



From the Picklehood

June 2024

By Jack Hodges

“Any sufficiently advanced activity is indistinguishable from magic.”

- **The Weather.** We’ve certainly had our share of wind and rain here on Kauai’i the past couple of months. Can’t do much about the rain, but the windy days are still playing days. Here are a few tips for windy day pickleball. Shorten the court as quickly as you can. The closer you are to the net, the less distance the ball has to travel in the wind. Less distance, less effect on the flight of the ball. If you are hitting into the wind, play softer and use the third shot drop as often as you can. Same for the dink. If you have the wind behind you, play faster. Use the drive shot more often. Play down the middle. Just be sure to keep the ball in your opponent’s court.
- **A Good Idea.** Speaking of the wind, especially the swirling winds on our island, I am a big proponent of some type of visible indicator showing wind direction during play. Any ideas, let us know. Licking your index finger and holding it up in the wind was on and off reliable. Mostly off.
- **Interesting News.** Did you know there was a National Collegiate Pickleball team championship tournament in 2024? Utah Tech defeated the University of Florida 49-33 (they used a version of rally scoring) in the finals, held in Westfield, Indiana. There are actually a couple of college pickleball national championship tournaments being held in 2024 (depends on the national organization). Stay tuned as college pickleball continues to grow.
- **A Rule:** The Wrong Score Called. I see this a lot in social play and there is no reason to enforce any rule because it is social play, but understand that tournament play is different. In tournament play, if the wrong score is called, a player may stop play to correct the score, but must do so BEFORE the return of the serve. It is a fault to stop play for a score correction AFTER the serve has been returned. It is also a fault if you stop play to correct a score if the score was called correctly.

- **A Definition.** Do you know the difference between a “carry” and a “double hit” as defined by the rule book? A carry is defined as a ball being carried along the face of the paddle without separation from paddle. That is a fault. A legal double hit occurs when the ball hits the paddle surface twice while the paddle is moving in a continuous, single direction.
 - **A Philosophy.** Playing the Diagonal has been discussed in this column before. It refers to a coverage philosophy that promotes never allowing a ball to pass between you and your partner. You are both responsible for the middle shot, but the diagonal person (the player who is on the opposite end of the diagonal path of the traveling ball) has first responsibility. That ball is traveling more at you than your partner. Your partner may cut it off and that’s OK, but if you assume he/she is going to do that and you aren’t prepared to hit that ball traveling at you, well.....you didn’t play the diagonal.
 - **A Convenience.** Picklers Paradise, Kaua’i’s only dedicated pickleball store, recently opened in Lihue town. Drop in and say aloha to owner Rose Fernandez. Her prices are good and she would like to hear your suggestions and needs. The store is located on Rice Street in the old Royal Theatre building about a half mile east of the Lihue Post Office. 4275 Rice Street. (808) 245-4212.
 - **A Tournament.** A good sized contingent of Kaua’i players will be making their way to the Big Island of Hawaii the weekend of June 21-23, 2024. The venue is the Holua Tennis and Paddle Center in Kailua-Kona. You can follow tournament results at pickleballbrackets.com Sending good wishes and good vibes to the more than 350 participating players.
 - **Another Tournament.** Pickleball Association Kaua’i (pakauai.org) will be conducting the PAK 2024 Open tournament August 2-4 at Kauai’s newest permanent, dedicated pickleball venue on the campus of Kauai Community College in Lihue. Visit our PAK website for more information.
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Previous Month's Articles:

Jan'24 Feb'24 Mar'24 Apr'24 May'24

Jan'23 Feb '23 Mar '23 Apr '23 May '23 Jun '23

Jul '23 Aug '23 Sep '23 Oct '23 Nov '23 Dec '23

Jan'22 Feb'22 Mar'22 Apr'22 May'22 Jun'22

Jul'22 Aug'22 Sep'22 Oct'22 Nov'22 Dec'22

Dec'21