



## From the Picklehood

January 2024

By Jack Hodges

My deadline for submitting this column is the 15th of the month. I'm rarely on time. I blame it on pickleball. All things pickleball. Morning play 5-6 days a week. Afternoon naps 5-6 days a week. Add in the countless hours of on-line searching for the perfect paddle. Ten years ago....5-6 paddle choices. The best, most economical pickleball? A decade ago you had two choices. Shoes? Many choices, but few are comfortable. Fewer are comfortable AND gray/blue/silver. Clothes? Gotta look for the odor wicking ones. A couple of days in the pickleball hamper can take its toll. I can remember when pickleball advice and instruction took place only on the courts. Nowadays, on line access to instruction is readily available and could not only prove to be beneficial, but very time consuming. Did you know there's actually dinking strategy and that the lob is really just a long dink? Anyway, haven't missed the monthly 'Picklehood' column yet, but if I do, I'll play the 'other things pickleball' card. And, don't even get me started on daily pickleball weather reports that actually start the night before.....

As the column deadline nears, I realize there is a great deal of information requiring your attention. Maybe even your applause. Most can be found on line, but hey, if you don't have time, blame pickleball. Or just wait for this month's [pakauai.org](http://pakauai.org) updates and highlights.

The big news is that we have been cleared for a 'Super Seniors' pickleball tournament here on Kaua'i. Venue: Kalena Park. Age: 70+. Super Seniors Only. Date: TBD. But, we need a commitment from you. Stephanie and I and many others have been campaigning for quite some time about the need for a 70+ bracket in our local tournaments. Just saw where the 1st Annual Charity Walk Pickleball Tournament will take place at the Kauai Beach Villas on February 23-25, 2024 AND there is a 70+ bracket. Progress!!



characterized by excellent play, the Super Seniors prevailed: 10-12, 11-9, 11-4. We punched....and dinked....and lobbed.... above our weight that morning. Oftentimes during the match, my thoughts drifted to the need for an optometrist's eye chart posted permanently to the chain link fence. The lingering question could then be asked, in good nature of course....can you read (or even see) line 3?

You may now applaud.

Happy New Year,

Jack Hodges

District Pickleball Ambassador

State of Hawaii

Kaua'i Resident

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