

# SCC Pickleball Club Ball Machine Safety Policy

The purpose of this policy is to be aware of the health and safety of the SCC PBC members who are using the pickleball machine and to limit the chances of damage to the machine. Access to the ball machine is at the discretion of the SCC PBC Board, and the option to use the ball machine may be withdrawn if the machine is used in an unsafe and/or careless manner.

The speed of the pickleball thrown from the machine can be as fast as 60 miles per hour (120 km per hour) at maximum speed which can cause permanent damage if used improperly (at that speed or less).

ERNE is a powerful machine that if handled improperly could injure a user, bystander, or other person. The Board of Directors has come up with standards and procedures for use of the pickleball machine to limit the chances of injury.

The procedures developed include elements to ensure safety of the users and care of the machine.

## **Safety Policy**

1. Before turning the machine ON, ensure court in front of the ball machine is clear and that no one is standing in front of machine.
2. Be aware that after turning on the machine, there is a 20-second delay before the machine begins to throw out balls. There is also a delay between change of programs. Do not get in front of the machine while waiting for it to start.
3. Never look down on, or stand in front of, ball ejector while machine is in operation.
4. Turn machine OFF before reloading the balls.
5. Turn the machine OFF if you are having trouble with machine.
6. Place pickleballs in the machine's ball storage only; do not try to insert balls into the ball ejector.
7. Do not use wet pickleballs since this may cause damage to the machine.
8. The club strongly suggests that everyone wear eye protection when on the court with the pickleball machine (including operator, participants, helpers, observers, and coaches).
9. Never insert any body part, or any other object other than a pickleball, into the openings on the machine.
10. If a ball enters the front opening of the machine, turn it off immediately.
11. Be aware of the extreme tripping hazard caused by stray balls on the court. Stop the machine immediately when balls accumulate near the player's feet. Warn others if you see balls near their feet.
12. If it feels unsafe, it probably is, so don't do it.
13. All members using the ball machine do so at their own risk.