

ST ALBANS AND HARPENDEN PICKLEBALLERS

Code of Conduct

Version	2.0
Date published / reviewed	18/06/2026
Policy owner	Club Committee
Approved by	[INSERT APPROVING BODY OR COMMITTEE DATE]
Next review due	18/06/2027
Revisions made	Rewritten to reflect current safeguarding, data protection, equality, health and safety and sports club governance guidance.

1. Purpose

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards expected from all members, guests, visitors, volunteers, session leads, coaches and committee members of St Albans and Harpenden Pickleballers (SHARP Pickleball). It supports safe, fair, inclusive and enjoyable pickleball for everyone involved with the club.

2. Who this code applies to

This code applies at club sessions, events, meetings, competitions, social events, online groups, social media pages and any situation where a person is representing or associated with the club.

3. Expected behaviour

- **Respect and fairness:** Treat players, guests, volunteers, committee members, venue staff and officials with courtesy, honesty and respect.
- **Safe play:** Play in a way that does not put another person at avoidable risk. Follow safety instructions from session leads, coaches, venue staff and the committee.
- **Inclusion:** Do not discriminate against, bully, harass, abuse, victimise or intimidate any person. Respect different backgrounds, abilities, ages and experience levels.
- **Fair play:** Follow the rules of pickleball, call lines honestly, give opponents the benefit of the doubt and accept decisions calmly.
- **Language and conduct:** Do not use threatening, abusive, insulting, sexually inappropriate, discriminatory or persistently aggressive language.
- **Equipment and venue:** Respect club equipment, venue property and shared spaces. Report damage, hazards, accidents and near misses to the session lead.
- **Volunteers:** Recognise the time given by committee members, session leads and other volunteers. Follow booking systems, session rules and reasonable instructions.

- **Online behaviour:** Use WhatsApp, email, Facebook, Instagram and other online channels respectfully. Do not post abusive, discriminatory, humiliating or private information about others.
- **Photography and filming:** Do not take or share photos or videos of players without appropriate permission. Never take or share images of children or adults at risk without consent from the correct person and the club.
- **Safeguarding:** Report any concern about a child, young person or adult at risk to the Welfare Officer or Deputy Welfare Officer. Do not investigate safeguarding concerns yourself.

4. During social play

During social play, stronger players should support a positive playing environment by challenging less experienced players without overwhelming them. Players should rotate fairly, communicate clearly, encourage partners and opponents, and avoid behaviour that makes others feel excluded or unsafe.

5. Unacceptable behaviour

- Violence, threats, intimidation, bullying, harassment, abuse or victimisation.
- Discrimination linked to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.
- Repeated unsafe play or ignoring safety instructions.
- Deliberate damage to equipment, venue property or another person's belongings.
- Taking or sharing inappropriate photos, videos or messages.
- Misuse of club systems, member data, booking systems or WhatsApp groups.
- Behaviour that damages the reputation or safe operation of the club.

6. Reporting concerns

General conduct concerns should be reported to the session lead, the Chair or the complaints contact. Safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Welfare Officer or Deputy Welfare Officer. In an emergency, or where someone is at immediate risk of harm, call 999 first.

7. Breaches of this code

The club will respond to breaches in a fair and proportionate way. Possible outcomes include an informal reminder, written warning, removal from a session, suspension from bookings, removal from online groups, refusal of guest attendance, termination of membership or referral to Pickleball England, the venue, police or statutory agencies where appropriate.

8. Review

This code will be reviewed at least annually and sooner if the law, club operations, venue requirements or national governing body guidance changes.

Guidance considered

This code has been drafted with reference to club governance practice, Pickleball England safeguarding expectations, equality law principles and safe sports club guidance.