

## **Welcome Letter SDBC Pickleball 2024-2025 (edited September 23, 2024)**

Welcome to SDBC Pickleball. If you are visiting online, hopefully you will find the information you are looking for. We look forward to meeting you at some time in the future. If you have already attended one of our pickleball sessions, we hope you had fun and met some nice people while playing this increasingly popular recreational activity.

Please feel free to invite adult friends and family members to join us.

Below is some information on how we are organized at South Delta Baptist Church Pickleball.

### **Level of Play**

The sessions at the church have been grouped to accommodate four levels of play. Players self-assess their playing level by using the criteria set out on the link indicated on our pickleball webpage or those found in our monthly newsletter. We have combined the levels to make up four groupings: Intermediate/Advanced (Level 3.25+ Competitive), Intermediate (Level 3.0 – 3.25), Novice/Intermediate (Level 2.5 – 3.0), and Beginner/Novice (Level 2.0 – 2.5).

We offer a complimentary introductory lesson (see below on how to register using PlayTime Scheduler) for those new to pickleball. A novice player is one who has participated in the introductory lesson or equivalent and fits the criteria established for a 2.5 skill level of play. Each session has at least one host you can talk to if you have any questions or concerns. You can also contact us at [pickleball@southdelta.org](mailto:pickleball@southdelta.org). We welcome feedback.

### **How Do You Register to Play in a Session?**

All players wishing to play at the church must register using PlayTime Scheduler for each session (maximum two sessions per week, including skill sessions). The directions on how to get a free account for PlayTime Scheduler is on our pickleball webpage along with instructions as to how you sign up for a session. Please refer to the link on our church website ([southdelta.org/pickleball](http://southdelta.org/pickleball)).

New in 2024-25 will be our procedure for registering in a session using our upgraded PlayTime Scheduler (PTS) account. It will now allow us to have players register six days before the session they would like to play in. Now, if you want to play on Wednesday at 4:30PM, you can register Thursday of the previous week at 4:30PM. No more waiting around the computer on Friday nights like last year.

## **New Registration Conditions**

We have initiated some registration conditions to allow as many different players to register in the limited number of sessions we offer. The conditions are:

1. Players are only allowed to register or play in **one session per day**, including waitlists and skill sessions. No exceptions.
2. Players can register in up to **two sessions per week**. This includes waitlists and skill sessions as well.

**One exception:** If a session is not full by 7AM on the morning of the session, then players can register or go on the waitlist for the empty spot as long as they are not registered or on the waitlist for another session that day.

It is very important to sign up for the waitlist if you haven't registered that day or have not registered twice in the week. It gives us feedback as to where we may need to make adjustments to our schedule. It is equally important for players to cancel their registration as soon as you know they can't attend. This is a courtesy that allows someone else on the waitlist to attend. Please note that cancelling in the afternoon of the session doesn't always allow enough time for another player to take your spot.

## **SDBC Pickleball Ministry Newsletter**

We send out a monthly SDBC Pickleball e-newsletter. We strongly encourage you to sign up for this newsletter as it contains updates, cancellations, tips, special monthly events, and other information. There are times when the church may have last minute cancellations due to a funeral, power outage, or weather. The newsletter is the most efficient way we can contact all those who attend sessions at the church to inform them of last-minute changes.

## **How Do I Sign Up for the Newsletter?**

To receive our free monthly SDBC Pickleball Newsletter, go to our Pickleball Ministry page ([southdelta.org/pickleball](http://southdelta.org/pickleball)) then click on the button near the bottom of the page that says, "Join our mailing list." You will be asked to provide us with your name and email address. This is a legal requirement (CRTC) which will allow us to send the newsletter to you. If, at any time, you would like to have your contact information removed or have any questions, please contact us at [pickleball@southdelta.org](mailto:pickleball@southdelta.org). You can also unsubscribe through our newsletter by clicking on the unsubscribe button at the bottom of each newsletter.

## **Weekly Schedule**

Sessions are offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings as well as Saturday mornings and afternoons. Players are asked to sign up for **only one session per day (New** – including skill sessions) and sign up for a **maximum of two sessions per week (New** – including skill sessions) to allow more players to access the sessions. In addition to our playing sessions, we plan on offering two identical Skill'nDrill practice

sessions for novice/intermediate players on Saturdays, depending on availability of coaches. We also have a beginner skill session on Thursday evenings. Our weekly schedule changes periodically so please check the church website for our current schedule at [southdelta.org/pickleball](http://southdelta.org/pickleball). We do have unscheduled cancellations occasionally, of which you will be notified via email (Mailchimp) if you have registered for the newsletter.

## **The SDBC Pickleball Committee**

Overseeing the organization of South Delta Baptist Church Pickleball is a committee made up of Mario and Brenda M., Wayne and Barb C., Mario and Jacqui M., and Dave S. Feel free to contact any of the South Delta Baptist Church Pickleball Committee members if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. You can email them at [pickleball@southdelta.org](mailto:pickleball@southdelta.org).

## **How Much Does It Cost?**

There is now a \$4 fee collected at the door when checking in to each session. Please use loonies, toonies, or bills when paying. Note that \$2 of the fee will be used primarily to support local charities. In the past, we have donated to the SDBC Food Bank, Delta Assist, W.I.N.G.S. (women's shelter), Starfish Pack South Delta (school food program), and BC Guide Dogs for Autism. The remaining \$2 of the fee will be used to cover ongoing expenses.

## **Other Things You Should Know**

- The church has kindly given us the use of the gym. It is our responsibility to make sure that the gym is cleaned up promptly after our final session for the day. Custodial staff have limited time to secure the building after we leave so it is important that we leave within 10 minutes of our closing times.
- Please bring a water bottle as there are no water fountains in the church.