

## **CAC Introduction Remarks for Idea Sharing Zoom 8/18/2025**

For those that don't know me, my name is Steve Gordon. I am the Board representative and appointed chair of the Taylor Morrison Court Allocation Committee by the key liaison with Taylor Morrison, Rick Ackley, acting President. I would like to give a brief background before we get started. As a result of several discussions with the Solivita Smashers and their Board of Directors, particularly pertaining to court assignment in perpetuity, Taylor Morrison sent a memo 7/31 to Solivita residents expressing the following:

*“To ensure the courts remain welcoming and accessible for all residents, we kindly ask that the practice of assigning courts permanently to specific teams or individuals be discontinued, **effective immediately.**”*

**All courts will return to open play until further notice to ensure fair access for all**

(As an aside, we have asked Taylor Morrison about Newbies, Ladders, and Training, without response to date)

*To help create a revised and balanced scheduling process, we are seeking committee members representing the following groups:*

*Training, Team Play, Ladders, Open Play, and Board of Directors”*

The Smashers president, Wayne Fullerton was asked to take the lead in reaching out to fill these positions. Unfortunately, Wayne resigned for personal reasons and the acting President, Rick Ackley took over. At a town hall, August 5 and three days later, individuals stepped forward to fill the positions. By Monday, August 11, the positions were filled and uncontested.

Training	Patti Greenberg
Team Play	Willie Davis
Ladders	Bill Jackson
Open Play	Craig Johnson
Board of Directors	Steve Gordon

The email then goes on to say: *“Once representatives are confirmed and feedback is collected, our team (TM) will review the input and share a new schedule”*

It is important that we recognize that this committee represents all Solivita Residents except for the Solivita Smashers Board Representative. As that representative, I have also been assigned the responsibility of representing all other uses of the courts not included in the four direct name leads. This includes such things, but not limited to: tournaments, travel team practice, Smashers events like picnic and Halloween games, and any other Solivita events that preclude play on the courts.

While the Committee is independent of the Smashers Club, it is imperative that we seek feedback from its Board and Club Members. The club is the largest in Solivita with just under 1300 members. Our charge is to only consider the current resources of Freedom Park and Palms courts from 7:30am to 9:00pm, seven days a week all year, and no ideas for future expansion. I expect we will consider solutions for: mornings, afternoon, and evenings, summer and winter, Palms and Freedom Park. We need to meet the needs of: working individuals, non-Smashers members and their guests, beginners, intermediate, advanced, and no-hard hitters.

The Committee will have its first formal meeting on Thursday, August 21, but felt it important to begin getting feedback as soon as possible so that we can target a plan for presentation by October 1. The Smashers Club will be kept informed of our progress through the Solivita Smashers website and email. Comments may be directed to [CAC@solivitasmashers.com](mailto:CAC@solivitasmashers.com) that will be delivered to all the Committee members.

**A few items to keep in mind:**

- Pickleball, as a sport, has dramatically expanded and changed over the last ten years. Equipment, skills, strategy, and younger players share the same resources as casual recreational players
- There are less than 25% of the Smashers club that consider themselves Snowbirds. Many of the others learned and primarily played at Solivita. That mix has changed with Solivita now being fully sold out, and more people with outside pickleball experiences are moving in.
- Not only do we need to identify times for Open and Team Play, but we also need to determine fair and equitable rules for how they will be played and penalties for violations. This may require sub-committees. For example:

#### **Team play-**

How many players on a team and number of teams a player can be on

How many courts and days a week can a Team have and for how long before the next lottery or assignment. Can it be consecutive assignments while other Teams have not been picked.

How to keep Teams that are assigned courts from recreating multiple teams with the same members

How to deal with a Team is not fully occupying the assigned court.

#### **Open Play**

Pure open as we have it now, or by level of skill, or by play type which subdivides to level of skill, no hard hitting, social/mixed skill

How to handle excessive queues, 4 paddle affinity groups from excluding other members or jumping ahead of three members waiting.

- Most importantly, we need to come up with a plan that Taylor Morrison will accept or they will come up with their own. Be advised that they own 344 communities to draw experience from.