

Sun City Texas Pickleball Club (SCTPC)

Paddle Rack System - North Point Courts

To accommodate the continued growth of pickleball within the Sun City community, while preserving the social aspects that the game represents, a paddle system will be used for **Open Play** courts. This system is designed to ensure first come, first serve usage of all SCTPC managed courts at the North Point. It is also designed to ensure player safety by moving the court waiting area outside of the court fence line.

A consolidated paddle rack for all Open Play courts is centrally located on the fence at court 22 near the pavilion. **Check the Club Hours sheet to see which courts are open play. If a court has not been reserved or is not in use for training or skill level play, it is considered an "open play" court.**

The rack has a **NEXT BALL** which slides to the next group of paddles.

Traffic Flow.

- After placing their paddle in the consolidated rack, players should wait in the pavilion area between courts 21 and 22 until there is an open court.
- Players completing a game should exit the courts at the gates near the pavilion.

Paddle System. The Paddle System determines the players for the next open court during Club Members Open Play and Open Play for all Sun City Residents.

- The Paddle Rack System holds up to 32 paddles (4 paddles per each group). Each set of 4 is colored. Paddles placed in one color coded area constitute a group that is waiting to play.
- A player arrives at the centralized rack and places her/his paddle on the next available slot with 3 or fewer paddles in it.
- When more than one group has 4 paddles, the **NEXT BALL** is used to show which paddles have been on the rack the longest and thereby designates those players who are next to play.
- When a court becomes available, one player from the next to play group approaches the rack, removes the 4 paddles from the holder, distributes them to the other players, and **moves the NEXT BALL** to the next group.

If a court becomes available, and 1, 2 or 3 paddles are next in the rack, those players get the court. They get to play/practice until their foursome is completed. In most cases, someone coming off the courts will fill in the open slot(s).

The STACKING of paddles is allowed but the next court is not yours until the group in front of you has 4 people or they have already taken a court and an additional court has opened. SCTPC expects that all members will fill out the group whenever possible and, above all, will be courteous to other players.

Singles may only be played when there are open courts. If all courts are in use, the singles players may finish their game and then relinquish the court for doubles play.

Note: If there is an empty court, players do not have to relinquish their court when games reach their end, even if players are waiting.

- For increased safety, there should be no one on the courts except the players.
- Please do not take bags or clothes onto the courts unless you are playing a match or if there is a medical reason to do so.

- If you have any questions related to the paddle system, please contact one of the SCTPC Board members.