



# Pickle Juice

## From the Editor



### DREAM!

Sanibel Island, Florida

This Newsletter is for our members. Submit a story, a helpful tip, pictures, travel information, an event or you just want to have your voice heard. Send your article to [Joanne.Griesser@verizon.net](mailto:Joanne.Griesser@verizon.net).

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## From the President's Desk

Boy do I miss pickleball. I have been avoiding playing due to the pandemic and I am looking forward to being vaccinated to help me feel safer in playing. Luckily, I have been able to play a little, both singles and with a group of guys that are extra cautious which has helped a bit. Add to that the weather that we are now experiencing and the boredom of being a home and I would say I have the winter blues. I am looking forward to spring and the opportunity to play a little more. I know that many of you are in the same boat while other members feel a little less at risk and have been enjoying the outdoor play opportunities the association has offered while the weather has cooperated. Up until recently, we have been lucky with the weather.

Once again, many thanks to our volunteer session coordinators who have taken the responsibilities of housing the nets, setting up, taking down and coordinating the play sessions. Without their generosity and dedication, we would not have as many playing opportunities. Please thank them when you play so they know they are appreciated.

Howard County Recreation and Parks is also offering some drop-in outdoor play sessions. The location, dates and times are listed under the heading "Opened Play" on their Pickleball web page.

It is unfortunate that we do not have as many indoor opportunities to play as some of the other counties in Maryland. We have lost our cost-free access to the HCPSS's cafeterias and gyms, primarily due to their decision to charge room fees. That makes the use of these facilities too expensive to split among the few participants who could play at those locations. Add to that the limited indoor opportunities due to COVID-19. Another reason to look forward to getting past this pandemic. However, it is my understanding that Howard County Recreation and Parks is offering some indoor playtime, see their "Pickleball for All" link on their Pickleball web page. I hear from Sonny Tannan that the Severna Park Community Center is also offering indoor Pickleball opportunities for all levels. Check out their website for details. If anyone else can share any other indoor opportunities, I recommend posting them to the Members Discussion Forum as a new topic and then it will show up on the login welcome page.

They say, "Hope springs eternal", well I think the key word in that phrase is "spring", which is something I think we are all looking forward to. Hang in there, it won't be too long!

## Duane's Court

### Adjusting to life without pickleball

2020 has been the strangest year for most of us. We have had to adjust our lives in ways that we never expected when the year began. Our normal daily patterns were suddenly changed. At first, we thought that after “locking down” for a month or so we would be able to resume a more normal life. What we didn't realize was that our lives would be disrupted for a long-extended period of time. Getting used to always, having to carry a mask in the car before we left home and restricting our trips out in public became a new strange reality. How did we become phobic about engaging with everyone outside of our immediate families?

While adjusting to not being able to travel and visiting family and friends in person has been difficult, giving up playing pickleball and socializing with other players has been the hardest for me. The void in my daily life without pickleball has been the most challenging. I fear that it will take a while to regain pickleball skills when I return. How long will it take to relearn a soft shot return? Watching videos of pickleball tournaments online helps some but it doesn't replace the enjoyment I get from being on the courts. The toughest part is not seeing all of you and sharing the fun of our pickleball obsession.

As we wait for the “herd immunity” achieved with the vaccines, I am planning to reengage in the near future with more instructional sessions and hopefully the development of more Association play and social opportunities in 2021. Our plans for 2020 in our Pickleball Master Plan will hopefully be implemented in 2021. To check out the plan go to this link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MdD6mbpCaYFEnZRsh6oKk8zUQgZFnKcC/view>

See you all on the courts soon.

## Upcoming Events

Spring!

The Vaccine!

## Interview with Ira Franckle

Would you mind telling us a little about yourself? Family, area where you live and play. Do you have another career outside of Pickle ball?

Winter 2021

*I am a native of Chicago but relocated to MD in 1985 for work. I am an accountant by education and built my career as a defense contract auditor/compliance manager. I retired in 2019. I live in Ellicott City.*

What caught your interest in Pickle ball?

*I had been hearing about pickleball being fun from work friends for a few years but was still actively playing tennis. But then I had a back injury and saw the light. Once I completed PT, figured it was a good time to try Pickleball which is good exercise and easier on the body.*

How long have you been playing?

*Over 3 years.*

Have you played in any tournaments? What was that experience?

*Yes, the memorable ones were when I went to Annapolis for a tournament with other Associations in MD. and when I and a partner competed in the Senior Olympics. The Senior Olympics was a lessons learned. My partner and I gave it a try but after only a year playing pickleball we were not even close to ready for a match like this. We were crushed but I still have the tee-shirt! Annapolis was fun and a nice opportunity to meet other players around the state. In fact, ran into a neighbor I had not seen for over 25 years!*

Where is the best place that you have played and why?

*I have a lot of places I like but Atholton is probably my favorite because it was my go to place after work at least before COVID.*

Would you mind telling us about a not-so-good time that you had on the court?

*See above regarding senior Olympics.*

If you could only give one piece of advice to a new Pickle Ball Player, what would it be?

*Hang in there and keep playing. You will get the hang of it. Practice really is the key to getting better and accept constructive suggestions and tips. If you are willing to take advice from more experienced players, I have found you can learn a lot to improve your game.*

What would you like to see the Association accomplish over the next year?

*That is a difficult question given the restrictions from COVID. But once we can return to normal, would love to see continuing efforts to get more permanent courts in Howard County but I know we are competing with tennis.*

## Rules Summary: Recently Published in USA Pickleball

The following is an abbreviated form of the rules to give a quick overview of how the game is played. If there is a conflict between this summary and the official rules, the official rules prevail.

### Basic Rules

- Pickleball is played either as doubles (two players per team) or singles; doubles is most common
- The same size playing area and rules are used for both singles and doubles

### The Serve

- The server's arm must be moving in an upward arc when the ball is struck.
- Paddle contact with the ball must not be made above the waist level.
- The head of the paddle must not be above the highest part of the wrist at contact.
- A 'drop serve' is also permitted in which case none of the elements above apply.
- At the time the ball is struck, the server's feet may not touch the court or outside the imaginary extension of the sideline or centerline and at least one foot must be behind the baseline on the playing surface or the ground behind the baseline.
- The serve is made diagonally crosscourt and must land within the confines of the opposite diagonal court.
- Only one serve attempt is allowed per server.

### Serving Sequence

- Both players on the serving doubles team have the opportunity to serve and score points until they commit a fault \*(except for the first service sequence of each new game).
- The first serve of each side-out is made from the right/even court.
- If a point is scored, the server switches sides and the server initiates the next serve from the left/odd court.
- As subsequent points are scored, the server continues switching back and forth until a fault is committed and the first server loses the serve.
- When the first server loses the serve the partner then serves from their correct side of the court (except for the first service sequence of the game\*).
- The second server continues serving until his team commits a fault and loses the serve to the opposing team.
- Once the service goes to the opposition (at side out), the first serve is from the right/even court and both players on that team have the opportunity to serve and score points until their team commits two faults.
- In singles the server serves from the right/even court when his or her score is even and from the left/odd when the score is odd.

\*At the beginning of each new game only one partner on the serving team has the opportunity to serve before faulting, after which the service passes to the receiving team.

## Scoring

- Points are scored only by the serving team.
- Games are normally played to 11 points, win by 2.
- Tournament games may be to 15 or 21, win by 2.
- When the serving team's score is even (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10) the player who was the first server in the game for that team will be in the right/even court when serving or receiving; when odd (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) that player will be in the left/odd court when serving or receiving.

## Two-Bounce Rule

- When the ball is served, the receiving team must let it bounce before returning, and then the serving team must let it bounce before returning, thus two bounces.
- After the ball has bounced once in each team's court, both teams may either volley the ball (hit the ball before it bounces) or play it off a bounce (ground stroke).
- The two-bounce rule eliminates the serve and volley advantage and extends rallies.

## Non-Volley Zone

- The non-volley zone is the court area within 7 feet on both sides of the net.
- Volleying is prohibited within the non-volley zone. This rule prevents players from executing smashes from a position within the zone.
- It is a fault if, when volleying a ball, the player steps on the non-volley zone, including the line and/or when the player's momentum causes them or anything they are wearing or carrying to touch the non-volley zone including the associated lines.
- It is a fault if, after volleying, a player is carried by momentum into or touches the non-volley zone, even if the volleyed ball is declared dead before this happens.
- A player may legally be in the non-volley zone any time other than when volleying a ball.
- The non-volley zone is commonly referred to as "the kitchen."

## Line Calls

- A ball contacting any part of any line, except the non-volley zone line on a serve, is considered "in."
- A serve contacting the non-volley zone line is short and a fault.

## Faults

- A fault is any action that stops play because of a rule violation.
- A fault by the receiving team results in a point for the serving team.
- A fault by the serving team results in the server's loss of serve or side out.

## Determining Serving Team

Any fair method can be used to determine which player or team has first choice of side, service, or receive. (Example: Write a 1 or 2 on the back of the score sheet.)

Winter 2021

*Reference: <https://usapickleball.org/what-is-pickleball/ifp-official-rules/rules-summary/>*

## Pro Corner Congratulations

Our Association wants to congratulate HCPA member, HCPA "Pro Corner" Instructional Writer and Team GAMMA member Marc Austin.

The director of GAMMA said that Marc was the biggest ambassador seller of GAMMA pickleball products for 2020! He said, *"First, I just wanted to congratulate you! Out of all our club members last year, you had the most sales.... "*

GAMMA is a top pickleball product provider and has representatives in all 50 states. It is amazing that Central Maryland (Howard and Carroll County Pickleball Associations in particular) are making such a positive impact on the sport. Marc has generously offered to donate his commission check our Association for advancing and benefiting all of our members!

The HCPA Board wants to congratulate Marc and every HCPA member for advancing the sport and being recognized across the country. What a huge accomplishment!

In addition to Marc's contribution, he has arranged for every HCPA member to receive GAMMA's best product discount from [www.gammasports.com](http://www.gammasports.com) . When purchasing any pickleball items from that website you will need to use this unique discount code: ba\_austin21. **The new discount gives 25% off of every purchase!** This is a great deal for GAMMA products. All orders of \$69 or more will receive free shipping. They ship fast, current orders to Maryland residents are delivered in four or five days. GAMMA offers a quality line of pickleball. Check them out and take advantage of the discount.

Marc is a Professional Pickleball Instructor. He is currently teaching classes and specialized clinics through Howard County Recreation and Parks. Please check out their pickleball website at [Pickleball \(howardcountymd.gov\)](http://Pickleball(howardcountymd.gov)) for his adult classes and clinics. His next clinic will be held indoors at Meadowbrook Sport Center Sunday, February 7 from 5PM-7:30PM. The topic will be "Playing as Partners". This one is popular and only has a few open spots. Spots are limited as all COVID-19 policies will be in place.

Marc's outdoor spring pickleball classes will soon be announced and open for registration through the above site. They will be advertised in the spring HRCP Sports Mailer that most county residents receive. Starting this spring, Marc will offer five different skill level classes to include his brand new "Competitive" class. Please check them out!

Congratulations Marc and thank you HCPA members, we are now nationally recognized!

## Social Events

The Howard county Pickleball Association recommends that we all follow CDC guidelines. When playing indoors, wear a mask, and stay 6 feet away from others while you are waiting for a court. If your

outside, stay 6 feet away from other players, and sanitize your hands after you put the equipment away and before you get in your car to go home.

This virus will be defeated. We want to see all of our members, healthy and back on the court when society can return to normal.

### Humor (Dad Jokes)

Q. What do dentists call their x-rays?

A. Tooth pics.

Q. How do you measure a snake?

A. In inches, they don't have feet.

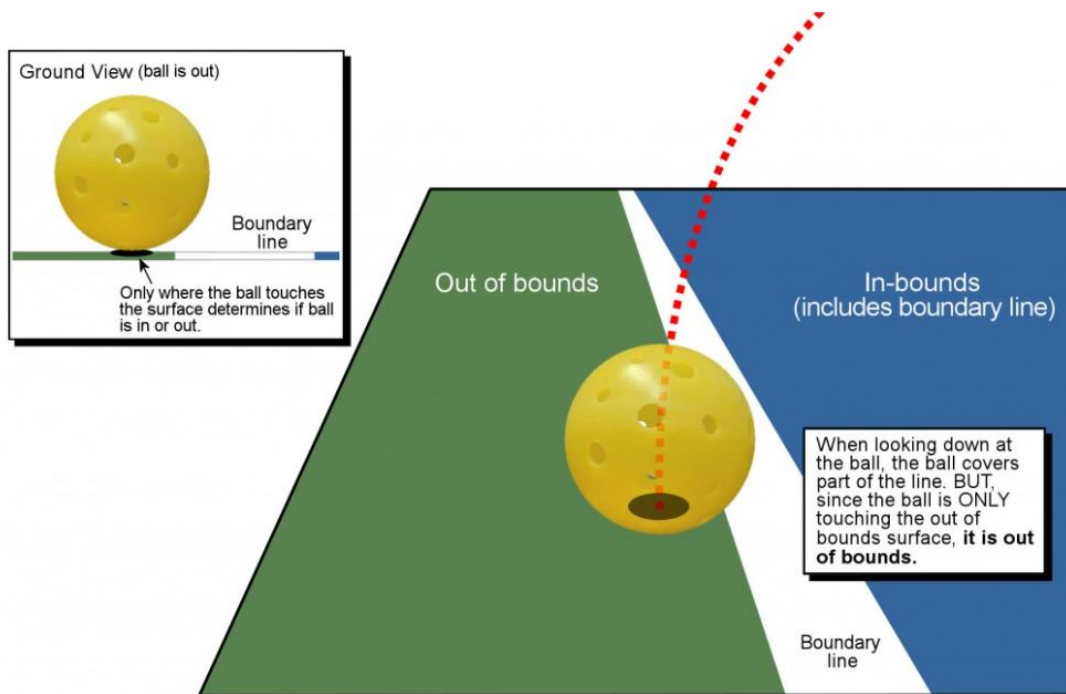
Q. What does a house wear?

A. Address

Q. Did you hear the rumor going around about the butter?

A. Never mind, I shouldn't spread it.

### Is the Ball In or Out?



Source: <https://usapickleball.org/what-is-pickleball/how-to-play/basics/judging-ball-in-or-out/>