

Community Statement

Date: November 5, 2024

Subject: Court Allocation Sub-Committee Recommendation FAQs

Care of:

Racquet Sports Community
Court Allocation Sub-Committee

The Court Allocation Sub-Committee has been entrusted with optimizing the use of both tennis and pickleball facilities within the PC MARC's bubble. This dedicated committee consists of the Recreation Department's City Council Liaison, four members of the Recreation Advisory Board, staff, and a respected representative from both the tennis and pickleball communities.

The sub-committee members have diligently worked together, demonstrating good faith, engaging in open dialogue, and providing genuine feedback from the communities they serve. We recognize the challenges and frustrations caused by limited court availability for both sports, and we sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding.

We believe that the information shared during public meetings, as well as our facility offerings and opportunities for questions and comments, will reflect the earnest efforts made by all parties involved.

Key Points for the Racquet Sports Community:

- This is temporary in nature.
- Both sports are growing in our community.
- Both sports have limited public access due to growth and use.

Members of the Sub-Committee and staff will be available for questions and comments in the PC MARC lobby during the following times:

- Thursday, November 7th, 3:00pm-4:00pm
- Friday, November 8th, 2:00pm-3:00pm
- Tuesday, November 12th, 10:00am-11:00am
- Thursday, November 14th, 4:30pm-5:30pm

We ask for respectful, open-minded, and inclusive dialogue towards all MARC patrons, including PC MARC staff at all levels.

Attached is the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) form that is intended to help educate and understand the process to the 2024-2025 Bubble Court Allocation Plan.

2024-2025 Bubble Court Allocation Frequently Asked Questions

Is this shared use temporary?

- Yes, this is for winter 2024-2025 indoor bubble use and will be monitored for needed changes throughout the course of the indoor season.
- Recreation staff are working on long-term solutions, including the Public/Private Partnership for a new indoor pickleball facility. In addition, staff continue to look at other options for additional indoor court space for pickleball.
- The long-term approach is for the PC MARC to return as a tennis first facility once a dedicated pickleball facility is operational.
- Unused time for either sport will be turned over to the other on a weekly basis.
 - Monday- released for the following Wednesday-Saturday
 - Thursday- released for the following Sunday-Tuesday

Is the PC MARC a tennis facility or a recreation center?

- It is both. We offer beginner to high level programming for tennis, pickleball, and a variety of other youth and adult programs.
- The facility accommodates all people regardless of socioeconomics. The facility offers a sliding-fee scale for those who qualify.
- As a recreation center, we have pickleball and tennis playing at the same time every day.

Isn't the MARC a purpose-built tennis facility?

- Yes. The indoor courts were constructed as a purpose-built tennis facility to USTA standards. This required a height exemption from the planning commission when constructing so we had proper clearance inside. The courts also have the required non-playing distance around the court which pushed the building to the east.
- The old Racquet Club courts did not meet USTA standards. The city received a USTA Facility Grant to ensure compliance with USTA standards. By resolution the city named all tennis courts the "Candy Erickson Tennis Center" (CETC).
- The indoor courts will remain tennis only throughout the winter season.
- The MARC was built prior to the rise in pickleball and has a robust community of players.

Doesn't pickleball have other places to play?

- Yes. Places include the PC MARC, Basin Recreation Fieldhouse, Wasatch County Recreation Center, and South Summit Fitness and Aquatic Center all on a wood floor surface.
- The wood floor is an approved surface for pickleball and is heavily used at locations along the *Wasatch Back*.
- Pickleball was asked to maximize use on the available public wood surfaces, and they have.
- The desire for a hard-court surface is due to multiple reasons.
 - The wood surface used around the area is well-utilized during available times.
 - Increasing the time allocated to wood surfaces continues to impact other user groups and programs such as basketball, volleyball, etc.
 - The bubble's hard-court surface is the preferred surface.

Can I get a refund on my Racquets Sports pass?

- If any patron doesn't feel the Racquet Sports pass is meeting their needs, they can receive a pro-rated refund.

Why does the MARC prioritize programs over open-play?

- Programs, lessons, clinics all are guaranteed court utilization which grow access and participation in racquet sports. This aligns with how staff prioritize all recreation and MARC programs which take precedence over public open use at other facilities.
- The court allocation subcommittee supports this recreation philosophy.

What are you doing to be more efficient with less available time?

- The Racquet Sports staff understand the importance of merging like private lessons into semi-privates even up to the '4 and me' lessons.
- The goal is to get more people on court and provide more opportunities for open play.
- Free access to the bubble courts during underutilized time for both sports will be available. This will be Monday- Friday from 6:00-8:00am, alternating weekdays.
- Friends of Racquet Sports (FORS) group. This subcommittee will continue as a FORS group to help with ongoing communication, event planning, court allocation, and such.
- Tennis professionals will be adjusting schedules where it is possible to open additional open-play court time.
- Adjustments to programming to open additional open-play court time.
- The sub-committee group considered options that were not determined to be in the best interest of the MARC based on logistics and operational needs and administrative requirements. These include:
 - Confining court reservations to "on the hour".
 - Offering side-by-side play in the bubble.

I am a taxpayer. Why don't I have priority over others?

- We value the residents of this community. City residents have access to all Basin Recreation facilities and programs at the same rate as Basin residents per an Interlocal Agreement. This is also true in reverse.
- Non-residents pay a higher fee for court reservations. In addition, Racquet Sports passes are only sold to those who are considered a resident per the Interlocal Agreement.
- The bottom-line impact is that Recreation receives more significant funding from Sales Tax (visitors) than residents (property tax). The property tax impact on residents is further reduced since most of the property tax collected is from second homes.
- The Recreation Department (PC MARC, Recreation & Racquet Sports) recovers approximately 70% of its direct operating costs through User Fees. The Municipal general fund covers the subsidy (the revenue shortfall that doesn't cover expenses).
- The general fund's primary funding is Sales Tax (36% of the GF) and Property Tax (25% of the GF). If you take the average of the past 4 years, the subsidy recreation receives is \$838,871. The property tax portion of this would be 25% or \$209,718. The Sales Tax portion, which is primarily funded by visitors, is \$303,994. The remaining subsidy is funded with other General Fund revenues.

RAB- Who are they and what do they do?

- The function of the Recreation Advisory Board is:
 - To advise the City Council and staff on parks and recreation policy as requested by the City Council.
 - To advise the City Council and staff on parks, recreation and beautification projects as requested by the City Council.
 - To support and promote the policies and programs of the Recreation Departments.
 - To advise and support staff on staff recommended budget priorities concerning parks, recreation and beautification projects and programs.
 - To serve as liaison between the community and public agencies on parks, recreation and beautification issues within Park City.
 - To stimulate, and initiate community involvement and support for City Council annual and long-term goals and priorities, and all parks, recreation and beautification projects.
- City residents may apply for future public service opportunities

What is the Recreation Department and what do they do?

- The Recreation Department is a department of Park City Municipal Corporation. The administrative team is a group of professionals (over 130 collective years of service) who operate and manage facilities, schedules, programming, and provide dedicated time for specific and approved uses.
- Recreation has Four Divisions overseen each by a Division Manager.
 - The PC MARC
 - Recreation, IT, and Marketing
 - Fitness, Wellness, and Cemetery
 - Racquet Sports

When did it change to Racquet Sports from Tennis division?

- In 2022, when the last tennis director resigned, the City changed the position to Racquet Sports Division Manager and hired a person with a broader perspective on Racquet Sports.
- Focused approach to continue to grow tennis and balance pickleball growth with limited space.
- Created a Racquet Sports logo for marketing & identification.
- Published a Racquet Sports Newsletter that includes tennis & PICKLEBALL information
- Dedicated time for pickleball in the bubble and the gymnasium with play available seven days a week
- Sell pickleball clothing & equipment in the pro shop.
- Expanded pickleball programming with clinics & lessons.
- The PC MARC was named “Municipal Facility of the Year” for pickleball by Racquet Sports Industry magazine. <http://www.tennisindustrymag.com/issues/202304/index.php>
- Increased dedicated court time to pickleball in the bubble each year originally due to underutilized tennis time.
- Pickleball lines are on three tennis courts making six pickleball courts in the bubble. Four dedicated outdoor pickleball courts & four pickleball courts in the gymnasium.

Why are court fees the same for tennis and pickleball?

- Fees are approved through the City's budget process and the fee schedule is adopted by City Council.
- Outdoor Court fees are the same for both sports.
- The Recreation Director may apply discretionary discounts on fees to encourage facility use, fill non-prime time slots, introduce new programs, or address subpar conditions due to weather or maintenance issues. This flexibility aims to enhance participation and improve facility management.
- In previous years, pickleball used underutilized bubble tennis time and the indoor court fee was discounted 50%. This year, with pickleball using primetime hours the court fees are no longer discounted.

What is proper court etiquette?

- Give grace and be respectful of others, regardless of the sport.
- Please keep conversations and voices down.
- Please be mindful of the group in front of you and after your designated court time
 - Please do not enter the bubble prior to your court time as to not disturb the group in front of you
 - Please pick up any balls, and return pickleball nets to designated spot next to stairs (please do these two minutes prior to court time ending)
 - Please no music
 - Please no alcohol