

The purpose of this survey is to gain a better understanding of the demographics and interests of Club members. Responses will help guide new initiatives and refine current activities.

1. What is your age?

a. 19-29	1%
b. 30-39	2%
c. 40-49	2%
d. 50-59	17%
e. 60-70	47%
f. Over 70	31%

2. How often do you play Pickleball during the **outdoor playing season**?

a. 5 to 7 times a week	29%
b. 2-4 times a week	62%
c. Once a week	6%
d. 2-3 times a month	1%
e. Once a month or less	2%

3. Where do you play Pickleball during the **outdoor playing season**? (check all that apply)

a. Mulligan’s Hollow	90%
b. Central Park in Spring Lake	36%
c. Schmidt Heritage Park	56%
d. Helder Park in Holland	6%
e. Belknap Park in Grand Rapids	8%
f. Private courts	22%
g. Other	22%

Other includes: Port Sheldon, Holland, Muskegon, Whitehall, Allendale, Byron Center, Hudsonville, local churches, Beachwood

Note: 44% of advanced player respondents play at private courts. 62% play at Central Park.

4. Why do you play there? (114 responses)

Key Themes: convenient location – drop-in play – friendships – competitive play – community

Select Verbatim Responses

- a. Convenient and appreciate the players.
- b. People are welcoming-Schmidt is closer but seems unorganized as far as drop in play goes-you can't seem to show up as a single and get in a game easily
- c. Private groups because I like to play with friends and have consistent advanced play. Helder because they are friendly and use the paddle rack instead of the sign up board. Again consistent advanced play (3.5 and above).
- d. Private court in the evening due to pickleball ladders taking up Y courts. Y in the morning due to Schmidt Park not having organized drop in play
- e. Like the large groups and rotations at Mulligan. Other locations are for convenience or specific players involved.
- f. Friends play here, plus everyone is friendly no matter how you play.

- g. People are generally accepting and inclusive to others. Multiple levels so you can improve and help others.
- h. Schmidt Heritage when I have a dedicated group. Mulligans Hollow when I don't.
- i. Try to get high level games. Without Challenge courts at mulligans it's difficult to mix in with higher levels.
- j. 99 percent at Mulligans Would play more at Schmidt if there was drop in play scheduled and followed like Mulligans AND PEOPLE
- k. Private courts allow pre-determined skill levels, Schmidt Park is a weekly organized round-robin play with little or no downtime. Mulligan's creates lots of friendly play with a variety of skill levels.
- l. Great drop in play at Mulligan's, Schmidt is good for when I have a group I want to play with or when I want to drill
- m. SH: courts less crowded & convenience....but road closed to SH is currently a pain. Biggest problem= coming up with players wish we had the same system as mulligans w/ sign-up board. Mulligans: easier to find players w/ sign up board. but often too crowded

5. How often do you play Pickleball during the **indoor (cold weather) season**?

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| a. 5 to 7 times a week | 23% |
| b. 2-4 times a week | 60% |
| c. Once a week | 7% |
| d. 2-3 times a month | 4% |
| e. Don't play | 6% |

6. In the **outdoor season** what is the approximate % of time you play in the morning of the course of the week? Please select the breakdown below that most closely aligns with the % of time you play in the morning.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----|---|
| a. 100% in the morning | 31% | 12% of advanced players play 100% in AM |
| b. 75% in the morning | 24% | 50% of advanced players play 75% in AM |
| c. 50% in the morning | 17% | |
| d. 25% in the morning | 13% | |
| e. 0% in the morning | 12% | |
| f. Other | 3% | |

Other includes: 90% in the morning, 50% morning – 50% early afternoon, noon to 2:00

7. Where do you play Pickleball during the **indoor/cold weather season**? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| a. Outdoors in a warm weather location | 29% |
| b. CRC Grounds | 45% |
| c. White Pines | 9% |
| d. Spring Lake Aquatic Center | 7% |
| e. Sport Quest in Zeeland | 15% |
| f. Tri-Cities YMCA | 17% |
| g. Sport Haus | 12% |
| h. Private courts | 9% |

- i. Other 30%

Other includes: Lakeshore Sports Center, Salvation Army, Ferrysburg Church, Calvin Church (Muskegon), MSA & MVP (Holland), All in Pickleball Gym (Byron Center), Viking Athletic Center (Whitehall)

8. How would you describe yourself as a Pickleball player?

- a. Beginner 0%
- b. Beginner to Intermediate 14%
- c. Intermediate 40%
- d. Intermediate to Advanced 34%
- e. Advanced 12%
- f. Expert 0%

9. Rank the aspects of the club you value most.

Weighted Score

Community – connecting with others	6.34	ranked #1 by 36% of all respondents
Competition	6.24	ranked #1 by 26%
Court maintenance and supplies	6.11	ranked #1 by 20%
Ladder League	4.72	ranked #1 by 8%
Club tournament	4.39	ranked #1 by 7%
LPC Social Events	3.77	ranked #1 by 0%
Instruction	2.38	ranked #1 by 1%
Other	2.05	ranked #1 by 2%

10. What is the "Other" benefit of the Club that you noted in your ranking? (46 responses)

Key Themes: Communication – Drop – In Rules – Inclusive Club Culture

Select Verbatim Responses

- a. Belonging to an organization that respects all levels of player and places more importance on inclusion than pure competition.
- b. I've not found a single benefit to being in the club.**
- c. Information around all PB related topics.
- d. Setting up rules for drop in
- e. Restrooms at Mulligan Hollow. It is an embarrassment to host tournaments with players having to use a Porta John.
- f. Growth of the sport, activity with city/county for our benefit, trial opportunities for paddles/equipment.
- g. I like the pickleball paddle rack better than backboard. I like the idea of having a standing challenge court with it's own board.

11. Is there a membership benefit you think it would be important for the Club to add? (37 responses)

Key Themes: Organize Schmidt Park – More options for play – Instruction – Challenge Courts – Drinking Fountain & Bathrooms – More information - Drilling

Select Responses

- a. Continue to keep us informed with nearby tournaments and opportunities for PB instructions.
- b. Supporting Central Park Play!!
- c. Bathrooms and water fountain at Mulligans
- d. Hot tub and small pool at Mulligan's Hollow
- e. Player drills with like players / similar to ladder play with correct skill levels
- f. Provide a challenge court, and even when it's busy, keep the court going.
- g. Might be nice to have a practice machine. But that could be costly and a major concern would be ensuring folks are knowledgeable about how to use it and how to take care of it.
- h. Volunteer hosts (ambassadors) at the less cooperative park. (Schmidt)
- i. Set up a time for organized drilling sessions.
- j. Age specific nights? It would be nice to meet other places closer in age
- k. Have separate round robins for ladies and men
- l. Hold Ladder Leagues or Round Robins at Schmidt Heritage in the mornings.
- m. Start promoting Schmidt Park more.
- n. Capital raise for courts run by LPC
- o. More information sent out to members about how people are communicating, which apps they are using.

12. The Club is considering changing the format of the Club tournament to the best 2 out of three games. What is your opinion on the proposed change? (106 responses)

- a. Keep the current format 25% match is one game.
- b. Change the format 58% must win 2 out of three games
- c. Other 17%

Other includes: **don't play in tournaments(s)**, prefer round robin format, need more information about how this would work without making it an all-day effort

13. Would you like to see the Club add/expand age brackets for the Club tournament? (113 responses)

- a. None of the above 25%
- b. Yes 54%
- c. No 21%

Note: 80% of advanced players responding agree with changing the format.

14. Would you like to see the Club add rating brackets (e.g. 3.5) for the Club tournament? (109 responses)

- a. Yes 82%
- b. No 18%

15. The Club is considering expanding the Club tournament to both the Mulligan's Hollow and Schmidt Heritage Park locations. Would you be willing to play at Schmidt Heritage Park if that is needed to accommodate a new format? (111 responses)

- a. Yes 82%
- b. No 18%

16. Do you have any suggestions for the Club? (61 responses)

Key Themes: MH Water & Bathrooms – More Play Options – Organize Schmidt Park – Appreciate Club -

Select Verbatim Responses

- a. Consider leveling the courts so there is more opportunity for "drop in" advanced play.
- b. Again, several members at Mulligan's Hollow tend to overlook players who are not "part of" their group, at times ignoring the rules of signing up for a game. This is very disappointing, and from my experience, somewhat of a Grand Haven issue.
- c. A little less "clicky". better players just keep playing with themselves. They sign up all 4 when they come off court. I understand why they do it...but that leaves those of us that aren't friends but better players left to play less talented players. In Holland we put in paddles on a rack and pull two out and those 2 mix in the previous winners. after someone wins 2 in a row they have to step away and place their paddle in the rotation. I'm sure there are many ways to mix in and allow mixed play...might suggest that the board take a look and make sure they are using the best process to accomplish the club's best approach.
- d. Bathrooms and access to water are a must. This is a city park and not all that play there are members. It is simply absurd we don't have restrooms!
- e. Open meetings to members at least 3x a year.
- f. Support creation of a strong regional tournament that will attract more folks to Grand Haven, similar to the pole vaulting and beach volleyball competitions.
- g. I would like to see open play offered earlier than 11:00 a.m.
- h. Implement a New Membership Drive. Seems like the number club members hasn't grown as much as the number of new players playing PB. Plus there is no way of identifying a Lakeshore Pickleball Member.
- i. Bring back one court designated as a "challenge court " at each venue.
- j. Is it possible to encourage a group, large enough...perhaps 12-16 people, to play to consistently at Heritage on weekday mornings, as an alternative to waiting at Mulligan's? Perhaps this will happen on its own, due to waiting at Mulligan's.
- k. More support for Central Park—-Perhaps we should start a Central Park Pickle Ball Association?
- l. I have family in other states that play and nothing that I have heard from any of them compare with what being in this club offers at the low price. It's awesome, don't change a thing.
- m. How about a white board system at Schmidt to encourage more drop in playing there in the morning? Wind screens at Schmidt? Have 2.5 bracket in the tournament. Maybe offer a court for 2.5-3.0 players so they feel more comfortable playing during drop in play?
- n. Try to push the township towards a better system at Schmidt park. Many are still confused. What we have at mulligans is a winner, except for the # of players. they can still dedicate 2-4 courts for those who don't want to rotate w/ other players
- o. Video cameras at all sites. Since Schmidt is the larger venue maybe move all ladders/instruction there. Wind socks at all locations. Challenge courts during open play. Water fountain/ facilities at MH.
- p. Appeal to beginners as well as advance players.
- q. Would like to see a woman's only ladder league formed. Several women I have talked to would be interested.

- r. Keep, or grow the inclusive and welcoming nature of the club, and continue to promote the physical and social benefits to our community.
- s. Offer a fitness class to aimed at avoiding pickleball injuries and warm up before games.
- t. Need to address self- ranking of players for ladder play
- u. Thanks to those who do so much to organize and lead