

How to Start an Intramural/Interscholastic Campus Pickleball Program



GETTING STARTED

Anyone can start a pickleball program including teachers, after school staff, recreation directors, coaches, parents, and volunteers. Below are the action steps to get your program underway . . .

1.) CHOOSE A LOCATION

Determine if the program will be offered in a school, at a park, youth center, recreation facility or college campus.



2.) DETERMINE THE SPACE

Will the program be offered indoors or outdoors? Are there existing lines that can be used for boundaries (e.g. badminton courts)? Can chalk or painter's tape be used on the targeted space with permission of the facility? How many courts will you need based on anticipated enrollment?

3.) OBTAIN NEEDED EQUIPMENT

Identify the equipment and supplies that you will need (e.g., paddles, balls, nets, chalk, tape, etc.). See if a local pickleball club is willing to donate equipment and/or help sponsor costs for a program.



4.) SECURE PROGRAM LEADERS

Existing pickleball players, retirees, and mature students often make great volunteers and program assistants. Note: Conducting a fun tournament or round robin for pickleball players in the community can be a successful way to generate revenue and volunteers for programs.

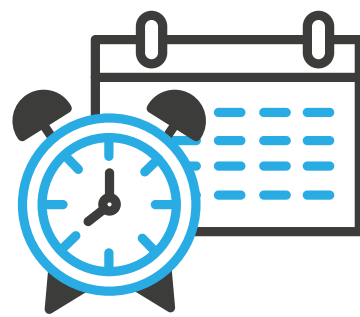
5.) DETERMINE THE FORMAT

The program could be flighted by ability and experience with weekly intramural play on campus and a season-ending multi-school event. Consider a format with players being on new teams each week or use the [USA Team Pickleball format](#) that features co-ed play for small and large facilities.



6.) SET THE SCHEDULE

It is best to establish a season for the Pickleball program and find a time in which it does not compete with other activities that would utilize the same space (e.g. gym, playground, etc.).



7.) ESTABLISH FEES & COSTS



Use other school/recreation activities as a guide for what to charge. Don't give it away for free! Be sure to obtain enough funds to cover equipment costs, organizer stipends, awards, prizes, student scholarships for underserved kids, etc.

8.) OBTAIN NEEDED CLEARANCES

Schools and youth organizations often require that staff and volunteers complete background screening and that the organization offering the program is properly insured. Be sure to follow required policies to ensure compliance when offering a program.



9.) PROMOTE THE PROGRAM



Conduct exhibitions or demonstrations for pickleball at the targeted locations and promote program registration with flyers, e-mails, social media, etc. Host a kick-off event or introductory clinic to promote the start of the program.

10.) HAVE FUN

Once registration is over, schedule practice and match times and begin the season. The program can be complemented with “open gym” drop-in play before or after the season.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



- Basic Rules PDF
- How to Line a Court
- Fun Activities
- Tournament and League Support
- Program Provider Membership with instructional resources, equipment assistance, grants & more!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
USAPICKLEBALL.ORG**

