Court Use (Tennis, Pickleball and similar activities) Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to reinforce MRTC's commitment to tennis as the core activity of our club. Our courts, facilities, and programs are designed to support and promote tennis for players of all ages and abilities.

To maintain this focus and to protect our courts for tennis use, **pickleball and other similar structured paddle games (e.g., Pop Paddle)** are **not permitted** on MRTC tennis courts. This ensures that:

- Our court surfaces remain in good condition.
- Courts are available and prioritised for tennis bookings.
- Tennis continues to be the central sport and community focus of the club.

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2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All **club members**, including juniors and seniors.
- **Guests** and visitors using the tennis club facilities.
- Any **groups or organisations** seeking to use MRTC courts for non-tennis activities.

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3. Policy Statement

In alignment with **MRTC Rules & Bylaws**, **Pickleball and similar activities are strictly prohibited** on MRTC tennis courts.

- Courts are to remain primarily for **tennis-related use**, including social and competitive play.
- Alternatives for playing pickleball are available at **Margaret River Recreation Centre, Cowaramup, Karridale, and Vasse**.

At the **committee meeting on 17 November 2025**, the MRTC Committee resolved:

1. Pickleball activities are **not to be permitted** on club courts, effective immediately.
2. This prohibition applies to **all members, guests, and organised activities**.
3. Any **future proposals** to introduce pickleball (or similar games) will be **declined**, based on:
    - Potential **damage to court surfaces**.
    - Availability of **alternative facilities**.
    - Lack of support from the club's **core tennis members**.
    - Potential **disruption** to tennis activities.
4. This position will be **reviewed by future committees on a two-year cycle**.

4. Procedures / Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Action Steps for MRTC Staff and Members:

1. **Monitor court usage**: Ensure only tennis-related activities are taking place.
2. **Identify non-compliant use**: If pickleball or similar activities are observed, politely inform participants of the policy.
3. **Notify the Committee**: Report persistent or organised non-compliance.
4. **Enforcement**: Committee may deny court access or take disciplinary action in line with club rules.
5. **Record Keeping**: All incidents must be documented and retained by the committee for policy review purposes.

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5. Roles and Responsibilities

- **MRTC Committee**:
  - Review and update this policy **every two years**.
  - Ensure all members are aware of and comply with the policy.
  - Handle disputes or complaints regarding non-compliance.
- **Members**:
  - Comply with the policy and report breaches to the committee when necessary.

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6. Related Documents

- **MRTC Rules & Bylaws** (*to be updated with this policy*)

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7. Authorisation

This Policy and SOP Framework was adopted by the Margaret River Tennis Club on: 8 DECEMBER 2025

Approved by: CARL SANDERSON / MRTC COMMITTEE

Club President, Margaret River Tennis Club