

Risk Assessment: Taunton Pickleball at Taunton School

Date: October 2025

Activity: Pickleball sessions for adults at Taunton School Sports Hall (or specific courts)

Assessor: Sylvia Jackson [Safeguarding/Health & Safety Officer]

Risk Rating Guide:

- **Likelihood (L):** 1 (Very Unlikely), 2 (Unlikely), 3 (Possible), 4 (Likely), 5 (Very Likely)
 - **Consequence (C):** 1 (Insignificant), 2 (Minor), 3 (Moderate), 4 (Major), 5 (Catastrophic)
 - **Risk Rating (R):** L x C (Scores of 1-4 are Low, 5-9 are Medium, 10-25 are High)
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1. Facility and Environment Risks

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	What is the Risk?	Likelihood (L)	Consequence (C)	Initial Risk Rating (L x C)	Control Measures	Residual Risk Rating
Slippery/uneven floor	All players	Slips, trips, falls, sprains, and fractures	3	4	12 (High)	Ensure the court is swept, dry, and clean before play. Check for any spills or debris. Players should wear appropriate,	3 (Low)

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	What is the Risk?	Likelihood (L)	Consequence (C)	Initial Risk Rating (L x C)	Control Measures	Residual Risk Rating
						non-slip court shoes.	
Obstacles/equipment on court	All players	Trips, falls, and collisions with objects	4	3	12 (High)	All bags, coats, and equipment not in use must be stored well away from the playing area. Nets should be secured and checked before each session.	3 (Low)
Poor lighting/glare	All players	Reduced visibility, leading to collisions or missed shots, potential eye strain	2	2	4 (Low)	Liaise with Taunton School staff to ensure adequate lighting is provided. No play will occur if lighting is deemed insufficient for safe play.	2 (Low)
Other sports/activities in hall	All players	Collision with people or equipment from other sports	3	4	12 (High)	Ensure the club's booking slot guarantees a designated, segregated area for	2 (Low)

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						pickleball. Communicate with any other users to establish clear boundaries.	

2. Equipment Risks

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	What is the Risk?	Likelihood (L)	Consequence (C)	Initial Risk Rating (L x C)	Control Measures	Residual Risk Rating
Damaged paddles or balls	All players	Injury from sharp edges, or unpredictable ball movement leading to falls	2	3	6 (Medium)	Players are encouraged to check their own equipment. The club will provide and regularly inspect club-owned paddles and balls, removing any damaged items from use immediately.	2 (Low)
Unstable or damaged net	All players	Net collapse, causing a trip hazard or injury	1	4	4 (Low)	The session leader must check the net's stability and condition before play. Report any	1 (Low)

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	What is the Risk?	Likelihood (L)	Consequence (C)	Initial Risk Rating (L x C)	Control Measures	Residual Risk Rating
						damage to Taunton School staff immediately.	
Nets left out when not in use	All people	Trip hazard, particularly for children or those not playing	2	3	6 (Medium)	All nets must be dismantled and stored securely at the end of each session.	2 (Low)

3. Player-Related Risks

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	What is the Risk?	Likelihood (L)	Consequence (C)	Initial Risk Rating (L x C)	Control Measures	Residual Risk Rating
Player collisions	All players	Sprains, fractures, cuts, or head injuries	4	4	16 (High)	Educate players on court awareness and calling out. Enforce clear rules, such as not running backwards and calling "mine" or "ball" to avoid collisions.	6 (Medium)
Overexertion/pre-existing medical conditions	All players	Cardiac arrest, fainting, muscle strain, or joint injury	3	5	15 (High)	Encourage players to warm up and cool down properly. Advise players to listen to their bodies and take breaks when needed. Encourage	5 (Medium)

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	What is the Risk?	Likelihood (L)	Consequence (C)	Initial Risk Rating (L x C)	Control Measures	Residual Risk Rating
						individuals with pre-existing conditions to seek medical advice before playing. A first aid kit and trained first-aiders will be on site.	
Inappropriate behaviour/conflict	All players	Verbal abuse, physical altercation, or bullying	2	3	6 (Medium)	Implement and enforce a clear Code of Conduct . Appoint a session leader to oversee play and address any behaviour issues immediately.	2 (Low)
Poor physical technique	All players	Overuse injuries like "pickleball elbow", strains, and sprains	3	3	9 (Medium)	Encourage proper technique through coaching and guidance. Advise players on the importance of stretching and gradual progression.	3 (Low)

4. Emergency Procedures

- **First Aid:** A fully stocked first aid kit will be available at all sessions.
- **Emergency Contact:** The session leader will have a mobile phone and access to all members' emergency contact details.
- **Accident Reporting:** All accidents, no matter how minor, must be recorded in the club's accident book.

- **Evacuation:** In the event of a fire alarm or other emergency, all players must follow the established **Taunton School evacuation procedure** and meet at the designated assembly point. The session leader will be responsible for a head count.

Next Review Date: October 2026