

Laguna Woods Village | Conditional Reopening of Pickleball Facility
Effective: September 14, 2020 | Updated December 24, 2020 | Expiration Date: TBD

BACKGROUND

On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19. Subsequently, on March 19, 2020, the governor issued Executive Order N-33-20, which ordered all state residents to stay in place and identified certain essential functions that could remain operational. Additionally, the order stated that individuals must adhere to strict social distancing guidance.

On May 1, 2020, the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) issued Facility, Programming and Player Recommendations, a compilation and summary of pertinent information to support safe and appropriate recreational play practices for players during the expected transition period back to regular pickleball activity. The information is to be applied in accordance with facility mandated rules and recommendations as well as the latest federal, state, and county guidelines related to the containment and prevention of COVID-19.

PURPOSE

Safeguarding our community is of utmost importance. It is imperative that our community self-enforce and strictly adhere to the restrictions mandated by the federal, state and county governments.

This procedure is intended to reduce risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus, but is not a guarantee of your safety. Residents should use their own good judgment in determining the amount of risk of exposure in using any shared facilities or amenities. Risk of exposure involves many factors out of the control of the Village corporations and management, including the compliance (or noncompliance) and safe/unsafe behavior of others using the same facilities or amenities.

SCOPE

This procedure establishes formal guidelines for the conditional reopening of the Laguna Woods Village pickleball facility effective May 27, 2020 (for residents only), and a procedure for operating the pickleball facility during the COVID-19 crisis in compliance with federal, state and county guidance, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The procedure reflects Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advice that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on what we know now, those at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people 65 years and older.

The pickleball/paddle tennis manager, with support from the recreation and special events director, are responsible for these activities.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Applicability

The pickleball facility will reopen to Laguna Woods Village residents only. No guests, nonplayers or spectators are permitted at the pickleball facility. USAPA recommends playing with family members or others who live in your household.

2. Hours

Pickleball facility hours are from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Court availability will vary due to court sharing with paddle tennis. The online reservation system will show the available courts for pickleball players each day. An on-site staff person will adjust the net to eliminate resident touch points. Additional hours may be added by pickleball facility management once conformance with this procedure, as well as federal, state and county and other applicable safety requirements, are evident.

3. Singles Play Only

Games are limited to singles matches only. Other forms of play that could lead to incidental contact and unwanted proximity are prohibited, including, but not limited to, doubles play, social clinics, group lessons, tournaments and other types of events. Players must stay at least 6 feet apart from other players at all times.

4. Facilities

The pickleball facility patio will remain closed to remain in compliance with federal, state county and other applicable safety requirements.

5. Safety Requirements

a. Touch points

All touch points will be eliminated.

b. Social distancing

Activity should always be in line with the federal government's advised social distancing measures (defined by the CDC as keeping 6 feet apart), including when arriving at and departing from a court.

c. Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn during singles play.

d. Hand washing

Wash your hands with a disinfectant soap and water (for 20 seconds or longer), or use a hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available before going to the court. Players should wash or use hand sanitizer immediately after match is completed. Players should consider using hand sanitizer between games.

e. Touching

Adhere to CDC guidelines by not touching your face after handling a ball, paddle or other equipment. Wash your hands promptly if you have touched your eyes, nose or mouth. Individuals should refrain from shaking hands or making a high five.

f. Sharing equipment

Clean and wipe down your equipment, including paddles and water bottles. Do not share paddles or any other equipment such as wristbands, grips, hats and towels.

g. Health

Do not play if you are exhibiting any symptoms of the coronavirus: mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing or other symptoms identified by the CDC; have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; or are a vulnerable individual. A vulnerable individual is an elderly individual and/or an individual with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity and asthma, and those whose

immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

6. Completion of Play

Upon completion of play, individuals must avoid post-play socializing and proceed directly to their car/cart and drive away from the immediate area to avoid congregating in the pickleball facility or parking lot.

7. Wash equipment

After play, thoroughly wash paddles, grips, pickleballs, towels, clothes, bags, water bottles and other items you have used or touched.

PICKLEBALL PROVISIONS

1. Scheduling

Court time will be scheduled in 45-minute increments with a 15-minute change-over break to ensure there are no congregations of individuals waiting to start as well as to maintain social distancing at the facility.

a. Reservation times

- i. 7 to 7:45 a.m.
- ii. 8 to 8:45 a.m.
- iii. 9 to 9:45 a.m.
- iv. 10 to 10:45 a.m.
- v. 11 to 11:45 a.m.
- vi. Noon to 12:45 p.m.
- vii. 1 to 1:45 p.m.
- viii. 2 to 2:45 p.m.
- ix. 3 to 3:45 p.m.
- x. 4 to 4:45 p.m.
- xi. 5 to 5:45 p.m.
- xii. 6 to 6:45 p.m.
- xiii. 7 to 7:45 p.m.
- xiv. 8 to 8:45 p.m.

Scheduling may be adjusted by pickleball facility management as needed to satisfy safety requirements.

2. Group size

Groups will be limited in size to two players. Players must stay at least 6 feet apart from other players at all times, including on the court, in between games and during time-outs. Social clinics, group lessons, tournaments and other types of events are prohibited.

3. Distance Between Groups/Players

Groups must adhere to 6-foot social distancing requirements at all times even when taking a break. Players must stay on their side of court. Avoid changing ends of the court.

4. Reservations

a. Advance reservations

Advance reservations required. No walk-ons permitted. Reservations can be scheduled 72 hours in advance online or by telephone. One reservation can be scheduled per telephone call.

b. Reservations by online system

- i. Download the Kourts App on your smartphone from the App Store for iPhone or Google Play for Android devices.
- ii. Open the app, and click “Next” or “Skip” to scroll through the intro slides.
- iii. Click “Me” to log in at the bottom of the page (you will only need to do this once).
- iv. Choose “Connect with Email,” and input your email listed in the community directory.
- v. Click “Search” to view a list of community clubs once you are logged in. Note: If your facility of choice delivers a “Verify Membership” message, contact Recreation staff to adjust your profile.
- vi. Click the facility, and click “Filter” to define available reservation space.
- vii. Facility clicked **MUST** be the sport that is played.
- viii. Locate and click the time you wish to reserve.
- ix. Click “**Singles**” or “**Doubles.**”
- x. Enter the names of players you are playing with.
- xi. Click “Add booking.”
- xii. Check your email for confirmation of your reserved date and time.
- xiii. Click “Bookings” to cancel your reservation.
- xiv. Contact staff for assistance if you experience a registration system error:
 - o Peter; 949-597-4386; Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- xi. Schedule a reservation 72 hours in advance for all courts.
- xii. Contact Recreation to prepare your profile for use if you are a new resident by calling 949-597-4273 or emailing recreation@vmsinc.org.
- xiii. Visit <https://www.kourts.com/clubs/intro-video> for more information.

c. Reservations by telephone

Telephone reservations can be made by telephone 72 hours in advance Monday through Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. Call 949-268-2274 to schedule court time. Residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Kourts online reservation system, as reservations by telephone will be phased out in the future.

d. Resident identification number

All residents must have his or her resident identification number available when calling to schedule reservation.

e. Communication with playing partner

The resident scheduling the reservation is responsible for informing his or her playing partner of the accurate name and time on the reservation for proper check-in. Players unable to check in with proper information may lose reservation.

5. Pickleball Facility Check-in

Players must not arrive more than 5 minutes before reservation time. Upon arrival to pickleball facility, confirm reservation on the bulletin board and go straight to the court. Both players may be asked to show resident identification cards upon arrival to the pickleball facility. Staff will monitor court use and resolve any problems.

6. On the Court

a. Social distancing within group

Players must adhere to 6-foot social distancing requirement at all times.

b. Balls

Although unlikely, it is possible that a ball can transmit the COVID-19 virus, as virtually any hard surface can transmit the disease. Extra precaution is required to keep safe when playing pickleball:

- i. Players must wash and sanitize pickleball balls and racquet per match. A disinfecting bucket will be on site for players to use to clean pickleball balls and paddle.
- ii. Take one set of colored balls; have your playing partner take another set of colored balls. If different colors are not an option, use a Sharpie and prominently mark personal pickleballs with your initials.
- iii. Proceed with play, making sure to pick up your set of colored balls only. Should a ball with the other color wind up on your side of the court, do not touch the ball with your hands. Use your paddle or feet to advance the ball to the other side of the court.

c. Errant balls

If a ball from another court comes to you, send it back with a kick or with your paddle.

d. Touch points eliminated

All touch points associated with the pickleball facility must be eliminated.

- i. Gates
Gates must remain open during operating hours.
- ii. Drinking fountains
Drinking fountains will be turned off; players must bring own water.
- iii. Score tenders
All score tenders will be taken off the courts to prevent touching; players must keep score verbally.
- iv. Other equipment
Benches will be removed from courts; all common-area chairs and tables will be removed.

e. Other players' equipment

Players should not handle other players' balls, paddles, towels or other equipment.

f. Restrooms

Players must wash hands with soap and water when entering and exiting restrooms. Adherence to 6-foot social distance protocol required.

7. End of Play

Players must proceed directly to their car/cart and drive out of the immediate area to avoid congregation in the pickleball facility or parking lot. Avoid post-play socializing. Thoroughly wash paddles, grips, pickleballs, towels, clothes, bags, water bottles and other items you have used or touched.

8. CDPH Guidance

The Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports guidance issued from the California Department of Public Health includes a table outlining youth and adult recreational sports permitted by current tier of county. [Read it here.](#)

This guidance provides direction on outdoor and indoor recreational adult sports activities to support a safe environment for these sports. The guidance applies to all organized community-sponsored programs, privately organized clubs and leagues, and adult recreational sports.