

# HCPA Code of Conduct

## Objective

It is important that Howard County Pickleball Association (HCPA), its members and Board Members maintain an ethical standard. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to set forth the organization's values and to make clear that everyone involved in the organization, and their guests and non-members if in attendance, are expected to act in accordance with those values. This compliance is reiterated in HCPA's document "Policy and Procedures for the Howard County Pickleball Association."

## Core Values

Cordial and collegial behavior is expected of all players at all times. Above all else remember that this is an association where the emphasis is placed on learning, developing, and socializing with other players. Violations to this policy will be taken seriously by HCPA and may result in warnings, suspensions, or termination of membership.

## Standards

- Know and play by the USAPA/IFP Official rules as best as possible
- Help to create a positive and fun environment
- Respect the rights of all participants regardless of their age, gender, ability, cultural background, or religion
- Share courts on a rotating basis with those waiting to play
- Control temperament. Verbal or physical abuse of other players will not be tolerated
- Show concern and caution towards any injured players
- If a ball from another court enters the court or has the potential to interfere with play, stop play immediately, call "Ball on Court" to notify fellow players and wait until ball is returned or retrieved to resume play
- If possible, avoid going onto a court if you are not part of the game
- Wait for point to end before walking behind, beside or across a court
- It is everyone's responsibility to make new players feel welcome and to help them learn the game
- Do not criticize your partner or other players nor fault them for their mistakes
- Members will accept responsibility for non-member guests and family members in attendance at events
- Inappropriate remarks, actions of a negative nature, and bullying will not be tolerated.

Report policy violations to a HCPA Board Member. Their email and phone contact information are located in the Members Directory.