches, practice, and, more importantly, have fun."

Carolyn Allaire

In addition to a love for pickleball, Carolyn Allaire has many things in common with Barry. Carolyn – the Queen of Tallahassee Pickleball – started playing pickleball at the same time Barry did, helping him at the Senior Center and then encouraging Len Harvey, executive director of Premier Health & Fitness Center, to offer playtime at Premier. Carolyn, too, experienced a military lifestyle, having lived in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and in Belgium with her husband, Bruce, who was in the Army. Carolyn is also from the Northeast, hailing from the BAH-ston area.

Carolyn, 72, retired from a career with the federal government. She, too, has been athletic throughout her life. In her 30s, she took up yoga, practicing regularly. At age 50, she ventured to Santa Barbara, California, to get certified as a yoga instructor at the White Lotus Foundation. She plays tennis on two US Tennis Association (USTA) leagues. Last year, she joined the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA), becoming the USAPA Ambassador for Tallahassee.

"Basically that means that I encourage people to take up the sport," Carolyn says.

In addition to welcoming new players and helping them learn the basics, Carolyn uses her USAPA connections to help put Tallahassee on the national pickleball map. She recently returned from a week-long retreat for USAPA ambassadors in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. She says the event was filled with exciting workshops followed by free play in the afternoon.

Thanks to Carolyn, several groups of local pickleball players have traveled to Neptune Beach, Jacksonville, Destin, and Daytona Beach Shores to compete in tournaments and learn techniques from other players.

Carolyn's love for the sport is evident in every email, text message, and Facebook post she creates. "Pickleball is on fire in Tallahassee!" she reminds us. Thank you, Carolyn and Barry, for helping pickleball become a reality in the Capital City.





Ask the Ref

If you have questions about pickleball rules or etiquette, email your questions to “Ask the Ref” at larae.donnellan@gmail.com. Answers will be dictated by the International Federation of Pickleball “Official Tournament Rulebook.”

New-to-Tallahassee pickleball player David Meadows actually asked this first question about no-volley-zone (or kitchen) faults on the USAPA website. Here is his question and the response he received.

Q: I have a question regarding Rule 9.B in the rulebook. It states that if you hit a “volley” and your momentum or follow-through takes you into the kitchen, then it’s a fault. But what if you hit a ground stroke and momentum or follow-through brings you into the kitchen. Is that a fault, as well? I realize a volley and ground stroke are two different types of shots. Thank you.

A: Thanks for the question, David. You can enter the kitchen at any time after a ground stroke without a fault.

Because many of you will be playing in the Tallahassee Pickleball Tournament this weekend, the following questions are directed toward you.

Q: I’ve never played in a tournament before. What is the rule regarding time-outs?

A: According to Rule 11.A, “A player or team is entitled to two time-outs per game; each time-out period shall last only 1 minute. Then play must be resumed or another time-out must be called by either side. Time-outs may never be called once the ball is in play or the server has started the serving motion.”

Taking a time-out can give you a chance to catch your breath in a rigorous match, to tie a shoelace, to switch paddles, or to make any other simple adjustments. If you are on a

losing streak, use a time-out to regain your composure ... or to slow your opponents’ momentum.

Q: What if I were to get injured during a match? Must I use one of my time-outs until I feel better?

A: No. There’s a special rule (11.B) for injuries. If you decide to call an injury time-out, then the referee (or in our case, the official scorekeeper) must agree that the injury did take place and that you aren’t just stalling. If the scorekeeper agrees that an injury did take place, then you will be given up to 15 minutes to recover. If you can’t continue playing at that point, then the game will be awarded to your opponents.

Note, however, that if a player gets injured, Rule 12.E. states: “Rally continues to its conclusion, despite an injury to any of the players.”

Q: How do I signal that I want to take a time-out?

A: Announce “Time out!” to the other players. Then lay your paddle on the side of the court where you were playing just before play stopped. The server should place the pickleball underneath his or her paddle. Then, when play resumes, you will know where you should be playing and who will be serving.

If you call a time-out, you can resume play as soon as you want. Just let your opponents know you are ready to play.

Another good hint is for everyone to repeat the score just before a time-out is taken so that you all can remember the score once play resumes. If there is an official scorekeeper, he or she would be responsible for keeping

track of the score and who should be serving.

In the Tallahassee tournament, however, players will be responsible for keeping track of their own scores – as well as their foot faults in the kitchen and at the baseline ... and whether balls are hit in or out.

In other words, players are expected to be good sports and to follow the rules of pickleball. After all, this is just a game!

Q: How much time is allotted between games in the best-two-of-three-game matches?

A: According to Rule 11.D, there shall be no more than a 2-minute break between games within a match.

Q: What happens if a pickleball gets a crack in it during the middle of play?

A: According to Rule 12.A, play continues until the end of the rally. If the referee decides the cracked ball adversely affected play, he or she will call for a replay of the point. But since we won’t have referees at our tournament, the players should agree to replay the point if the ball is cracked and affects play.

Q: What happens if a player breaks a paddle during the middle of play?

A: Don’t stop. Keep playing. According to Rule 12.F, “A rally shall not be stopped or affected if a player loses or breaks a paddle or loses a personal item.”

PickleMall

In the last issue, I suggested that we might want to use this newsletter as a vehicle to sell or swap pickleball-related items that we no longer need ... or to seek for those we might want.

A few people said they had old paddles that they might like to sell, but no one gave me any details. To start the ball rolling, I am listing a few items that I have for sale. If you are interested in any of the items, please send an email to larae.donnellan@gmail.com.

- Women's Nike Vapor Court Shoes, new, size 9, white with gray, \$25



- Paddletek Element, regular grip, new, blue, \$69



- Paddletek Element, small grip, new, raspberry, \$69



- Paddletek Stratus, small grip, new, magenta, \$69

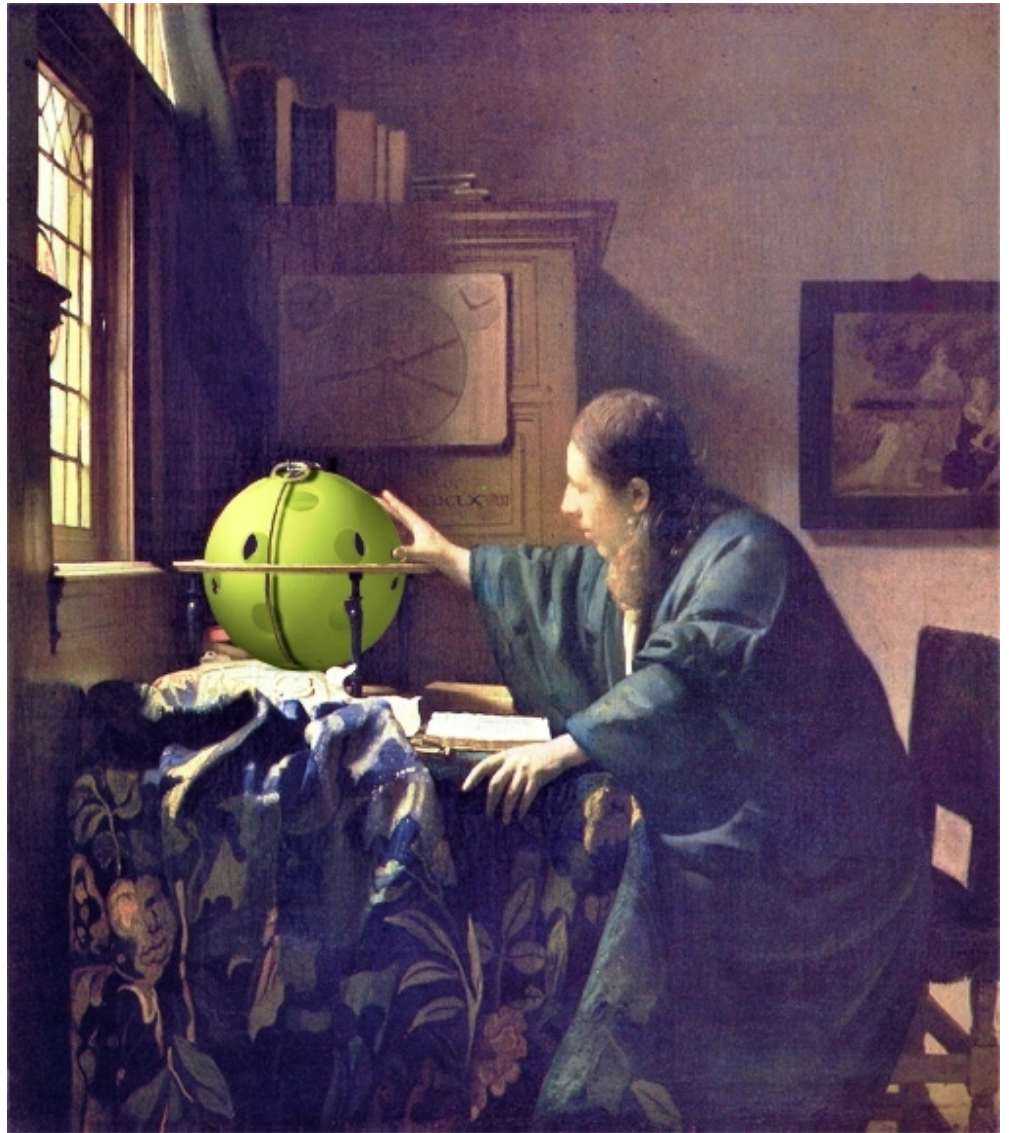


- Paddletek Power Pro, small grip, new, turquoise, \$75



The Art of Pickleball

By Susan Campbell



Although Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer created the original masterpiece "The Astronomer" in 1668, local artist Susan Campbell created "The Pickleballer" in 2015.

Your help is needed to keep this newsletter going

Are you interested in helping with this newsletter – either by submitting ideas, writing articles, taking photos, or doing the editing and design? If so, please let me know. I plan to move soon, so someone needs to take over this job. Might that person be you?

Sincerely, LaRae Donnellan, Editor
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