

GUIDELINE FOR PLAYING PICKLEBALL ON CLAY

Increasingly pickleball players are playing on clay courts. One reason is the lack of space and court availability. Other reasons include that clay is softer, safer, easier on the body, and cooler than asphalt and concrete surfaces. The goal for these guidelines is to offer information to support facilities that are interested in offering pickleball on clay as a beneficial alternative for their players.

Facility Decisions: Talk to your players to determine the best solution for your facility. In this section we are suggesting three potential options for consideration, (a) a designated Pickleball court solution, (b) a blended playing line solution, or (c) a temporary playing line solution. Har-Tru is here to assist you with these options.

Opting for a designated solution enables your facility to designate a single clay court for conversion into four pickleball courts without the need for court demolition. This approach offers the flexibility to transition easily between Pickleball and Tennis with minimal effort.

Daily Court Maintenance: To optimize the bounce for Pickleball on the surface, it's crucial to: (a) Keep the court firm by rolling it, when necessary, (b) Maintain smoothness by regularly removing any "dead" material from the surface, and (c) Manage moisture levels carefully, applying only the amount needed to keep the surface damp.

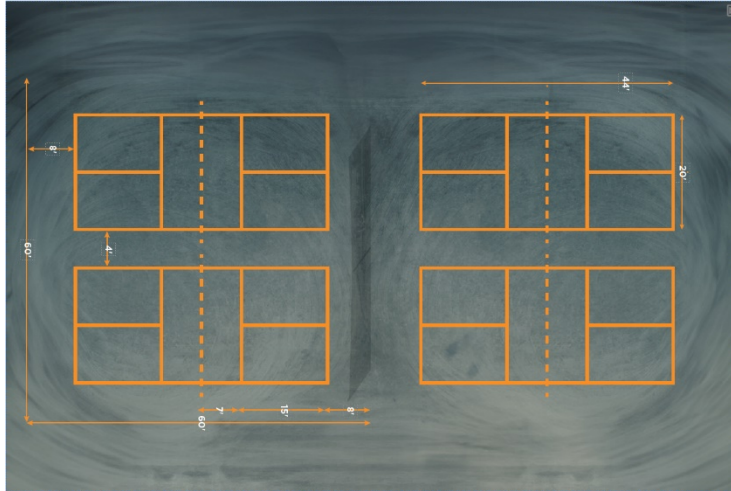
A recommended morning routine should include surface grooming, rolling if required, and thorough removal of any foreign debris from the playing surface. This ensures the court remains in optimal condition for Pickleball play, by providing a more consistent ball bounce. The tools required are the same tools used currently by your facility to maintain clay tennis courts, so there is no need for additional maintenance equipment.

Maintenance tools: tennis court roller, drag brush for grooming and removal of loose material, line sweeper to freshen then lines, and an aussie clean sweep for debris removal. Depending on the level of play you may need to revisit maintenance later in the day.

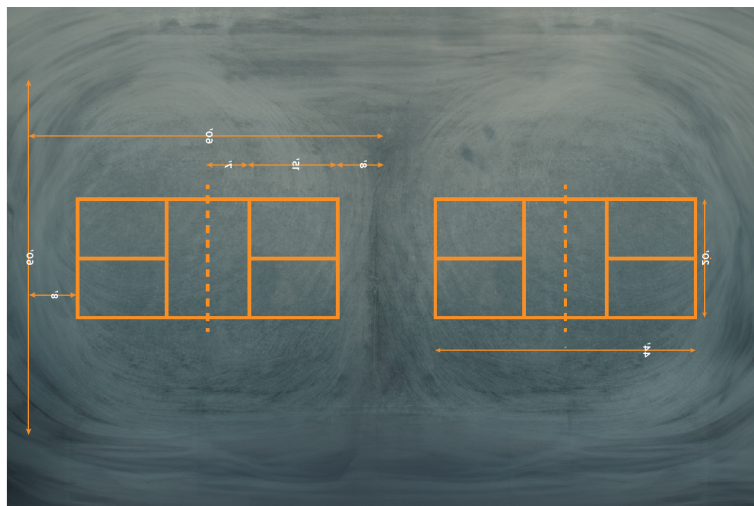
Ball: Balls designed for indoor play typically offer a slightly higher bounce and are well-suited for softer courts. However, various ball types have proven effective on clay surfaces. Among our favorites are the Onix Pure II and Onix Fuse G2.

Designated Solution: The diagram below depicts the layout of four pickleball courts overlaid on a single clay tennis court. This illustration not only highlights the court orientation but also underscores the seamless transition without forfeiting the option to play tennis in the future. Should the need arise, the process involves removing the tennis lines, replacing them with permanent pickleball lines, taking out the tennis net and posts, and capping off the net post

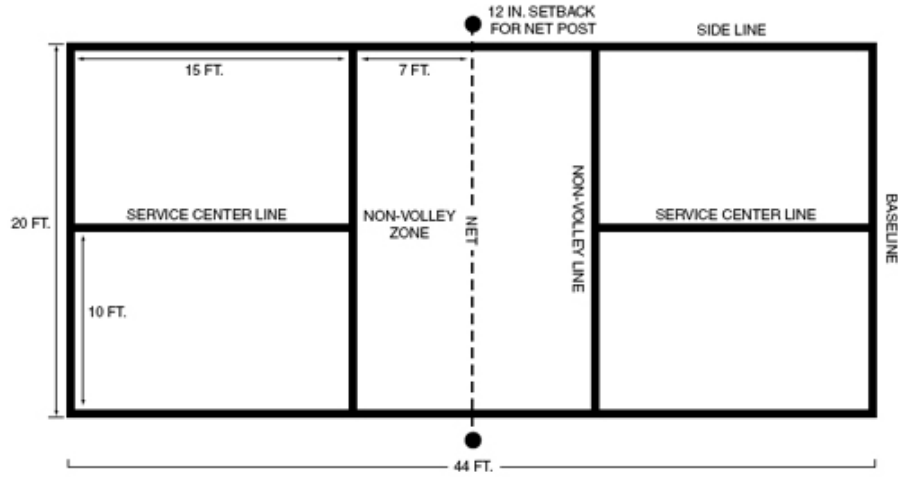
sleeves. This straightforward procedure ensures adaptability between Pickleball and tennis configurations. As an alternative you can leave the tennis net and posts in place to create a barrier between pickleball courts and to reduce ball interruption.



If you prefer beginning with just two pickleball courts, here is an alternative option. There are additional possibilities available to enhance your designated court transition from tennis to Pickleball on a clay surface.



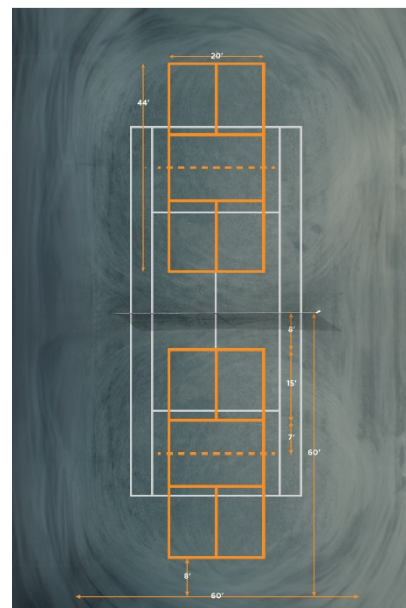
For each of the above designated court options, the layout of your line tapes will follow the configuration outlined in the diagram below.

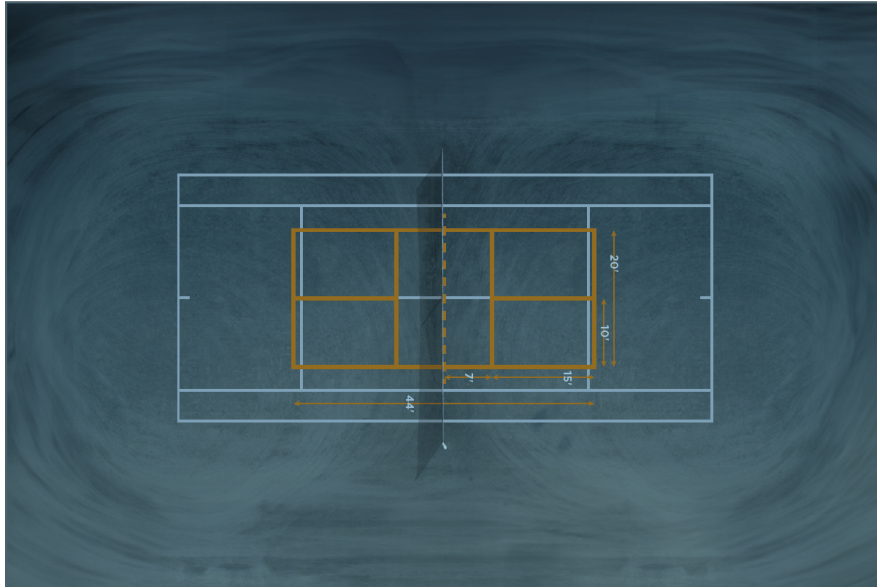


Blended Solution

This solution accommodates both pickleball and tennis on the same court. The use of blended lines allows the court to be utilized for either tennis or pickleball play at any given time. The image and illustration below represent the implementation of blended lines.

Blended Lines are permanent markings specifically designated for playing pickleball on a clay tennis court. These lines feature a 2" width and a dark green color, seamlessly integrating with the court surface while providing a clear visual distinction for each type of play. Crafted from the same materials as permanent tennis court lines, these blended lines ensure a durable and versatile playing area. It is important to note that when utilizing blended lines, tennis ball bounces may be affected by the additional markings, which could be perceived negatively by players. Therefore, this should be carefully considered when deciding.





Marking the lines for Blended or Temporary Solutions:

Step 1 – Measure from the center of the net center pipe anchor. Measure straight up the center line 22', passing through the center service line by 1', and place a mark there. This allows you to use the center service line within your layout. (highly recommended).

Step 2 – Measure 10' to the left and 10' to the right of the center pipe anchor at the net and mark these two spots.

Step 3 – Measure 22' from the above markings towards the base line, this measurement should put you just past the service line, approximately 1'.

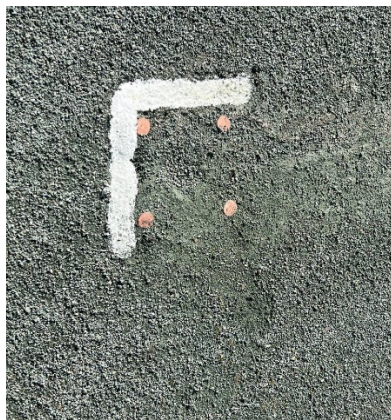
Step 4 – Use a chalk line to ensure line markings are straight.

Step 5 – To create the Kitchen, measure 7' from all 3 spots marked in step 2.

Step 6 – The various line marking options for a temporary solution come into play here. To ensure these spots only need to be marked once, we recommend placing permanent markers into the surface. This allows for quick and easy setup for the next play session.



At each measurement point, use a craft brush and boiled linseed oil and paint a marker, as pictured below. Using your craft brush and apply a ¼” x 3 to 4” line of linseed oil in the clay surface. Next, use your craft brush paint over the linseed oil with white line paint as pictured below. Allow the painted markers to dry thoroughly. Once dried, these markers will serve as your designated points for your pickleball court measurements. This will allow for quick marking for play at any time.



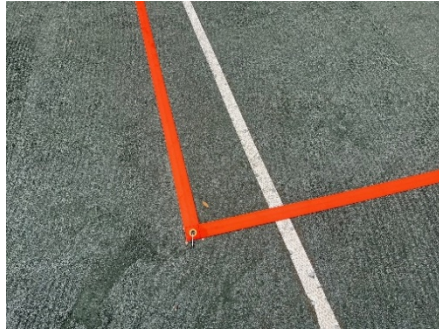
Following the court layout diagram above, there are a couple of quick methods to establish temporary lines for play:

Using the Line Master:

Utilize the rotating brush of the Line Master to create a temporary delineation mark in the clay. Directly use the Line Master on the clay surface, brushing in a straight line to establish a visual playing line. This may require touch-ups during extended play but provides a quick and easy solution.

Fabric Lines:

Another option is to lay out temporary lines on the surface. Pictured below is a fabric line that needs to be fastened to the surface using nails. This method offers a visible and effective way to designate playing areas.



Summary: Har-Tru strives to help others build and maintain the best courts in the world. Our goal is to provide players of all levels with the opportunity to experience superior gameplay in tennis or pickleball on clay surfaces. The benefits of clay are unmatched; better for your body, better for your game, and better for the environment.

We value your input on what works best for you and your facility. Share your experiences and insights with us by emailing hartru@hartru.com or tagging us on social media. Your feedback will not only help us improve, but it will also encourage others to join the conversation and enjoy the benefits of pickleball on clay.

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