

### **Rationale**

Pickleball Ontario in its role of promoting the sport of Pickleball, gives first priority to the safety and well-being of all participants engaged in Pickleball activities. Safety first is a core value of the Association. All members have a role to play in encouraging players to assume responsibility for their personal safety and the safety of others.

Risk Management is the process of recognizing, assessing and controlling risks or hazards.

### **Policy Guidelines**

1. The Pickleball Ontario insurance coverage requires that risk management practices be in place at all Pickleball Ontario events and recreational Pickleball sites where player liability insurance coverage is provided through Pickleball Ontario membership.

2. Slips and Falls:

The responsible person should through ongoing risk assessments, check the playing area for uneven or wet surfaces, inadequate lighting, poor maintenance and/or housekeeping practices that could contribute to an injury.

- a) Should hazards be identified, the Site Convenor/Event Coordinator will be expected to notify the site manager to have the problem corrected.
- b) A log of reported situation details and any actions taken to mitigate a possible injury related to these incidents should be maintained in case there are future liability issues.

3. Equipment:

Good equipment ensures both enjoyment of the game and personal safety.

- a) Players should be wearing court shoes that have a sole designed for the particular playing surface (indoor /outdoor). Shoe bottoms should be cleaned of debris before playing.
- b) Safety approved eyewear is recommended to avoid risk of injury and help protect a player's eyes from the newer hard-hitting paddles and ball return rallies by more competitive players. Two Standards Associations, the Canadian Standards Association (CAN) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM F803) have each independently tested and certified protective eyewear for racquet sports. Players are urged to select durable lens material (polycarbonate lenses) that conforms to the CSA and/or ASTM F803 standard.

4. Safe Play and Court Etiquette:

- a) Running backwards to get a ball should be discouraged. Instead, turning then running or arranging for the doubles partner to retrieve those shots is preferable.
- b) Ball retrieval close to a fence, railing, wall etc. should be discouraged to avoid injury.
- c) Hydration and fatigue avoidance should be encouraged.
- d) The Site Convenor or Event Coordinator should be aware of medical conditions that might cause a need to stop play.
- e) A “Ball on Court” call should be standard practice to signal a stop in play so that an errand ball landing in the court can be returned to its respective court and avoid injury.
- f) Crossing a court while the players are engaged in play should be avoided until the rally is finished.
- g) An opponent's skill level should be respected to avoid causing them injury.
- h) Safety and etiquette rules should be communicated to players and form part of regular play.

5. Claims Reporting Procedure:

Site Conveners and/or Event Coordinators should be familiar with the Pickleball Ontario Claims Reporting procedure and use the Pickleball Ontario Incident Report Form for capturing reportable incidents (see Appendix).

**Administration**

This policy shall be administered by the PICKLEBALL ONTARIO President at any PICKLEBALL ONTARIO related meeting.

Policy Revised

2019 02 21  
Date



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President

Appendix 1

**PICKLEBALL**

DATE & TIME	LOCATION
GROUP LEADER'S NAME	
GROUP LEADER CONTACT INFO	(ADDRESS / TELE # / email address)

NAME OF INJURED PARTY		DATE OF BIRTH
ADDRESS		Telephone Number
		email
Description of Incident (WHAT, WHERE, WHY)		
CONTRIBUTING and/or HAZARDOUS FACTORS	Group leader to record here any contributing or hazardous factors such as footwear, eyeglasses, physical disabilities, floor surface, equipment, inadequate lighting, weather etc., which may have contributed to the incident. If possible, take photos.	

WITNESS(ES)	WITNESS ADDRESS / TEL # / EMAIL ADDRESS

IF POLICE INVOLVED PLEASE RECORD HERE THE OFFICER NAME. BADGE AND REPORT NUMBER
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