



WELCOME!



Welcome to the YGBW Pickleball Program!

Pickleball is a great game for all ages and abilities and the YMCA is here to assist you in reaching your pickleball goals whether you are looking for recreational play or competitive tournament play. We are committed to providing you and your family with a welcoming environment and the best pickleball experience possible.

This guide will provide you with all our current rules of participation and play while enjoying the YMCA of Greater Brandywine facilities. To meet the demand and as we continue to grow and expand our program, we are implementing the following protocols to enhance everyone's experience. It is important to remember the golden rules of pickleball play and you will also be required to adhere to these guidelines at the YMCA.

- a) We play pickleball because we want to have fun, exercise and interact with other players in a good-natured manner. Players of all ability levels are welcome, and new players should be welcomed with a smile and introduction. When playing with players of apparent lesser ability, encourage their effort, praise their good shots and don't disparage their poor ones.
- b) Players are expected to exhibit courtesy, respect, fairness and honesty in dealing with others, on and off the courts. Players should exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. They should not engage in rude or abusive behavior, use profane language, give unsolicited advice or let emotions get out of control.
- c) Good-natured ribbing within reason is considered part of the fun.
- d) The server is expected to announce the score *before* each serve. This gives the receiving team time to raise their hand to stop service if they hear an incorrect or inaudible score.
- e) Players will call the lines on their side of the net. The opponent gets the benefit of the doubt in that any ball that cannot be called "out" will be considered "in." An "out" call must be made quickly, or play will continue with the presumption that the ball was "in." If partners disagree on a call, they will give the point to the opponents. Do not argue line calls or try to influence calls by your opponents unless asked by them. You should call your partner's kitchen violations or balls hitting yourself or your partner.

- f) Do not chase your ball on an adjacent court while they are playing a point. Ask them to return your ball after the point is complete, or retrieve it yourself between their points.
- g) If a ball strays onto your court, call "ball" to stop your point (to avoid injury). Retrieve the stray ball and return it to a player on the court from which it came. Replay the interrupted point. Do not swat the ball back toward the direction it came from, because play on additional courts may be impacted.

There are more exciting things on the horizon including our new pickleball club to improve your game, increase opportunities to play and to meet new friends through social activities. We are also looking for volunteer ambassadors to help create and assure that welcoming environment we pride ourselves in.

As you look through the new procedures, if you have any questions directly related to the pickleball programming please feel free to contact:

Sara Aiken

F/T Director of Pickleball

SAiken@ymcagbw.org

(610)643-9622 x2130

Tim Irwin

P/T Pickleball Coordinator/Lead instructor

[CIrwin@ymcagbw.org](mailto:TIrwin@ymcagbw.org)

(610)643-9622 x2116

If you have questions related to a specific YMCA facility, please contact the appropriate branch director or staff member.

Welcome to the YMCA of Greater Brandywine and to the awesome sport of Pickleball!

**YGBW Players enjoy discounts
on equipment and gear at
Fromuth Pickleball
by using code: YGBW10**





YGBW Pickleball Playing Rules

Effective 1/31/22

- Advanced sign up is required for classes, clinics, and open play sessions. YGBW's official pickleball site will be Pickleball Den*
- Only YMCA of Greater Brandywine members can reserve spots on the Pickleball Den app.
- Individuals who do not sign up in advance through the Pickleball Den app may be turned away, unless a slot remains available.
- Availability will be limited to six players per court. (i.e. three courts would allow 18 spaces)
- There are three levels of play. Players will be skills tested and identified by a colored wristband: Levels include:
 - White (Beginner/Novice)
 - Green (Intermediate)
 - Black (Advanced)
- All players may play at the white band level.
- To participate in green or black level open play, clinics or other sessions, a player must take and pass the appropriate skill test.
- Players are asked to only sign up for open play sessions, classes or clinics within their band level.
- You'll need to protect your band as it must be worn to all open play sessions. If you lose your band, you'll need to retest and/or pay for a replacement (keep it with your paddle and Y membership card).
- Sign up will not be allowed further than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled open play session and you may only sign up for one open play session for any given day of play.

*The YMCA will continue to use Team Reach through February 13, 2022 to allow adequate transition time for current players.



YGBW Band Leveling System and Basic Skills Tests

Jan 30, 2022 v.1

YMCA of Greater Brandywine's band levels are based on the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association (IPTPA) skills assessment guidelines. Having good groundstrokes, drop shots and serves all contribute to an individual's rating. Players will be tested on the drop shot as described below to determine their band level.

Why Do I Need a YGBW Band?

Band levels are used to organize players by ability for future group play, programs and competitions in 2022. The levels help to improve the player experience and ensure more evenly matched play.

Testing Schedule – On January 30, 2022, players can be tested at one of three locations: Brandywine, Kennett or Upper Main Line YMCA. Future testing sessions will be available for registration within the Pickleball Den app. Players will have the option of retesting as they master skills and improve their game.

WHITE BAND (BEGINNERS/NOVICE)

No testing required

GREEN BAND (INTERMEDIATE)

A. Drop shot from transition area (Middle of the court)

- Hitting Forehand from TRANSITION AREA, be able to drop 7 of 10 tries in the kitchen area of the court
- Backhand 7/10

BLACK BAND (ADVANCED)

A. Drop shot from baseline (Baseline of the court)

- Hitting Forehand from BASELINE, be able to drop 7 of 10 tries in the kitchen area of the court
- Backhand 7/10

Videos can help you learn and give you hints to practice. Check out these and look for others online! Drop Shot <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-VOy2lhtB8>



Welcome to Pickleball Den

We're excited to share that we are moving to the Pickleball Den mobile app for all things Pickleball.

Get started by scanning the QR code below:



Link: <https://app.pickleballden.com/signup/type=club&value=1681861>

Pickleball Den is an advanced pickleball software, centralizing information about YGBW open play, leagues, leveling appointments and more! Additionally, the app allows users to connect with other players, create friend lists and post to a personal timeline to share pickleball activity and content with friends.

Sign up for a free Pickleball Den account today. Once YGBW staff has verified your membership, you will have full access to Pickleball Den features for free through your active YMCA membership.

Please note that Pickleball Den will replace the Team Reach app, which will be discontinued on February 13, 2022.





Take your game to the next level and build friendships too!

Pickleball Club members will enjoy many benefits including club only play, club socials, special clinics and more! Must maintain a YGBW membership to join.

Benefits Include:

- YMCA Pickleball Bag Tag
- Monthly Clinics or Special Play Events
- Court Reservation Privileges – Set your own group up to play
- Monthly Club Socials
- Special Pricing on YMCA Pickleball Apparel
- Sunday Fundays
 - Club only events on the three indoor courts at the Oscar Lasko YMCA on 1 E. Chestnut Street, West Chester. Free parking on Sundays in the garage across the street.

Register Now



URL: ymcagbw.org/pickleball-club

Membership is \$120 annually or just \$10 per month.

Super Sunday Kickoff! Club play Starts at the Oscar Lasko YMCA in West Chester on Sunday, February 13, 2022.

Sponsored by:

