

-Pickleball Partner Etiquette



This was originally a Facebook Forum post by Payton Bond.

Pickleball isn't just a game—it's a social experience that brings people together. Open play is a great way to mix skill levels, meet new players, and enjoy the unique camaraderie of the sport. Good etiquette keeps games fun, positive, and welcoming.

Everyone has their own approach to court etiquette—these are just my personal guidelines. No judgment, just my take! What do you do differently?

Game Start

Before a game, I introduce myself, ask about my partner's experience, and set a positive tone with a quick paddle tap and "Here we go!"

Encouragement & Communication

I acknowledge great shots with a quick "Nice shot!" or "Great get!" and reinforce standout

moments after the point. During rallies, a simple “Nice!” can boost confidence without distraction.

Calling Balls Out

I help my partner with out calls—“No!” for obvious out balls and “Watch it!” for close ones. Most partners appreciate the heads-up.

Line Calls

I trust my partner’s line calls if they call a ball out. If I think it was a close call, I ask my partner to confirm their call, and if they do, I accept their judgment. If our opponents question it, I keep things respectful—disputes aren’t worth the energy in casual rec play.

Keeping the Energy Up

Encouragement matters, especially when the game isn’t going our way. A quick “Let’s do

this!” can help refocus. If we win a point, I’ll say, “Let’s keep this going!”

Court Awareness & Sharing the Middle

I communicate clearly on shots down the middle—“I got it” or “You go.” If I take a shot my partner expected, I acknowledge it with “Sorry, it was on my forehand.” If they correct me, I take it in stride—“You’re right, my bad.”

Offering Feedback

If my partner asks for advice, I keep it positive and simple. If they apologize for mistakes, I reassure them with, “Don’t worry, you’re doing fine.” I avoid giving unsolicited tips but will share insights **after the game** if they seem open to it.

Final Thought: Be the Partner Everyone Wants

For me, pickleball isn't just about competition—it's about connection. I focus on communication, encouragement, and keeping the game fun.
How do you approach etiquette in casual games?

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