

Substitutes and Late Arrivals FAQ

1. What is the new rule?

If you are registered for a time slot and arrive more than 15 minutes late, your registered position is forfeited and a substitute player can take your place for the duration of the time slot. All players who have not signed up for a particular time slot must sign-in on the substitute board as this establishes the order of play for substitutes. If, as a registered player you arrive 16 or more minutes late, you must put your name on the sub-board and you cannot bump a sub off the court. This takes effect on October, 1, 2020. Arrival time is considered to be the time you arrive in the gym at the pickleball table.

2. Why did we institute this rule?

Some registered players are arriving well after start time – in some cases 45 minutes to an hour late – and the courts become underutilized or a substitute player gets bumped off an hour into the session.

3. Are we penalized in some manner for leaving early? What is the difference between arriving late and leaving early?

A player is not penalized for leaving early. There are many reasons that a person might legitimately leave early: fatigue, injury, personal emergency, etc. There are few legitimate reasons for arriving late and you do have a 15-minute grace period.

4. If I am an unregistered player and there are 19 or fewer payers in the gym, do I still need to sign the sub-board?

Yes. Signing the sub-board establishes that you are the first arriving sub. Remember, anyone can sign up just before the session starts if there is an opening so establishing the order of sub play may be important if the session starts to fill up.

5. I am a registered player and I arrive 15 minutes late. A sub has taken my position. And there are now 21 people in the gym. What do I do?

Let the sub know you have arrived within the 15-minute grace time (his/her name will be on the board) and that person will have to exit the gym. If the sub is in the middle of a game the sub should be allowed to finish that game before exiting the gym.

6. What happens if the sub refuses to leave?

Report to the front desk that the player is not registered and is the 21st person in the gym. Also, text Rob McLemore at (405) 201-6877 with the name of the individual. It is a good idea that you get a witness as to the time you arrived. However, if a disagreement ensues about your arrival time, the registered player is the individual that stays. Abuse of arrival times (lying about arrival times) is highly frowned upon. Remember, when you walk in the building a timestamp is created and we have a good idea of how long it takes one to walk from the front desk to the gym.

7. Why are you instituting this rule and not creating a rule about no shows?

Dealing with no shows would require that we have a monitor scheduled for each session to verify who has arrived on time, who was a no show, and who arrived late. Then it would require some type of punitive action later to make the rule enforceable. Enforcement of the rule would have to be very consistent and we simply do not have the staffing to effectuate such a rule. Some people find the cancellation process a little difficult, especially on a phone.

Any other questions, please contact Rob McLemore at (405) 201-6877.