

MORRO BAY PICKLEBALL

Players who want to play Pickleball in Morro Bay are invited to Del Mar Park. There are six courts: novice (just learning), intermediate (more social), and advanced players (more competitive). Paddles, nets, and balls are available for loan. Please dress appropriately (court shoes, shorts, t-shirts preferred). Play is free but donations are gratefully accepted.

You may play on any court, but if it appears that you are playing on the wrong court, we will help you determine the more appropriate one. Courts inside the hockey rink are labeled 1, 2, 3, 4 from left to right as you enter the playing field. There are also two courts outside the rink (on the basketball court) which are typically (but not always) reserved for beginners and players who have never played before. Other levels will play out there when there is overflow on the inside courts.

NOVICE Players:

You basically know how to call the score, are familiar with some of the rules of the game, are able to participate in limited rallies with players of equal ability, and are learning to serve and do forehands with some consistency. Court 4 is reserved for this level of play, and for players who have mobility issues or prefer a slower style of play.

INTERMEDIATE Players:

You are beginning to approach the non-volley zone (NVZ or “kitchen”), are aware of the importance of patience and the soft game, demonstrate more consistency with serving and return of serve, are trying more lobs and dinks, and your knowledge of the rules of the game has improved. You enjoy the social aspects of the game more than the competitive. Courts 3 and 2 are typically composed of this type of player.

ADVANCED Players:

You know the rules of the game, understand the importance of approaching the NVZ, are able to participate in longer and harder rallies, demonstrate understanding of court position in doubles, and are developing consistency, variety, and accuracy of direction in your shots. You enjoy a more aggressive style of play. Court 1 is typically reserved for more aggressive play.

None of the court designations are hard and fast, and changes are made as necessary to accommodate the levels of players on any specific day.

If you would like to review the numeric rating system put out by the International Federation of Pickleball, just Google their website. Their system goes from 1.0 (beginner) to 5.0 (expert).

A word of advice: most players tend to over-rate themselves in the beginning. Unless and until you decide you want to play in tournaments, use our Morro Bay rating system: novice, intermediate, advanced, versus worrying about the numeric IFP system.

Happy Pickling, and we are glad you have decided to try this great sport!!!!

Kathy Thomas
USAPA Ambassador, Morro Bay
mbpickleball@gmail.com