



GTPC Member Newsletter Winter Edition 2025

Welcome fellow picklers to our first member newsletter where you will find the “spin” on all things GTPC! We are so excited to launch this new member resource and have much to say! Our goal is to publish the member newsletter three times annually: Winter, Summer and Fall.

Send us your photos!

Have some great photos of GTPC'ers around the globe or here at home socializing together? Send us your pics and we'll include them in upcoming newsletters.



Photo above: GTPC Club President, Richard Box getting in some court time in Mazatlán, Mexico



Photo above: snowshoe gang at GTPC Winter Activity Day at Devil's Glen Country Club

A big Thanks to Mark & Jane!

A big GTPC **thank you** to Mark Hord and wife, Jane Fleetwood-Morrow for hosting a memorable winter gathering at Devil's Glen Country Club on Thursday, February 13th & an added thanks to Joyce Reynolds for breaking trail and leading the snowshoe group!

What's new & upcoming?

GTPC Member Code of Conduct

The Board is developing a **new Member Code of Conduct**. After researching other club's policies as well as Pickleball Ontario's Code of Conduct, we have created a new member resource that we believe both reflects the values we strive to uphold at our club as well as setting out expectations for member's conduct. This will be sent out to GTPC members in the next few weeks.

GTPC Website Improvements

Improvements are being made to the existing GTPC website. Going forward, the Board will be undertaking a project to develop a new GTPC website over the course of 2025. We hope to have this completed by the end of the year.

Important Club Reminders

We appreciate parking can be challenging around Blue Mountain. Please continue to observe & be respectful of all parking restrictions and parking signage when playing at Monterra. We encourage members to think about **reducing your carbon footprint and carpooling where possible!**

A remind for all members to **visit CourtReserve** and add your contact phone # as well as **Emergency Contact Information** - this is important should an incident occur, and we need to get in touch with your contact.

We need you! GTPC is a non-profit that relies on our members to volunteer & get involved. We need your support with court hosting and tournaments. We rely on members to help us to continue to make this the great club that it is! Contact us for more details by emailing crgtpc@gmail.com.

Name your Newsletter!

It's time to get creative. We're hoping our members will help to name our newsletter. Submit your ideas (one per member) to

crgtpc@gmail.com

Winners will be announced in March and the winner will receive a \$25 gift card to Tim Horton's!



GTPC Upcoming Social Activities:

Hold the date for our much-anticipated Spring Social!

The **GTPC 2nd annual Spring Fling Dance** will be held on **Friday, June 6th** at the Collingwood Legion. Stay tuned for more details.

Frequently Asked Questions

Ever wonder what the most frequently asked questions the Board receives or do you, yourself, have a question that remains unanswered? We'll dedicate a section of the newsletter to answering some of these questions. Submit your questions to crgtpc@gmail.com

1. How are ratings done at GTPC?

The overall goal of our club's ratings review process is to ensure members within each rating group are of a comparable level. We strive to ensure everyone can enjoy both competitive and recreational games on a regular basis. To recap, the process of assessing member ratings includes the following:

- **Ladder play/scores kept**
- **Peer reviews**
- **Observing play by club Ambassadors**

Each of these factors are considered and contribute to the GTPC member ratings review process. Currently, the Board does its utmost to conduct rating reviews a minimum of semi-annually.

The Board is currently exploring a new player rating system known as DUPR, which stands for *Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating*. DUPR provides a real-time assessment of your pickleball skill level based on your match/event results. Every match counts towards your rating. Stay tuned for more details as we continue the suitability and feasibility of this universally accepted pickleball rating system.

2. What is process for inviting GTPC summer members back to the club each Spring?

Each Spring, the Board reviews the prior year's list of summer GTPC players. An invitation is sent from the club to every member who played the prior summer. Once every member has confirmed and submitted their registration fees, the Board then reviews the waiting list of members from the community who are interested in joining GTPC. Careful consideration is given to those on the waiting list before invitations are extended to new summer members.



Pickleball Pointers

By Michael Olejnik

This feature of the newsletter is designed to provide our GTPC members with tips on how to improve your pickleball playing skills. The topic for this newsletter is **"Being Ready"**. One of the easiest areas to improve your winning percentage of rallies, is to focus on a being ready.

Many times, I see players with their paddles in a relaxed position generally hang around their thigh area. When it is time to react to a shot, we are faced with raising our paddles into a position to play the ball, losing reaction time.

What is Being Ready?

Paddle up and in front: Hold your paddle out in front of your body, around chest height when you are near the NVZ, with a loose but firm grip. The paddle face should be angled slightly upward, prepared for both volleys or speed ups. One technique to remind yourself of this is to have your left index finger touching the base of the paddle face (if you are right-handed) just above where your right hand is. One of the top pros when he instructs this topic, he will have students carry a pickleball in their left hand and they touch the ball to the paddle between shots to remind them to bring the paddle into the forward ready position.

Tips to Stay in the Ready Position

- 1. Return to a Ready Stance After Every Shot:** One common mistake among players is remaining static after hitting a shot. I generally find it because we are "watching" our shot (especially if it was a good one!). The key is to return to being ready whether you're at the baseline or the kitchen line so you're never caught off guard.
- 2. Adjust for Different Court Zones:** At the baseline, your ready position might be slightly more open, prepared for a groundstroke. I find your paddle can be waist high or lower, since anything higher is likely going out of bounds! At the net, your paddle should be higher, anticipating quick volleys. Your paddle at the NVZ line should generally be at the height of the net.

Final Thoughts

The ready position may seem simple, but it's a foundational skill that can elevate your pickleball game to the next level. By staying balanced, alert, and prepared for every shot, you'll find yourself winning more rallies, making fewer errors, and putting constant pressure on your opponents. So, the next time you step on the court, remember: stay ready and return to being ready with your paddle in the appropriate position. You will start winning more points!!

Michael Olejnik is a Level 2 certified Pickleball Instructor.