



WELCOME TO THE 2018-2019 FCRC PADDLE SEASON

PADDLE PATTTER

Fall is a great time of year at FCRC. Now that the 2018-2019 season is upon us, get your calendars ready to plug in upcoming paddle dates.

Anyone who has never played team paddle and wants to be placed on a team should contact Scott Kahler at scott@foxchapelracquetclub.com.

The FCRC chairs of the league teams are:

Fran Bolanis (fbolanis@gmail.com, Women's Evening Paddle)

Diane Watson (dianewatson@outlook.com, Women's Day Paddle)

Robb Lusk (robb.lusk@yahoo.com, Men's Paddle)

All players, either new to the sport or experienced, are invited to attend the ***Paddle Kick-Off Party and Barbeque***. This event begins at 7:00 PM on Friday, September 14th. The cost is \$15 per person, and there will be a cash bar. You will not want to miss the FUN!

Men's Night open paddle is slated to begin on Monday, September 10, at 7:00 PM.

Women's Night open paddle will start on Wednesday, September 5, at 7:00 PM.

Men's & Women's Nights continue through September.

Hope to see you at the Kick-Off Party on September 14th!

Ingrid Wecht iwecht1@mac.com & Robb Lusk robb.lusk@yahoo.com

Paddle Chairs, FCRC Board of Governors

Women's Highlights:

Women's Night (Wednesdays, 7 PM)

Men's Highlights:

Sept 10-Men's Night (Mondays, 7 PM)

2018-2019 PADDLE CALENDAR

Weekly Items in September:

Monday 7:00 pm **Men's Night** (begins Sept 10)
Wednesday 7:00 pm **Women's Night** (begins Sept 5)

Sept 6 Men's Draw, FCRC Captains Meeting, 7:00 PM
Sept 14 **Paddle Kick-Off Party and BBQ** – Friday 7:00 PM
Sept 12-14 **FCRC Paddle Camp** – This year's guest pro is Brian Heil of Columbus, OH
Women's Sessions: Wed 7:00-9:30 PM, Thur, 9:00-11:30 AM, Thur 12:00-2:30 PM,
Fri 9:00-11:30 AM
Men's Session: Thur 7-9:30 PM
\$95 per session, sign up with Scott directly, signing up in groups of 4 is encouraged

Oct 2 First week of League Matches
Oct 4 Men's League Play Begins
Oct 19 **Friday Night Paddle Social** – 7:00 pm
Oct/Nov Junior Paddle Program begins with Scott Kahler & Kelly Fischer, Mondays &
Thursdays 5:00-6:00 PM

Nov 9 **Friday Night Paddle Social**, immediately following FCRC Annual Meeting
Nov 9 Women's Fall Fantastic Tournament (FCRC host)
Nov 12 Match Make-up Week
Nov 17 **FCRC Mixed Invitational** – Saturday 9:00 AM
Nov 29-30 Women's West Penn Tournament (Edgewood host)

Dec 1-2 Men's West Penn Tournament (FCRC host)
Dec 7 **Friday Night Paddle Social** – 7:00 PM

Jan 3 Junior Paddle Program resumes – Mondays & Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 PM
TBA Women's Evening League Tournament
Jan 19 **FCRC Women's & Men's Invitational**

Jan 23-24 Women's Three Rivers Tournament (Mt Lebanon host)

January 27 Men's Three Rivers Men's B Tournament (host TBA)

Feb 15 **Friday Night Paddle Social - 7:00 PM**

Feb 16 **Pittsburgh Junior Open** (FCRC host)

Feb 22 Women's 55+ (Upper St Clair Twp host)

Mar 7-10 APTA National Championships (FCRC !)

Mar 14-15 Women's Spring Fling Tournament (Edgeworth host)

Mar 15-17 **Paddle Marathon Weekend** – Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Friday: Friday Night Social 7:00 PM

Saturday: Women's and Men's Club Championships

Sunday: Mixed Club Championships

A FEW REMINDERS AS WE PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GREAT SEASON....

The ***Paddle Lodge*** will remain locked after normal Club hours. All active members can obtain a key fob for after-hour access. Pick up your key fobs in the main office. (\$10.00 for the first fob)

Men's Nights are informal fun evenings of Paddle with members of all levels. No need to sign up, just show up and have fun.

Women's Nights are informal fun evenings of Paddle with members of all levels.

Friday Night Socials are a once a month get together for a casual fun evening of Paddle. Look for further details in the monthly newsletters and on the Club website.

Please remember to ***reserve courts on the Club website***, and be sure to use the same court that you have reserved. All courts may be reserved for play. Courts should be reserved for one hour or one and one-half hour periods. Consecutive reservations by the same foursome in different names are not permitted. Courts may be reserved up to a week in advance.

The ***last person*** leaving the paddle lodge must turn out all lights, make certain the fireplace is turned off, and check that all exterior doors are locked and secured.

Heaters are to be used only for light snow and ice removal. They are not designed as "foot warmers". Heavy snow must be removed first before operating heaters.

Members are responsible for turning off the heaters and lights when play is finished.

Eye protection is highly recommended for all players and is mandatory for Junior Players.

As a ***courtesy*** to all members, please cancel your paddle court reservation as soon as possible. Repetitive instances of failure to cancel a reservation may incur loss of reservation privileges.

Four courts are available for league play. The fifth court is to be set aside for reservations, walk-ons for recreational play, or lessons with the Club Pro. In the event there are dual home matches, all five courts will be used for league play. If the fifth court is not reserved or being used at the time of league play, the league team may use the court.

Although the Tennis Pro Shop closes for the winter, ***paddles, balls, goggles and gloves are available for sale in the Club office.*** Special orders are also available through Scott.

Children are subject to all Club rules. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their children are aware of all Club rules.

Official rules regarding the play of paddle are published at the WPPTA website.

Are You a Beginner???? Wanna play Paddle???

So, what is Platform Tennis (aka. Paddle) ???

- A racquet sport played on a raised court 1/3 the size of a tennis court
- A sport designed to be played in cold, wintry weather; however can be played year round
- A sport designed to be accessible to a broad range of abilities
- Platform courts are traditionally constructed 3' to 5' off the ground, hence the name. This facilitates shoveling snow off the court. It also allows for space underneath the court for propane heaters, which are deployed to keep ice and snow from accumulating. These heaters are not designed to keep players warm.
- A Platform Tennis court is surrounded by 12 foot high, tightly strung chicken wire, and this wire is part of the playing surface. The court is constructed of non-slip, grainy aluminum boards.
- Don't be confused by the name either. While players often refer to platform tennis as "paddle", it is not the same as actual paddle tennis, which is essentially a downsized version of tennis played mostly on the West Coast.

How the game works...

Platform Tennis uses a scoring system identical to tennis. There are some significant differences between these sports, however.

- Players use a thick paddle with holes, and a heavy rubber ball. Platform play is always doubles.
- There is only one serve in Platform Tennis.
- The ball can be played off of the screens.
- Platform points are much longer than tennis points. It is not uncommon for a paddle point to last 20 hits or more. The ball is contained within the wires, thus power alone cannot win.
- Long points mean it is easy to stay warm, a nice coincidence, given that this is a winter sport.
- Platform tennis can be played in a wide range of conditions: wet or dry; day or night; windy, warm or cold, even snow. Platform courts have lights and night play is as common as day play.
- Despite burning calories at a high rate, Platform Tennis is easier on the body than almost any other racquet sport.
- The small court, combined with 4 players, lends Platform an air of sociability not generally found in tennis.

Give it a try.....

- Private and group lessons are available with Scott Kahler or Kelly Fischer.
- Join in on Men's Night, Women's Night, or an Open Play Group.
- Join a Team.

WPPTA Leagues

If you are interested in playing on a Club team, the FCRC participates in the Western Pennsylvania Platform Tennis Association (WPPTA) Leagues for Men, Women and Juniors. League play is a great way to improve your game in a fun and competitive setting against other Pittsburgh area clubs.

A \$110 fee will be charged for all players on a team. Subs playing 5 or more times will be charged a \$55 Club League fee at the end of the season.

Men's League

Women's Day League

Women's Evening League

Anyone who has never played team paddle and wants to be placed on a team should contact Scott Kahler at scott@foxchapelracquetclub.com.

For details on schedules for both Men's and Women's League play, please visit www.WPPTA.org.