



Open Play Indoors

Indoor open play began in the fall of 2022 at both community centers.

Attendance:

Month	TRCC	TWCC	Total	Avg	
October '22	20	6	26	45	Fall
November '22	2	61	63		
December '22	7	47	54	58	Winter
January '23	18	35	53		
February '23	27	40	67		
March '23	35	65	100	92	Spring
April '23	36	62	98		
May '23	22	55	77		
June '23	17	0	17	38	Summer
July '23	23	2	25		
August '23	41	30	71		
September '23	25	12	37	54	Fall
October '23	57	0	57		20% increase
November '23	41	26	67		
December '23	54	6	60	126	Winter
January '24	57	75	132		117% increase
February '24	83	102	185		
March '24	85	42	127	182	Spring
April '24	115	81	196		98% increase
May '24	88	135	223		
June '24	48	99	147	121	Summer
July'24 (so far)	23	72	95		218% Increase

Keep in mind that snowbirds, elections held in our facilities, and summer camps affect our numbers, but in general attendance has been steadily growing. Most recently we held a special open gym night on July 3 at TWCC, since our league was off due to the holiday, and we had a full gym of players. There were four players on each of our 4 courts and we had a full paddle rack of 20 additional players in line to get on the courts. There were also a handful of people just waiting for room on the paddle rack to open. So, there were almost 40 people in attendance.

Open Outdoor Play

We do not have staff at all the locations to monitor numbers, but my office is at Veterans Park and most mornings we have 2 to 8 players on the courts here. People are also using the newly resurfaced courts at Fred Lee. I know players do not generally like to play on tennis courts with pickleball lines as parts of the game are taken away due to different net height and width. I personally, along with several other “Palm Bay Players” go up to Jimmy Moore Park in Melbourne and pay them to play on dedicated pickleball courts.

Indoor Pickleball Leagues

We started our first pickleball league at TWCC in November of 2023. We had 8 teams and only 1 division of play. Games were played on Wednesday nights at 7 PM.

In February of 2024 we hosted our second season. This time we had 2 different divisions, based on skill levels, and a total of 16 teams. Games were played on Wednesday nights at 6:30 and 7:30 PM.

We just started our third season last month. We now have a total of 29 teams across 3 divisions. Games are now played on Wednesday and Thursday nights at 6:30 and 7:30 PM. Our 3 divisions are separated based on skill levels. Our Yeti Division is basically beginners or those that are new to the sport. Our Skunk Ape Division is more of an intermediate level of play. Our Bigfoot Division is our most competitive division as we have developed and drawn some better players to our league.



Yeti Division
Division



Skunk Ape Division



Bigfoot

Our goal for the next season this fall is to get up to 48 teams, which we will split into the same skill level divisions. If we get there, we will go to 3 nights a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights at 6:30 and 7:30 PM.

Pickleball Mixers

Pickleball Mixers are a fun way to play with new people and develop your skills. Players have a different teammate for each game and play against different players each game. Awards are given to the top male and top female performers, as well as one random winner! We held our first mixer at TWCC in February of 2024 and had a full group of 16 players. We continued to hold mixers monthly through June of 2024, with each one filling up. Registration for the next mixer opens the day after the current one and we usually fill up within a few days. They were so popular that we started holding 2 per month beginning in July. Mixers are now held on the second and last Monday of each month.

Little Dills

We held 2 different sessions of Little Dills Youth Pickleball Classes for kids ages 7-15. We taught fundamentals and rules of the game and good sportsmanship to the kids. We held 2 different sessions. Our first class had 10 participants and our second one had 7. We do hear from parents looking for kid's programs, but we do not currently have the staff to teach. We had 2 volunteer staff members teach the first 2 sessions, but it got to be too much to keep doing. We are trying to find a youth instructor to teach kids. Having new/better facilities would help us draw teachers for kids and adults alike.

Florida Team Pickleball League

The Florida Team Pickleball League a statewide team-based pickleball league. It currently has Brevard County, Greater Orlando, Volusia County, and Indian River County regions. FPLI is a nonprofit corporation led by a group of volunteers who want to make that experience available to players throughout Florida.

We played in the winter season last year using the combo tennis/pickleball courts at Veterans Memorial Park. Those type of combo courts are not ideal for competitive pickleball as playing on tennis sized courts takes several aspects of play away due to the wider, higher, and tighter net. Another drawback is that balls that are out of play tend to roll a long way from the court due to the size of a tennis court vs. pickleball courts, which slows play down as players spend a lot of time chasing after balls.

Even with the less-than-ideal courts, we were we were able to fill out a team for the league in just a few days. Charlie Westerfield, Regional Manager for the Central Florida League, already contacted me about other teams using courts in Palm Bay this fall and winter because the demand is so great, even though tennis/pickleball combo courts are not ideal.

Dedicated pickleball courts would draw additional teams to Palm Bay to participate in this league. The Florida Team Pickleball League provides players the chance to compete in regional and state playoffs as well as advance to the nationals. Some teams from our league went to Las Vegas for the nationals this past spring. Having teams from Palm Bay would be a great opportunity for our citizens.