

# Pickleball Club of Keowee Key

## December First Update 12/13/24



### Pickleball 101

Is on hiatus until January 5 so you can get your Christmas shopping done. If you get a new paddle, consider donating your old one to orientation and player development. Contact pro Larry V.

### Cold Balls?

The Franklins which crack easily are switched out until warmth returns.

### Women's Interclub

Female Pickleball Club members, who didn't participate in Interclub this Fall and are interested in learning more and possibly participating in Spring 2025, please send an email to [nancylenkowski@gmail.com](mailto:nancylenkowski@gmail.com) by December 31st. We will include you in subsequent communications as we plan for next season. Practices could start as early as mid-to-late January and competitions will likely begin early March.

### Videos of the Month-

Click on each

[Simple Serve Progression](#)

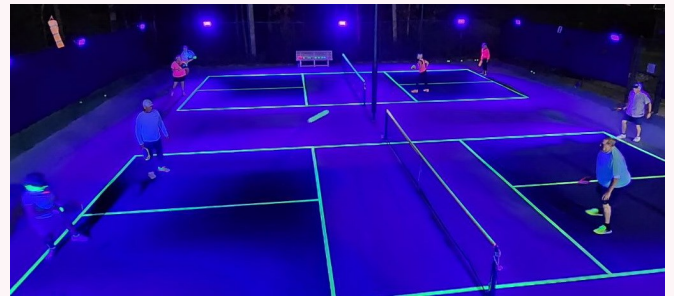
[Weaponize Your Pickleball Serve](#)



**Disco Divas** Our last ladies social of 2024 was fabulous! Thanks to all the ladies who braved the cold weather. DJ extraordinaire Tony Bonitati kept the party going and we thank him very much. We also thank the Keowee Key pickleball club ladies who so graciously donated \$600 to Hospice. In fact a hospice rep came and learned how to play! Our ladies raised \$5,000 for charities this year.

### **With Eyes All Aglow?**

We will have our first Holiday Glow in the Dark event on Saturday night, December 21st at 7 pm. Yes, this is directly after the Clemson game.....so, win or lose, come celebrate/commiserate with your Pickle friends. This is a "soft opening" event for Pickleball Club members and their visiting adult players who can come out and get some fresh air between college football games.



### **Not a Political Party...A Pickleball Party**

The vote is in. KKPBC throws the best Christmas party ( see photos by scrolling down to page 3) as was evidenced by our Trivia contest. A series of 10 pickleball trivia questions were read to the attendees, consisting of True/False, multiple choice and fill in the blank questions, covering general pickleball trivia as well as Keowee Key specific club trivia. Out of the 20 tables participating, only one table answered every question correctly! Congratulations to: Mary & Dana Overman, Dorcas & John Annett, Jan & Marty Moore, Dave Dixon, Carolyn Benton, and Mark Kitson. Anne Ureneck and Dave Higdon were named Most Improved Players for 2024.

# Are You Breaking the Unwritten Rules of Pickleball ?

**Rule No. 1:** You must serve your time in "lesser" games. Play pickleball long enough, and you're guaranteed to become a pickleball elitist. But before you proudly wear that badge, side-eyeing every game you stroll past on your way to the super DUPR court, you must serve your time playing in games below your skill set. We're not saying you always have to play against newbies, but it's a rite of passage for everyone to experience the misery of being stuck in a rotation of frustratingly bad players from time to time. Just remember, there's a good chance you caused a few dozen eye rolls when you first began.

**Rule No. 2:** Don't complain about someone's style of play. People play pickleball for different reasons, and not everyone intends to go pro (or believe they COULD go pro if they really wanted to) someday. This leads some people to create play styles that are ... not ideal. Like not getting up to the kitchen after the return of serve. Or driving every single ball into the back of the chain link fence. Be respectful, and don't openly complain or show annoyance about the gameplay choices people make. Maybe just take your paddle out of the rotation for a turn or two so someone else can share the experience.

**Rule No. 3:** Don't coach while playing. A hot-button topic in the pickleball world is whether or not a player should offer "advice" while on the pickleball court. One camp will say, "Be humble, take the advice, and get better." Pickleball rec play is meant to be fun, social and relaxing. That can quickly change when some players decide to coach you up. While the person who's tired of being on the receiving end of unsolicited advice might respond with, "How about you learn how to hit a third-shot drop yourself before trying to teach me how to play." We all make mistakes on the court, and none of us are as good as we think we are – at least not all the time. And yes, sometimes, there are things you can teach other players – especially less experienced ones. However, the time to learn a new skill is not during the heat of competition. What "Open play coaches" don't seem to understand is that it's nearly impossible for anyone to perform well when they're being told that what they're doing is wrong. If you absolutely must share your sage advice, wait until after the match is over and ask them if they're open to hearing your feedback. If they say no, then don't give it to them. If they say yes, simply offer them a suggestion or a resource (like The Dink Newsletter) to help them improve their game. But, mostly, just play your own game and leave other people alone to play theirs.

**Rule No. 4:** Just because you can, doesn't mean you always should. This rule applies to many things. For example, just because you can paint the corner on a serve that drives your opponent into a wall doesn't mean you should. Or, just because you can lob the guy with double knee braces and get easy points doesn't mean you should. Yes, we understand that pickleball is a game, and in games, there are winners and losers, and everyone wants to be a winner. But there are times when you should lean toward getting points the hard way. For one, it forces you to improve your game. Secondly, it keeps other players from getting injured and helps them enjoy the game more.

**Rule No. 5:** Keep pickleball fun. It seems that everyone has a story about how they first found pickleball or how it has helped them improve their lives. Typically, these stories revolve around the joy and fun of playing pickleball. As we progress in our skills or play more and more, many of us forget that. We let our competitive spirits take over, and we lose a little bit of that beginner's mentality. This leads to anger, broken paddles, and arguments on the court. It creates ugliness that we can all agree doesn't need to happen. Remember why you play pickleball in the first place. It's not for money or fame. It's for the joy of the game, friendship, exercise, and feeling like a kid again. Keep pickleball fun, and never take yourself too seriously.

**HAVE A VOLLEY JOLLY CHRISTMAS!**

