

With all the new Pickleball players, one question that keeps coming up is “What are ‘non-marking Court shoes’ and why are they required on The Villages courts?” Here are links to two short articles explaining what court shoes are, and the importance on why they should be worn.

http://www.pickleballcentral.com/Pickleball_Shoes_s/168.htm

<http://www.differencebetween.net/object/difference-between-sneakers-and-tennis-shoes/>

First, we want to prevent court damage. Court shoes – known as Tennis shoes in most stores - are “non-marking” and do not damage the court surface. Our courts were resurfaced recently; black marks are indicative of the wrong shoes being worn. Wearing proper shoes prevents unsightly damage to courts which can distract players - as well as change the court surface. If you are a spectator, please sit outside the fenced in area if wearing anything else.

Second, for your protection. Tennis shoes have a smooth sole, facilitating lateral (side to side) movement, critical in both Pickleball and Tennis. Running shoes and cross trainers have ridges and are designed to go forward, but we move in every direction. Those ridges tend to stick to the court surface when moving backward or sideways. Court shoes have a blunter toe and more support in the ankle area, providing greater stability, which help prevent trips. No slip-on shoes are allowed on the court. Shoes with rounded soles (like Sketchers) should NEVER be worn!

For a large selection, try Tennis Anywhere in Los Gatos (owned by Villages resident Brad Baldinger!), who carries K-Swiss, Acics, Head, and Wilson in a variety of sizes and widths. He can also order New Balance - well known for their large variety of widths. There is also Vu Tennis in San Jose, Swetka’s Tennis in Mountain View, Big 5 on Blossom Hill (larger selection than the Tully Road location near the Eastridge Mall), as well as Dick’s Sporting Goods.

You can also purchase shoes from many online sources, including Pickleball Central. When shopping at Pickleball Central, make sure to use our discount code – **CRVCA**. You will receive a 5% discount and our club receives an annual 5% credit toward purchasing of needed supplies.

Drop-in play is scheduled Wednesday & Friday at 1:30. Open play for beginners & novices is scheduled Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 – all are welcome! All equipment is provided – just bring your court shoes!