

# Around The Post **ATP**

## WEST GEAUGA PICKLEBALL CLUB

APRIL 2026

### Welcome Fellow Pickleballers!

#### New to the Sport...

The goal of this committee is to provide clinics and teaching sessions to members of WGPC. Before a beginner can attend any lessons, it is recommended they go to *YouTube* and learn the rules, scoring and basic play. Then they can attend any lesson or clinic that we can provide.

Once the nets are up, we will provide a tentative schedule to include all the basic fundamentals of pickleball: serve, return of serve, dinks, resets, groundstrokes, slams, doubles strategy, blocking technique, ready position and other fundamentals. Knowledge is power and our committee is dedicated to provide information and techniques from the best players in pickleball including Ben Johns, Anna Leigh Waters, John Cincola and others.

If you are new to the sport, and are interested learning or improving your game, contact George Minello, Chairperson at [gminello@gmail.com](mailto:gminello@gmail.com)



#### TOURNAMENTS

If approved by the Township Trustees, tournaments are set up for the third Saturday of each month April–September. Rain dates for the 4th Saturday. All scores will be registered with DUPR following the games. This will help you know which divisions to register for in future events.

**FASTLANE Truck Accessories of Chesterland** will be our first tournament sponsor this year. Their sponsorship helps us get closer to getting our lights! Be sure to register for the April 18th tournament ASAP as there are limited spots. Flyer is in this ATP newsletter.

A **Youth Tournament** is temporarily scheduled for July 18th. So get those kids practicing! These tournaments are for kids 6-18. Several people are needed to run each tournament, if you're not involved in a committee yet, consider helping with the tournaments.

##### Adult Tournaments

*Adam Berry-Chairperson* ([adamberryvct@gmail.com](mailto:adamberryvct@gmail.com))

##### Youth Tournaments

*Esther Daniels* ([edaniels237@gmail.com](mailto:edaniels237@gmail.com))

#### League Play

Starting the WGPC pickleball league is an exciting way to bring people together while promoting health, recreation and social connection. The league will focus on togetherness and enjoyment, with several divisions designed to accommodate everyone—from those picking up a paddle for the first time to more seasoned players. Regular match schedules will help build consistency and excitement throughout the summer season. In addition to physical activity, the league aims to foster friendships, teamwork and a strong sense of community spirit.

**INTERESTED?** Email me as your committee chair: *Tammy Dingman* ([tdingman10@yahoo.com](mailto:tdingman10@yahoo.com)) to get on the list. I will contact you once we see available times on the courts. Let me know your level of play, whether you are new, competitive or well-experienced.

## The President's Dinking Message:

This year will probably be one of the toughest for our club as we get organized for our very first year. I have spoken with many of you and it sure is nice to have so much support to make this a fun and educational club that is welcoming to all those interested in pickleball. At the same time, making game time competitive at each ones level of play, no matter what age or skill level. Quite challenging, but I know we will be able to do it.

To date, we have become a 501(c)(7) non-profit, have opened a bank account, have written Bylaws and the Article of Incorporation. Also a club Gmail account: (**WGPickleballclub@gmail.com**) and filing system have been set up as well. Then there is the easy application process to join the club. Not fun stuff, but all needed to be done. We have also put together 12 committees which pretty much covers nearly all areas of interest of our **94 members**, of which many of you are either the Chairperson or a member of a committee.

To assist the elected officials from the January 17, 2026 meeting (**Gary Wyszynski-Treasurer, Teresa Rogers-Secretary, Kimya Matthews-Vice President, and Barry Leven-President**) the elected board chose three addition Board of Directors which include **Laura Peluso, Allison Formichelli, and Robert Abbey**. These seven people make up your board.

We plan to have two general membership meetings per year with the next one being in May or June. If there are items you would like to discuss at the meeting, please email any board member.

### *Now for some news...*

1. Lights will hopefully be completed sometime this summer, thanks to the fundraising committee's efforts in coming up with a huge 50/50 raffle with \$20,000 cash prizes.
2. The Tournament committee will be hosting at least one adult tournament per month starting on April 18th. (All tournament results will be turned into DUPR) I have put a request into the township for the 3rd of each month.
3. The Tournament committee will also be hosting youth tournaments periodically this summer as well. Dates to be announced.
4. T-shirts with our new logo will soon be offered thanks to the Merchandising committee.
5. You should start seeing more kids interested in pickleball thanks to our Youth Development committee.
6. Soon you will see lots of maintenance activities around the courts, all volunteers from our Maintenance committee. Hoping to get the nets up for Easter.
7. Keeping peace around the courts and explaining how the paddle rack system works will be the job of Club Ambassadors, but all our members can help with this.
8. The township trustees have written a grant to get some benches outside the courts. A big thank you to them for thinking of us!
9. Participation for the free beginners class went very well with nine newbies at the first class at Pickleball Play 365 in Mentor and second class held in Solon at ACE Pickleball.
10. This is just some of what's going on WGPC, but if your read through the newsletter you will get caught up on everything.

*Don't hesitate to reach out to me at anytime for pretty much anything!*

*Barry Leven, President Email: [barry.leven@gmail.com](mailto:barry.leven@gmail.com)*

# Updates To Pickleball Rules For 2026 Season

The 2026 season brings minor refinements to pickleball rules focused on fairness and clarity. Full rules are available at [usapickleball.org/rules](http://usapickleball.org/rules).

**Serves:** Stricter enforcement of the “release height” rule – the ball must be released no higher than waist level, contact made below the waist, and the paddle’s high point (usually the tip) must stay below the wrist. Swing must be low to high. Drop-serve remains unchanged, (the ball must be dropped not thrown down). Spin serves are allowed only if generated by the paddle. The ball cannot be spinning before it hits the paddle.

**Kitchen Violation:** Players must show controlled movement near the kitchen line. Any momentum carrying a player into the kitchen after a volley – even after the ball is dead – is a fault.

**Calling “Out”:** Out calls must be made promptly by the receiving team, including double hits and body shots. In recreational play, give the benefit of the doubt to the returning player on close calls. Spectators should not make calls.

Like every other sport, there are plenty of rules. If you choose to look at the rules on **YouTube**, be sure the video was made within the past year. If you have any questions and you are around the courts, you can always ask a club ambassador, or you can just contact any of us at the Rules committee:

*Jerry Kaminski (dkjk1111@hotmail.com)*

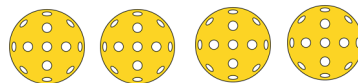
*Scott Wayt (614-404-2300)*

*Jeff Embleton, Rules Committee Chairperson  
(jembleton63@gmail.com)*



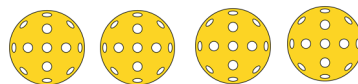
## Dues Due!

You can now pay your \$5.00 dues (\$10.00/Family) using VENMO (if your account is set up with a bank and not a credit card) to the following VENMOaddress: **@WGPbclub** (this will be Gary Wyszynski, our treasurer) or you can always give cash to a board member. I would also suggest texting him/her that you gave them the \$5.00 (single) or \$10.00 (family) cash.



## DUPR REGISTRATION!!! & Club Signup

Don't forget to Register with **DUPR** and once registered, under the tab **Clubs**, sign up for the **West Geauga Pickleball Club**. There is no fee required for doing this.



## Gossip in the KITCHEN!

### *Congratulations*

**Jeff Baum** qualified for the ACE Pickleball Club nationals in Dallas. Good Luck Jeff!

**Rebekah Jose** qualified for the second time to play in the U.S. Open Pickleball Championship on April 18th, in the 3.5-3.9 Mixed Double, age 55-59 bracket. Way to go Rebekah!

**Adam Berry** recently finished first in a double competition at Dinks in Niles. Congrats Adam!

**Chuck Kollman** recently finished first in a double competition at the Geauga YMCA. Way to beat our president Chuck!



## We've Joined DUPR... Here's what it means to You!

Our club has recently been accepted by DUPR as an official club for reporting tournament results. We are requesting that **every member register asap** so that we don't lose this honor due to lack of interest. Plus, our first tournament is April 18th and we cannot register without every participant being signed up.

It is simple to do.... I suggest registering on your computer versus the app as some members were asked to pay. There is no charge for this as long as your registering for DUPR (not DUPR+).

1. Google DUPR, click on the web site and register.
2. Once you have your personal page, look on the left side and you will see a heading called CLUBS. Click on clubs and type in a search for West Geauga Pickleball Club. Then request to join.

**So what is it?** DUPR (Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating) is a global, skill-based rating system that assigns each player a numerical rating based on match results and opponent strength. DUPR uses an algorithm that updates ratings dynamically after every match, reflecting recent performance and the quality of competition. It's widely used by clubs, leagues, and tournaments, internationally, to provide an objective measure of player ability across locations and formats (singles, doubles, mixed).



**So how does it work?** When our club has league or tournament play, all results will be reported to DUPR so you will be able to know where you stand, skill wise, and can also see how your friends are doing as well, by doing a people search on your home page.

If you have any questions concerning DUPR, reach out to our committee.

**Jeff Baum-Chairperson** ([jbaum2001@hotmail.com](mailto:jbaum2001@hotmail.com))  
**Rick Willard** ([wawvoid@gmail.com](mailto:wawvoid@gmail.com))



## CAMERA & ACTION

### Can't Happen Without LIGHTS!

Our WGPC fundraising committee will soon be releasing details for a **50/50 raffle** with a **\$10,000 first prize** plus **\$10,000 in additional prizes!**

With more than 700 people using our community courts, and many of them playing after work with their families and friends, having lights will add 3-4 extra hours to play.

There will only be 400 total tickets available. We are anticipating ticket sales to go fast and plan to be finished by mid to late April, so we can get the lights installed. The hope is that each member be responsible for at least four tickets, with the individual selling the most tickets receiving a prize.

So hang tight... You will all be receiving an email from the WGPC fundraising committee as soon as some details are finalized. Any questions, email me – **Katie Locke, Committee Chair** ([k.locke027@gmail.com](mailto:k.locke027@gmail.com))

**WGPC PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT**

April 18th, weather permitting  
 Lower Division 2.0-3.25: 10:00 AM  
 Upper Division 3.25+: 1:00 PM

Limited Spots Available! Entry Fees:  
 \$20 - WGPC Members \$25 - Non-Members

Format: Sign up individually  
 Dynamic pairing & matchmaking each round

Location: Parkside - Chesterland, Ohio

Register Now: Call or Text  
 Adam at 414-559-4921

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