



PICKLEBALL TUTOR PRECAUTIONS

The Edmonton Pickleball Club has purchased a Pickleball Tutor for club use. The Tutor is a very good tool to practice numerous shots. It only has a few controls so is easy to operate but like any tool (machine) it can injure if not used properly. The Tutor capable of projecting balls at speed up to 80 Kilometers per hour or 22 meters in a second or around 250 milliseconds to travel from kitchen line to kitchen line. At speeds well below 80 km/hr the ball can leave welts and even cuts. Of greater concern is damage to an eye from a direct or indirect hit. Prescription glasses will provide some protection but may not be adequate. Therefore, it is recommended:

- All participants wear safety glasses when drilling with the tutor, operating the tutor or gathering the balls. This is a recommendation; it is up to each participant to decide whether or not to purchase and wear safety glasses. And it is up to the participant to remember to put on the safety glasses while in the area of the tutor.
- Do not operate the tutor until someone who is familiar with the tutor has gone over the controls with you. The controls are relatively simple but should be only adjusted in small increments. Large changes substantially change the ball speed, distance and arc.
- Unless you know the tutor is shut off do not walk into the ball trajectory path. If there are balls laying under the trajectory path use a broom or squeegee to pull them out of the path before picking them up.
- Before someone steps in to drill with the tutor, run a few test balls to insure the speed, distance, and arc are suitable for the drill and the participant's skill level.
- If you have not practiced with the tutor in the past and/or you think the ball speed is too fast, ask the tutor operator to slow it down before stepping into position.
- If you step into drill and then realize the ball speed is too fast step 3 feet to the side and ask for the ball speed to be slowed. With very little practice you will likely be able to handle the faster speed but it is better to arrive there without painful reminders of your progress.
- During the operation of the tutor balls can roll into the adjacent court. If that court is being used, one or two participants should be assigned to try and stop as many balls as possible from reaching the adjacent court.
- When the tutor is being used the ball speed and ball spacing should not be adjusted. If an adjustment is required ask the person drilling to step aside, then adjust in small increments. After the adjustment is completed, the person drilling can step back into place.
- If you are drilling with the tutor be aware that the ball speed and trajectory changes depending on the make of ball, the condition of the ball, the cleanliness of the ball and the condition of the tutor trajectory mechanism. This is a good thing as it mimics an actual game but can throw you off if 3 or 4 balls come at waist height and the 5th ball at head height.
- If you notice any other possible safety issues, please do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of the person co-ordinating the activities. If you perceive it as an immediate hazard shut off the tutor or ask for it to be shut off.