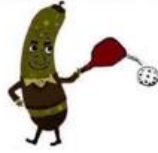


PICKLEBALL



Pickle's Tip of the Month – 6 **Communication!**

How many times have you and your partner been watching the ball come right down the middle, when both of you begin your backswing, only to back off and watch the ball sail by? How about reaching for and smacking a ball that, after you hit it you realize it probably would have landed in another county? Player communication is critical to great pickle ball, and it isn't that hard to do. Simple communication is easy to do and here are some things to consider...

...when you go on the court with someone you don't normally play with, discuss who will take balls down the middle. Normally it is the stronger player and it doesn't matter if it is a forehand or a backhand. The important thing is to decide who will take the center line and how far over the line they will take (normally a paddle's length).

...you've served the ball and now it's coming back, or a high ball requiring an overhead shot...communicate with "You", "Me", "Yours", "Mine", "Go". Keep it simple and fast.

...you and your partner are at the NVZ, while your opponent winds up to slam one from the baseline...the ball is flying toward your partner about head high or higher...communicate with "No", "Out". "Long", "Deep".

...your opponents hit a lob over your heads...the person with the most direct line to the ball yells "Me", "Mine", "Got it", turns and runs forward (toward the back of the court and the ball **NEVER RUN BACKWARDS!**) The first person that yells gets the ball...if their partner sees that the ball is clearly out yell "Out" ...if the ball may be in, they should yell "Bounce it".

Remember...this is all considered 'player communication'. A ball is not out until it hits the ground, out of bounds.