

# Club News



***JIM PRICE AND GIB REFFITT***

(Send us a Funny Caption to: [newsletter@grpickleball.com](mailto:newsletter@grpickleball.com))

# Call for GRPC Board

The Grand Rapids Pickleball Club is seeking nominees for the organization's board of directors. Both self-nominations and nominations of fellow club members are enthusiastically welcome. The criteria include being a current club member and being a pickleball addict/advocate. Elections are generally held in May or June.

The board meets once a month in the evening and is a nice hour of work/ideas to advance the sport to meet the needs of our club and comradery, as a local pickleball community.

## **2021 positions to be filled:**

Vice President	2-year position
Secretary	2-year position
All Committee Chairpersons	1 -year position

Up to 4 committee chairpersons can be voting members of the board. If more than four committees, additional committee members are not voting members but are encouraged and welcomed to attend the board meetings.

## **Current Board Positions are:**

President	2-year term	Steve Elzinga	not up for election in 2021
Vice President	2-year term	John Frizzo	
Secretary	2-year term	Cari Brooks	
Treasurer	2-year term	Hub Capes	not up for election in 2021

## **Current Committee Chairpersons are:**

Director of Advanced Play	1-year term	Paul Richards	not running in 2021
Director of Open Play	1-year term	Tom Miller	
Communications	1-year term	Suzanne Schmieder	not running in 2021
Social Events	1-year term	Lori Mann	

Please submit nominations to:

<https://grpickleball.com/nominations/>

(also a menu item under GRPC Membership on the website )

Please submit any questions to: [newsletter@grpickleball.com](mailto:newsletter@grpickleball.com)

Please remember to include the person's name and position of interest, and a way to contact them. You might also include why you think this person would be great in that role.

Thank you for your membership and participation in GRPC.



# News & Events

President - Steve Elzinga

Vice-President - John Frizzo

Secretary - Cari Brooks

Director of Advance Play - Paul Richards

Director of Open Play - Tom Miller

Communications - Suzanne Schmieder

***Play Safe ... Stay Safe***

## Local News

### January News:

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### Ladder Leagues Restarted!

The mixed ladder and the women's ladder leagues have both restarted play. The mixed ladder league started January 19 (Tue), and the women's ladder started January 21 (Thu). You should assume that the same restrictions (wearing a mask, etc.) are still in force.

If you have an interest in playing or need more details, contact:

Mixed Ladder: Jim Price: [pricejw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pricejw@sbcglobal.net)

Women's Ladder: Jean McArthur: [jtmcarthur30@gmail.com](mailto:jtmcarthur30@gmail.com)

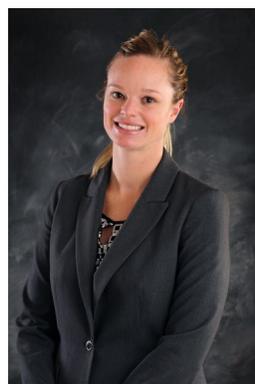
### We have a new Pro's Corner section Starting in this February Issue!

Andrea Koop, a top pro player and club member, is bringing a special section into the club's newsletter called "The Pro's Corner". This section will enable our members to virtually meet current pro players, provide some background data on the players, and give some instruction and tips on improving your game.

For those of you who haven't personally met Andrea, we included her professional picture and some narrative she wrote up.

"When I am not on the Pickleball court, I am usually in a Court of law. I work as a lawyer for Bosch Killman VanderWal P.C. We specialize in litigation work including personal injury, business, real estate, divorce and family law matters. We also handle estate and business planning. If I can be of assistance, please reach out to me at

[akoop@bkvpc.com](mailto:akoop@bkvpc.com)." Bosch Killman Vanderwal, PC is a proud sponsor of the Beer City Open.



### Our Club Members are Winning the Medals!

There have been two fairly large tournaments recently held with Grand Rapids Pickleball Club members. The first was the Salty Elf Tournament (170 Registrants) held at the Grand Rapids Racquet and Fitness on January 1 and 2 and the APP Punta Gorda Pickleball Open held in Punta Gorda, FL on January 7-10. The Punta Gorda tournament had 611 registrants with a pro division and \$40K in prizes.

Grand Rapids players and winners in these tournaments were:

\* Club Member

**Salty Elf:**

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) **Medals**

3.0 Bracket:

**Virgil Sofian\*** and Janice Scharich – Silver (Mixed Doubles, 3.0, 19+)

3.5 Bracket:

**Christy Cotton\*** and Frank Kirsch – Bronze (Mixed Doubles, 3.5, 19+ and 35+)

**Christy Cotton\***-  
**Janice Scharich\*** – Bronze (Women's Doubled, 3.5, 50+)

4.0 Bracket:

**Ramon Rivera\*** and Mark Riedel – Silver (Men's Doubles, 4.0, 50+)

4.5 Bracket:

**Tom Miller\*** and **Erica Benting\***-  
Gold (Mixed Doubles, 4.5, 19+ and 35+)

**Jessica Stokes\*-Jamin Stokes\*** –  
Silver (Mixed Doubles, 4.5, 19+ and 35+)

**Cari Brooks\*-Greg VanHoven\*** -  
Gold (Mixed Doubles, 4.5, 50+)

Wendy Schwark-  
**Giuseppe Barone\*** – Silver (Mixed Doubles, 4.5, 50+)

Sue Powers-**Jeff Howlett\*** –  
Bronze (Mixed Doubles, 4.5, 50+)

**Don Li\*** and **Kevin Andringa\*** –  
Silver (Men's Doubles, 4.5, 19+)

**Greg VanHoven\*** and Matt Strong – Silver (Men's Doubles, 4.5, 50+)

**Tim Maczinski\*** and **Giuseppe Barone\*** – Bronze (Men's Doubles, 4.5, 50+ and 65+)

5.0 Bracket:

**Alec Timmerman\*** and Jaron Faltinowski – Gold (Men's Doubles,

5.0, 19+)

## APP Punta Gorda:

**Jeff Howlett\*** - Bronze (Men's Singles, 35+, 50+)

**Jeff Howlett\***-Nick Meyer – Gold (Men's Doubles, 4.5, 19+, 35+)

**Paul Richards\***-Keith Frens – Gold (Men's Doubles, 4.5, 60+)

**Andrea Koop\***-Corrine Carr – Silver (Women's Pro Doubles)

**Lea Jansen\***- Gold (Women's Pro Singles)

**Lori Harvitt\***-Judy Bayes – Silver (Women's Doubles, 4.0, 50+)

Congratulations to all the medal winners! (If we inadvertently missed a name or misspelled a name, our apologies!)

# EDITORIAL

## Player COVID Comments:

To GRPC Editorial Staff,

You implied in the newsletter editorial that you will not get nor transmit covid-19 once you already had it.

I was wondering where you got that information. As far as I know, there is no scientific evidence that you become immune to covid-19 once you had it.

## Editor Comments:

I think the sentence you referring to reads as follows: "However, there are some instances where a mask may not be necessary such as individuals who have already had COVID-19 and may no longer be susceptible to further illness or passing on the corona virus."

This is essentially true for those individuals who have

just had the virus. However, we agree that further information is still needed to determine whether your natural immunity will subsequently prevent you from ever contracting COVID-19 again. Same for the vaccines as regards to the duration of their effectiveness.

We suspect that regardless of any study, there will never be absolute certainty that something cannot occur more than once. That probability may be minuscule; however, it still exists.

So, thank you for taking the time to read and respond to the editorial. We now know that at least one member read it.

Take care and stay Healthy.

The Editorial Staff

# Are You Ready to Become a Professional?

Comment: We hope you enjoy the following. It is meant to be humorous only.

This quiz consists of four questions that tell you whether or not you are qualified to be a professional.

SCROLL DOWN FOR THE ANSWERS. There is no need to cheat. The questions are not that difficult. You just need to think like a professional.

## 1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?

The correct answer is: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe and close the door.

This question tests whether or not you are doing simple things in a complicated way.

## 2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?

Incorrect answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant and close the door.

Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator remove the giraffe and put in the elephant and close the door.

This question tests your foresight.

## 3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?

Correct answer: The elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator! This tests if you are capable of comprehensive thinking.

OK, if you did not have the last three questions correctly, this one may be your last chance to test your qualifications to be a professional.

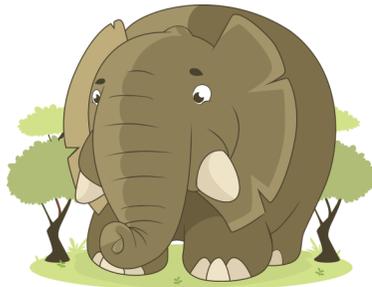
## 4. There is a river filled with crocodiles. How do you cross it?

Correct answer: Simply swim through it. All the crocodiles are attending the animal meeting! This question tests your reasoning ability.

So.....

If you answered four out of four questions correctly, you are a true professional. Wealth and success await you. If you answered three out of four, you have some catching up to do but there's hope for you.

If you answered two out of four, consider a career as a hamburger flipper in a fast food joint. If you answered one out of four, try selling some of your organs. It's the only way you will ever make any money. If you answered none correctly, consider a career that does not require any higher mental functions at all, such as (fill in your choices).



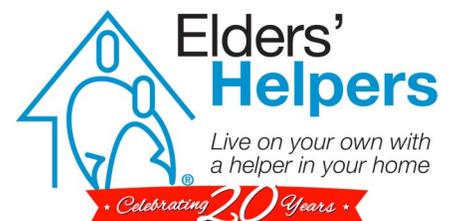
## Our Platinum Sponsors



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# The Pro's Corner

Andrea Koop, a pickleball pro and club member, graciously volunteered to put together articles for the "Pro's Corner". This is the first of several pros you'll be introduced to. Thank you Andrea!

## JANUARY SPOTLIGHT REGINA FRANCO

I am 25-years-old, and originally from Mexico. I'm a Head sponsored professional pickleball player, using the Head Radical GR Paddle and Super fabric shoes. I was ranked as high as 12<sup>th</sup> in the world in racquetball before I switched to Pickleball in 2017.

My first ever Pickleball experience, was while traveling for the Professional Racquetball Tour, and our sponsor told us to go check out this new crazy sport called "Pickleball." We were surprised to see this massive event the "Minto US OPEN." I have been playing ever since.

After seeing pickleball at its infancy compared with how it is now, it is extraordinary how much the sport has grown. As this sport continues to grow it will create more opportunities for everyone in the pickleball world.

As a player, instructor, and from a business perspective, I am excited to see where pickleball takes me. As an ambassador of the game, its my dream to take pickleball to Latin American and provide Spanish education about this beautiful sport.

My pickleball pet-peeve is that players need to be welcoming to other players, especially

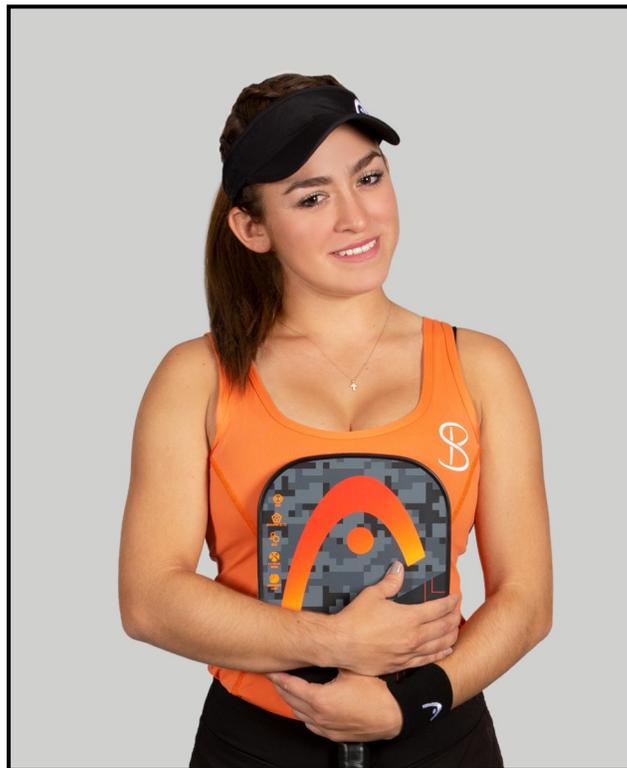
women. Pickleball is a game that combines genders with the perfect balance between power, patience, improvisation, and intelligence. Mixed doubles is exhilarating because the female controls the game with patience so she can create opportunities for her

male partner. As the sport keeps growing, I hope to see pickleball used in the schools to teach our kids teamwork, balance and equality. This mentality needs to start on our rec courts with men and women playing freely together.

I am returning to the 2021 Beer City Open for the third time. My partners are Sarah Ansboury and Johnny Goldberg. What I love most about the Beer City Open that it is well organized and a player's friendly tournament that

looks out for the players. I can't wait to see you all again this summer. Before then, follow me on Insta @regina\_franco\_g; Twitter @ReginaFrancoG; and Facebook @reginafranco.

If you'd like to try Head products, visit The Tennis Connection on Breton in Grand Rapids. Visit their website by clicking on the logo.



**Tennis Connection**

# The Pro's Corner

## SHOULD I BACK UP FROM THE KITCHEN LINE?

**1. Do You Have Unbelievably Quick Hands?**

**YES** — Good for you. Stay up at the kitchen line and teach me your ways

**NO** — **2. Neither do I. Is your opponent lobbing you regularly and successfully?**

**YES** — Take a step back from the line, but still be prepared to volley.

**NO** — **3. Hold the line! Does your opponent have an attackable ball?**

**YES** — **4. Do you have time to back up?**

**YES** — Give yourself time to react to a hard ball by backing up.

**NO** — Hold the Line! Take space away from your opponent and look to attack.

**NO** — **5. Do you have the ability to back up and remain balanced?**

**YES** — **4. Do you have time to back up?**

**NO** — Hold the Line! Do your best to anticipate your opponent's shot.

**NO** — **6. Hold the Line! Don't hurt yourself!**

**YES** — Give yourself time to react to a hard ball by backing up.

## EXPLANATIONS

**Question 1** - If you are confident enough in your hand speed to stay at the kitchen line even when you are in a disadvantageous position, you're a beast! Most pros don't even do this. Come join us on tour!

**Question 2** - The key here is "regularly and successfully". If your opponent hits a few phenomenal lobs and misses a few, there is no need to adjust. If the lobs are successful nearly every time, then take a step back realizing that you have given your opponent more space to attack your feet!

**Question 3** - An attackable ball is one that the opponent can speed up successfully with a high success rate. Usually this means that the opponent can be striking the ball from above the level of the net, meaning that they can hit the ball hard. If your opponent has an attackable ball, consider giving yourself more time to react to their hard shot by stepping back from the kitchen line.

**Question 4** - Sometimes you might be in a quick exchange where a ball is popped up (attackable) and you don't have time to back up. In this case, I hope that you've been living clean and get lucky!

**Question 5** - Some people don't have the balance to make a quick move backwards, and that is okay. Understand whether this is a possibility for you! If you are able to successfully back up, try! Backing up is a great way to give yourself additional reaction time to "reset" a point, meaning bringing the point back to a situation where neither team has an obvious advantage.

Zane Navratil, one of the top pros in pickleball, has provided his response of when it may be appropriate to back up from the pickleball non-volley line.

Zane played in the Beer City Open in 2018 and 2019 and you may have recently seen him playing singles on Facebook where he took gold in men's singles at the APP Punta Gorda tournament.

Zane is an exciting player to watch and he can only get better as he continues to dominate the pickleball courts.

To keep up with Zane's pickleball journey, you can follow him on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok at Zane Navratil pickleball!

# The Training Page

## Ultimate Skinny Singles

By: Suzanne Schmieder

If you have stayed away from playing singles pickleball because you thought to yourself "There's no way I can cover the entire court myself," the game of Ultimate Skinny Singles is for you. You can continue to be active on the pickleball court, improve a variety of skills, and have fun.

Below are written directions or you can watch this video.

<https://youtu.be/LvCnX0Aytal>

Either way grab an opponent and start playing again.

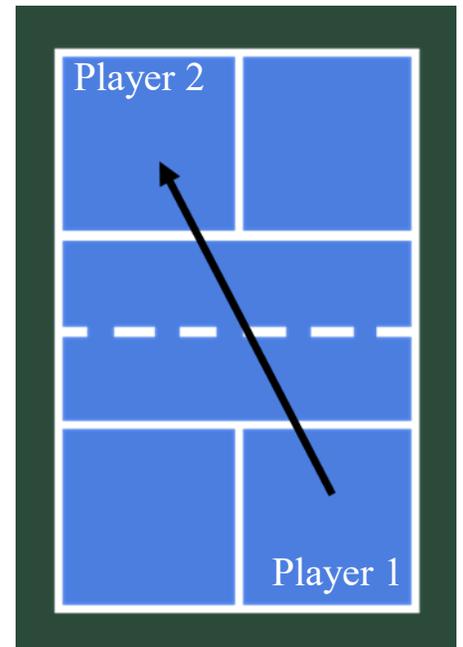
**Ultimate Skinny Singles** is the best way to practice all your skills and shots while only using half of the court. You serve from the right side if you have an even score and from the left side if you have an odd score. Which side of your opponent's court you serve to will depend on your opponent's score (odd or even number). You play the point only in those two areas/quadrants. If you or your opponent hits the ball into the wrong quadrant play ends. You serve until there is a side out. You only move to a new serving quadrant if you score. Play to 11 win by 2.

Figure 1: Score is even for both players serve cross court, right side to right side. All play will be in these two quadrants.

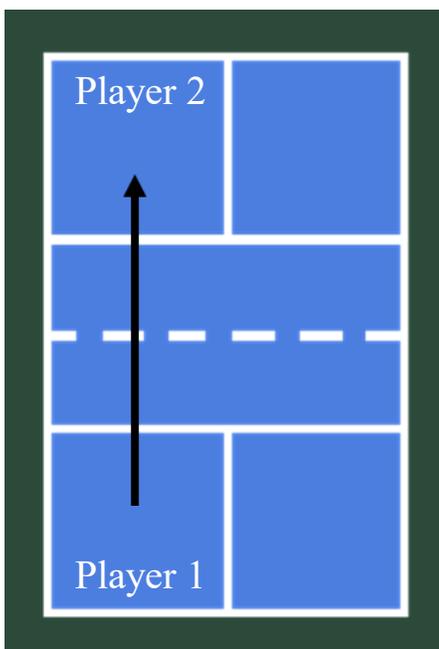
Figure 2: Score is odd for player 1 and even for player 2; serve from left side to right side. All play will be in these two quadrants.

Figure 3: Score is odd for both players; serve from left side to left side. All play will be in these two quadrants.

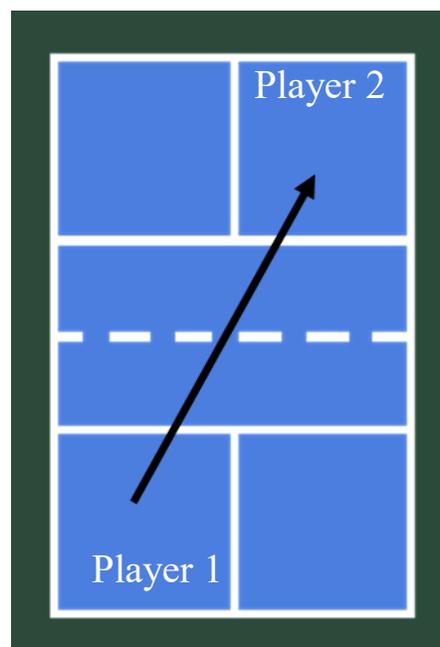
Figure 4: Score is even for player 1 and odd for player 2: serve is from right side to left side. All play will be in these two quadrants.



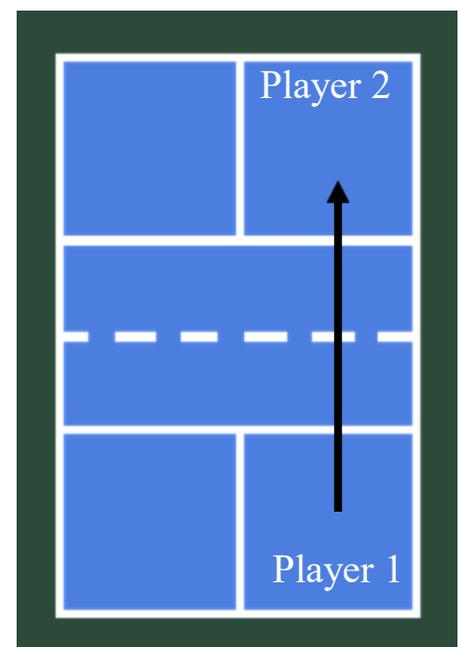
**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**

# The Training Page

## What are your Top 5 Pickleball Faults ?

By Eric Gustafson

a **FAULT** – defined as a noun – an unattractive or unsatisfactory feature, especially in a piece of work or in a person's character – as a verb - a misguided or dangerous action or habit – in pickleball, an error in play – to do wrong.

We'll overlook the noun definition as in pickleball, and we do not concern ourselves with persons, places, or things other than to play and have fun. BUT, as a verb, now that's big in pickleball. Let me list the Top 5 Pickleball Faults as defined in manuals and other articles and offer a short rejoinder to them from within our Club's history. These are my Top 5, but I'd like to hear back as to what you may think the top five are OR add a few more that you feel are relevant and important to you. We'll update this article in a future edition if we hear back from anyone – and yes, you can and will remain anonymous.

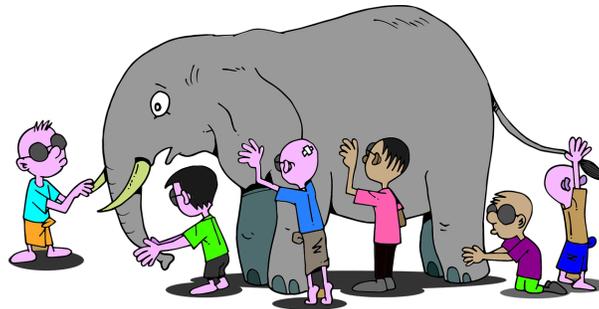
### #1. The Wrong Team Member Making or Returning a Serve.

You are in the wrong place at the wrong time. Now one might speculate that this does not happen very often, and that would be a very accurate statement. I mean, how do you know for sure unless you consciously keep track of opposing team players and their placement on the court as the game progresses? Maybe it has happened to you, and you did not even know it. It's hard to even remember the score from serve to serve; or who just served last. Perhaps it's just an age thing. I thought that maybe it was just me, but when the whole court does not remember, well, that's a problem, and I feel somewhat vindicated by

that – do you?

### #2 Volleying the Ball Before It Is Allowed

Have you ever stood up at the kitchen line when your partner serves the ball and have the ball hit directly back to you only to then hit it in the air before it bounces on your side? You then look at your partner, who shrugs his shoulder, and then turns to the opposing players who are smiling, pointing fingers, and are totally enjoying the game. I just



know you've been caught in that position at least once, maybe more, but if not, don't worry about it as you will eventually. Just ask Keith.

### #3 Volleying the Ball in the Non-Volley Zone

The main error here is losing track of where you are on the court or taking the extra step, or losing your balance, landing you in the Zone after striking the ball. It might also be that you were striving to return the ball and could not stop in time to avoid motion into the kitchen after the strike. It is about maintaining your concentration and being aware of just where that line is. This Fault most likely occurs more than one thinks since how many of us watch for the toe to cross or be on the line? We're happy if we watch the ball consistently. Right, Neil.

### #4 Having the Ball Touch Any Permanent Object Before the Court.

Now how many players have been physically hit with a serve while standing in the non-receiver's side of the receiving court? I'll have to admit that I have because too many individuals know about it, and now you all do – but only once – and if it ever happens a second time, I might just retire from the game [and that is not a challenge to you Keith to make it happen again either]. A good piece of advice is to just "Stay Awake out there" and not trust anybody [especially you-know-who. If by chance you do not know who, email me and I'll tell you].

### #5 The Receiving Team Touches the Ball Before It Hits the Court

You might lump this Fault in with #2 above, but they both stand out in my opinion because in one instance, your totally out of position, and in the other, you're only partially out of position. Have you ever caught yourself standing on the base line while receiving a serve? Or worse yet standing just inside the base line while receiving a serve? Guilty as charged. You have no choice but to hit the ball and hope no-one notices (they almost always do because their mean and do it on purpose). But even if no one did notice, you'd call it on yourself anyway because you're a good sport – right? Right!

Those are my Top Five mainly because I can personally relate to them. What might be one [or more] of your top Faults that may, or may not, be personally relatable? We'd like to know. The main concern is that you have fun and pickle on. Hope you have enjoyed reminiscing on some or all of these Faults. See you on the courts soon. Have a great 2021 pickleballing.

Editors: To respond back to Eric's article, email us at: [newsletter@grpickleball.com](mailto:newsletter@grpickleball.com)

# National News

## USA Pickleball - The Official Governing Body of Pickleball

### Player Skill Ratings—Defined!

Have you ever wondered how the skill ratings are defined. Well, there is a website where you can find these definitions as well as score sheets to do your own self-evaluation. USA Pickleball (become a member if you haven't already) has a website that provides the official definitions as well as a lot more pickleball information. Simply click on the button to go to the ratings page.



### Alternate Rule Book



Are you bored with nothing to do? Do you get confused with all the rules? Push the RED button to get the USAP *Alternate Rule Book* used for recreational play. Find it on the USAP website by clicking the button!



### The new “Legal” Drop Serve—How to do it.

The new drop serve is causing quite a stir among pickleball players. So, take a look at the YouTube video to see how it's done, the do's and don't's, and is it something you want to tackle. Steve Paranto, Hall of Fame member, effectively explains all about the drop service. As one of our editors said, "Give it a rip!". (Click on the title)ww

[The Drop Serve](#)

### UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS



**16<sup>-21</sup>** **FOOT SOLUTIONS GRAND SLAM**  
 THE NEW AND IMPROVED MESA GRAND SLAM.  
9 JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort And Spa

**26<sup>-28</sup>** **SIMONE JARDIM PPA FLORIDA GRAND SLAM**  
 SIMONE JARDIM'S SIGNATURE PPA EVENT.

**10<sup>-14</sup>** **RED ROCK OPEN**  
 OUR FIRST EVENT IN BEAUTIFUL ST. GEORGE, UTAH

**02<sup>-05</sup>** **DOUBLES SHOOTOUT NEWPORT BEACH**  
 NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA



#### WEST COAST SERIES

- Las Vegas Metro Open > 4/29 – 5/2
- Los Angeles Open > 6/10 – 13
- So Cal Classic > 6/16 – 20
- Pacific Northwest Classic > 7/29 – 8/1

#### MIDWEST SERIES

- Cincinnati Open > 5/13 – 16
- Indianapolis Open > 6/4 – 6
- Beer City Open > 7/7 – 11
- Chicago Open > 9/2 – 5

#### SOUTHERN SERIES

- Punta Gorda > 1/7 – 10
- Delray Beach Open > 3/18 -21
- Atlanta Metro Open > 9/16 – 19
- Hilton Head Open > 10/13 – 17
- World Pickleball Open > 12/9 – 12
- APP Miami Masters International Pickleball Championships > 1/19 – 1/23/2022



Web: GRPICKLEBALL.COM

Facebook: Grand Rapids Pickleball Club

# Club Information

## Club Officers:

### President

Steve Elzinga

### Vice President

John Frizzo

### Secretary

Cari Brooks

### Treasurer

Hub Capes

### Director of Advanced Play

Paul Richards

### Director of Open Play

Tom Miller

### Communications

Suzanne Schmieder

### Social Events

Lori Mann

[Contact US](#)

## COVID-19 HOTLINES

Phone: **616.893.7516**

Steve Elzinga

Email: [covid@grpickleball.com](mailto:covid@grpickleball.com)

## USA Pickleball Ambassadors:

Paul Richards—Area Team Leader

John DeHoog

Larry Keefe

Ross Kornoelje

Phyllis Wordhouse (Mexico)

## Lessons / Equipment

The Grand Rapids Pickleball Club does not endorse or recommend any individual instructor or distributor. This is simply a list of GRPC members who offer lessons/equipment and is for the convenience of the GRPC membership and others looking for Pickleball Instruction or equipment in the Greater Grand Rapids area. (Alpha Order)

### Jeffrey W. Howlett

[dgfjeffpb@gmail.com](mailto:dgfjeffpb@gmail.com)

616-299-2000

Distributor for: Engage Equipment

### Linda Jirous

[lindenvp@yahoo.com](mailto:lindenvp@yahoo.com)

616-238-4412

Distributor for: Paddletek Equipment

### Larry Keefe

[lkeefe@bmc-pos.com](mailto:lkeefe@bmc-pos.com)

616-446-4000

### Ross Kornoelje

[rosskornoelje@gmail.com](mailto:rosskornoelje@gmail.com)

### Bob Trout

<http://www.facebook.com/pickleballlessonandclinics>
[bob.teamselfkirk@gmail.com](mailto:bob.teamselfkirk@gmail.com)

616-240-1413

Distributor for: Selkirk Equipment

### Larry VanderRoest

<https://www.facebook.com/PickleballCoach1>
[pbcoach@comcast.net](mailto:pbcoach@comcast.net)

810-923-8290

### Equipment Distributors Only (No Lessons)

#### James Stokes

616-560-0405

[imboldone@hotmail.com](mailto:imboldone@hotmail.com)

Distributor for: Gearbox

#### Jamin Stokes

616-690-3111

[jaminstokes@gmail.com](mailto:jaminstokes@gmail.com)

Distributor for: Gearbox

**AED** - This life-saving machine is located in the shed. If you're not familiar with its operation, please review the associated video.

[How to Use AED - Click Here](#)

## Club Discount and Credits

**Pickleball Central** gives you a 5% discount on eligible purchases and gives another 5% back to the Club. Use "crGrandRapids" as the discount code. Click on image to go there.



**Smile.Amazon.com** provides a small percentage back to the Club for eligible purchases. There is no additional cost to you. You do need to set up "Grand Rapids Pickleball" as the charitable organization. Click on image to go there.



## DONATE TO THE CLUB!

Your tax deductible donation significantly benefits the Club in so many ways. Your funding is used in court maintenance, equipment purchases, as well as a host of other expenditures. Consider donating today.

[Donate](#)

## Renew Membership

[Click](#)