



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How do I join the Fredericton Pickleball Club (FPC)?

As of June 1, 2019, you have to join Pickleball Canada (PC) online prior to joining FPC. Once you join PC and obtain your PC membership number, you then have to fill in and sign our Information/Insurance/Consent waiver. For details, see the Fees and Waiver documents on the FPC website Documents page. <https://www.frederictonpickleballclub.com/documents>

How much does it cost?

FPC has both an **annual membership fee** and **court fees**. See Fees document on the FPC website Documents page for details: <https://www.frederictonpickleballclub.com/documents>

The easiest and preferred payment method for membership and court fees is via e-transfer to: **fton.pickleball@gmail.com**

Can I try pickleball before I decide to join?

Yes. After you sign the Information/Insurance/Consent waiver, you can play at an FPC venue once for **free**. After that you must become an FPC Member and pay Court fees to play at FPC venues. Note your membership to Pickleball Canada also provides insurance coverage. <https://www.pickleballcanada.org/> During the COVID pandemic, you must join FPC before you play as only FPC Members are allowed to play.

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How often are 'Introduction to Pickleball' sessions held?

FPC offers free 'Introduction to Pickleball' sessions once a month. These 2-hour sessions are typically on the second Saturday of the month. Some dates are adjusted for various reasons so check the times and locations that are posted on the Events page on the FPC website: <https://www.frederictonpickleballclub.com/events> During the COVID pandemic, the 'Introduction to Pickleball' sessions will not be held.

Can I play if I don't join the club?

Yes, but not at FPC venues. You must be an FPC Member and pay Court fees to play at FPC venues. But you can play at the YMCA, a non-FPC venue, for \$5 plus HST per visit for YMCA non-members and free if you are a YMCA member. There are also 3 City public outdoor courts at Queen's Square with permanent nets and play is free, but you need to supply the paddles and balls. During the COVID pandemic, YMCA does not offer pickleball.

Who, when and how do I pay?

Every player must sign the Information/Insurance/Consent waiver and **pay before you play**. Contact the treasurer, Mark Smith, to pay fees and submit your signed waiver. Because Mark is not always available at court side, you can also pay anyone of the Executive or Membership Committee.

The easiest and preferred payment method for membership and court fees is via e-transfer to: fton.pickleball@gmail.com If you don't use e-transfer then you can pay either by cheque, payable to 'The Fredericton Pickleball Club', or as a last resort you can pay cash.

Are there parking fees?

Only the UNB Currie Center charges for parking. A four-month parking pass costs \$30 plus HST. A parking pass can be purchased at the Currie Center lower level entrance reception.

Do I need to buy my own paddle and pickleballs?

Not right away. FPC provides balls at FPC venues & events and has a few Demo paddles for use at an FPC play session. We do not loan these out. The YMCA provides balls and a few paddles for play there. You will need your own paddle and balls to play outdoors.

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How much does a paddle cost?

Approximately \$100 - \$200 for a decent paddle.

What type of paddle should I buy?

This is a personal choice but FPC does not recommend a wooden paddle. Try the FPC or YMCA paddles, borrow or purchase one (on-trial) before you commit. Paddles differ by weight, shape, grip size and performance. A lot of players upgrade their paddle as they become more experienced. For tips on paddle selection see:

<http://bestpickleballpaddlereviews.com/2016/05/27/best-pickleball-paddle/>

Where can I buy a paddle and balls?

There are many options. In Fredericton, you can buy paddles at Cleves, McTavish for Sports, and Canadian Tire. You can also order on-line from many manufacturers. FPC recommends that you try various demo paddles before you buy one. Demo paddles are available for you to try. This 'try before you buy' practice is a great opportunity for you to find a paddle you like before you purchase one.

Where and when can I play?

See FPC website for play Calendar and play Locations:

<https://www.frederictonpickleballclub.com/play-calendar>

October - April

FPC indoor play will be at various indoor FPC rented venues which may include Journey Wesleyan Church, Marysville Baptist Church, UNB Currie Center, New Maryland Elementary School, Nashwaaksis Field House, Fredericton High School, Gibson-Neil School, Devon Middle School and Connaught Street School.

May - September

We also play outdoors at Queen's Square, but this is a public facility so FPC does not control who can play, therefore, play times are only suggestions. We also play at the Nasis tennis courts by the Field House as they are lined for pickleball, but you need your own portable nets and balls. Half of the Nasis tennis courts are planned to be converted into dedicated pickleball courts in 2021.

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Do I just show up and play?

Yes. Check the play Calendar. Ask someone to show you the ropes. We are a friendly group!! Intermediate sessions (3.0 and above) are for experienced players and NOT recommended for beginners.

Do I need a partner?

No but we play doubles the vast majority of the time and have a system to determine the next 4 players to go out when a court becomes available. The system ensures you switch partners on a regular basis.

Will I only play with beginners?

No but you can if you choose. FPC schedules play and practice sessions for beginners, designates certain courts for less experienced players and uses a skill rating system to match players of similar skill levels. Check the "Ratings Guide" document on the FPC website Documents page to determine your level of play.

<https://www.frederictonpickleballclub.com/documents>

FPC also schedules:

- For Beginner players rated 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0. **Not recommended for 3.5 and above.**
- For Intermediate players rated 3.0, 3.5, 4.0. **Not recommended for 2.0 and 2.5.**
- Open Play: For all skill levels but may have assigned courts.
- Organized Play: Designated courts, round robins, shootouts, ladder play etc. This may be for specific skill levels or open to all with assigned courts.

Do I need to take lessons before I play?

No, but you would be more comfortable after learning some basic rules, safety issues, and get the feel of the ball at an **'Introduction to Pickleball'** session.

Does FPC give lessons?

Yes. We currently offer group Beginner (2.0, 2.5 and 3.0) Training every Monday and Intermediate (3.0, 3.5 and 4.0) Training every Wednesday. These training sessions are for FPC members only and they are free. In the summer, we provide training for all levels on every Tuesday evening. All training sessions last 1 hour. See play Calendar for times and locations. **During the COVID pandemic, FPC does not provide lessons.**

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What is a shootout?

A shootout is play where players compete in round-robin play against players that are of similar skill level. Players must register in advance to play and then they are assigned a court. Typically, only 25 to 30 players per day are allowed to register. If 25 players register, 5 players are assigned by the Shootout Director to each of the 5 courts. The number per court depends on the number that registered. Initially the assignments are based on the player's self-rating and over time the assignments are based on shootout results.

Each court receives a clip-board with a sheet of paper which indicates who plays whom. The sheet also has a place to record the results which are returned to the Shootout Director.

In 2018, after the first round-robin, the results are analysed by the Shootout Director, and the players are reassigned accordingly: the bottom 2 players in A move to B, the top 2 in B move to A, the bottom 2 in B move to C, and so on. The second round-robin is then played, and the results are turned in. In 2019, a different method was used to simplify the process and switching courts within the day was eliminated.

With 25 players, each player plays 8 games in total over a 2 ½ to 3 hour period. In the summer, FPC has 3 or 4 shootouts a week at CWC - Women's, Men's and Mixed. Shootouts are our most popular regular scheduled play because all players get to play against players of similar skill level which is always more fun for everyone.

Is there anything else I should know before I try it?

Safety is very important. Wear proper court shoes. Warm up slowly before you play vigorously. FPC also recommends safety glasses.

Court Etiquette:

- Don't walk behind, alongside, or into a court while play is in session.
 - Use the system in place to determine who plays next.
 - The team receiving the ball determines whether if the ball is in or out.
 - The opposing team **always** gets the benefit of any doubt on a line call.
 - The opposing team does **not** challenge the call.
 - When a game ends, acknowledge your opponents at the net and leave the court promptly.
 - Don't take the game too seriously.
 - Pickleball involves strategy that takes a while to learn.
- **Most important Have fun and meet some really nice pickleball addicts.**

Approved by the FPC Executive on December 22, 2020.