



Stage 3 in Ontario

Here are the interpretations for pickleball from the regulations in 364/20 Schedule 2, paragraph 8: [https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20364#:~:text=\(1\)%20The%20person%20responsible%20for,the%20regulations%20made%20under%20it.](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20364#:~:text=(1)%20The%20person%20responsible%20for,the%20regulations%20made%20under%20it.)

Facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities

8. (1) Facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities, including gymnasiums, yoga and dance studios and other fitness facilities, may open if they comply with the following conditions:

1. Every person who engages in sports or a recreational fitness activity at the facility, **other than a team sport**, must maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person at all times during the activity.

For pickleball, doubles (team sport) and singles can be played without physical distancing, indoor and outdoor.

2. The total number of members of the public permitted to be at the facility in a class, organized program or organized activity at any one time must be **limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from other persons in the facility**, and in any event cannot exceed,

i. 50 persons, if any of the classes, organized programs or organized activities taking place at the time are indoors, or

ii. 100 persons, if all of the classes, organized programs or organized activities taking place at the time are outdoors.

For pickleball, numbers above, you must maintain physical distancing when not playing

4. The total number of spectators permitted to be at the facility at any one time must be **limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the facility**, and in any event cannot exceed,

- i. 50 spectators, if the spectators will be indoors, or
- ii. 100 spectators, if the spectators will be outdoors.

For pickleball:

- indoor events, limit of 50 players and 50 spectators, with gathering type separation between spectators and players
- outdoor events, limit of 100 players and 100 spectators, with gathering type separation between spectators and players

5. Team sports may only be practised or played within the facility if they do not allow for physical contact between players or if they have been modified to avoid physical contact between the players.

Pickleball is not a contact sport. Thus doubles play (games, training, practice) is allowed as long as partners avoid any incidental physical contact.

6. Organized team sports that are practised or played by players in a league may only be practised or played within the facility if the league either,

- i. contains no more than 50 players and does not permit its teams to play against teams outside of the league, or
- ii. divides its teams into groups of 50 or fewer players and does not permit teams in different groups to play against one another or against teams outside of the league.

For pickleball, keep league size to 50 or less.

If you have set groups of people (teams) playing against each other on a predetermined schedule, that would be a league. Organized ladder play is also a type of league. Drop in play is not a league. Thus if someone is playing in a league in your club, they should not play in a ladder type

league or regular league elsewhere or against teams outside your league in the same sport.

Thus the easiest position to take now is to not run ladders / leagues, hence allowing teams to play against whomever they wish to, inside or outside your club.

7. For pickleball, follow the personal and equipment hygiene recommendations on our website: <https://pickleballontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Return-to-Play-Recommendations-Pickleball-Ontario-v1.0.pdf>

Also, please remember that it is a personal choice to play or not to play. If you feel vulnerable to the virus or feel uncomfortable with the playing situation, please don't play.

A note about masks from the CBC <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/stage-3-whats-changing-1.5651995>

What about masks?

Masks are not specifically mentioned in Stage 3, but you'll likely need one if you want to go to a public place regardless of where you live.

The provincial government has not issued a policy or directive on the use of face coverings across Ontario. However, the majority of local health units and municipalities in the province have put policies in place that mandate the use of masks in public indoor places.

The province says a medical grade mask is not necessary and a non-medical face covering, like a cloth mask is sufficient.

When it comes to face shields, health units across Ontario say they are not a good alternative to masks.

Many areas have also mandated the use of masks when using public transit.

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