

## **Open Play Summer, 2025 Feedback**

### **Perspective:**

Summer attendance by full time Solivita Members.

Snowbirds and summer extended vacationers were not present except for very limited time

It is unknown how many members didn't play because they didn't like "Open" format

Almost no comments about afternoon play- limited by weather – heat and rain

Comments are primarily regarding Prime Time 7:30-12:00

### **General Comments:**

Paddle queueing worked well. This includes when court volunteers stopped.

Members generally found where they should play, with a tendency to play at the next higher skill level than their ability- courts 8, 9, 10 were most attended. It's a toss up between 1, 2, 3 and 11, 12, 13

Some teams continued to play together but most were welcoming to others. Others chose to paddle together.

Ladies Only were the most underutilized (court 4, 5)

Social-no hard hitting (court 6, 7) was second least utilized and tended to accommodate teams wanting to stick together and beginners

Most members liked Open Play, especially during the summer months (May- September or October)- Winter play is open for discussion

Many comments from members, not thinking they would like Open Play but were pleasantly surprised by the convenience (playing day and time when they want), playing longer than 1.5 hours, and meeting other members. The environment was welcoming, and they didn't have to worry about being accepted and joining a team(s).

At each end of the spectrum, the less skilled and advanced players felt that they were compelled to play with players ranking 1.0 above or below them.

One responder thought utilization was better with scheduled Team Play having better court distribution and less wait time. Members would come to support each other. "Exercise buddy holds you accountable"

### **Specific Comments:**

#### **Beginners:**

Some felt intimidated, overwhelmed, and stayed away. Others liked the challenge of improving their skills.

### Court Signage Naming:

Some members don't like:  
the DUPR rating posted  
Ratings posted and not enforced  
Ladders rating posted

### Advanced courts (11, 12, 13) most problematic:

Teams (some non-advanced members) continued to occupy the courts, particularly 7:30-9:00

Advance players showed up close to 9:00 am leaving courts available for above.

Advanced/Intermediate players frequently spilled into these courts.

Some Advanced players were frustrated by the above and scheduled afternoon play, since courts were largely empty at that time.

Conflicting reports on how good open play is working

There is a need to better manage who is on these courts.

### **Suggestions:**

- Renumber courts 4, 5, 6, 7 to 1, 2, 3, 4 and 1, 2, 3 to 5, 6, 7. This would enable members to see skill level increases according to the court number.
- Use the Palms courts to lessen the intimidation for novices and beginners and keep them separate from more advanced players. The Palms courts are already being used for Newbies and introduction to Pickleball. Palms courts could also be used for skills training. It could also be a place for Ladies only.
- Eliminate Ladies only and Social courts at Freedom Park by educating members to stack paddles together on the appropriate skilled court. If in doubt, go to the lowest skill level with the court reverting back to the designated skill level after the game is complete.
- An Advanced only challenge court may help on 11, 12, 13
- Keep Open Play for summer months. All but one response supported it.
- There is a clear need for Open Play during Prime Time. Create a committee to put together a poll of the membership of various scenarios of Open Play and Team Play for winter months noting the elimination of Perpetuity. This should be completed no later than October 1 for November 1 implementation.