

MEET OUR



STAFF

Leesa Walker – Pickleball Director

Leesa is Director at Pickleball Charlotte where she oversees instructional programming as well as leagues and competitive events. She is an ITPA Level II certified instructor. As an educator for 30+ years, her obvious passion lies in teaching and instruction. She is a 4.0 level player and is a Brand Ambassador for Babolat Pickleball.



Jim Dobran - Pickleball Pro

Jim is our Pickleball Pro at Pickleball Charlotte and a member of the Pro Team for ProXR Pickleball. He is the second highest rated player in all of North Carolina with a 5.5+ DUPR rating and travels to play in Pro tournaments all over the country. His current World Pickleball Ranking is #42 in Pro Mixed Doubles and #74 in Pro Men's Doubles. Before deciding to compete solely at the pro level, Jim won 17 medals at the 5.0 level. Teaching is also one of his passions as he taught 7 years of High School Math and Physical Education which translates very well to teaching Pickleball. When not playing or teaching pickleball, Jim enjoys rock climbing and coaching high school baseball.

Joy Spidel - Pickleball Admin

Joy is a diverse member of the team here at Pickleball Charlotte! She was first introduced to pickleball about 2 years ago by her younger brother, Joshua Pittman. Initially, she was skeptical as the name "pickleball" is not the most inspiring; however, she took a leap and has not looked back. When she is not playing pickleball you will find her spending time with her daughter (Layne), husband (Kyle) and dogs (Chipper & Max). Here at PBC, she handles all things admin. On occasion you will catch her putting her teaching skills to work on the court but her main responsibility is making sure our current and prospective members have everything they need to enjoy their time playing pickleball at our facility.





Lilly Hooper – Pickleball Instructor

Lilly graduated from Georgia Tech in May of 2021 where she was a student athlete on the softball team and began to participate in pickleball. After many years of teaching softball, she received her PPR certification and began teaching pickleball in Atlanta. She has since graduated and continues to teach pickleball and play at the 4.5/5.0 level in Charlotte. When she is not teaching, she enjoys participating in tournaments. Lilly loves teaching all ages and skill levels, but has a soft spot for all beginners and intermediate level players alike.

John Walker – Pickleball Instructor

John is a 4.5 level Pickleball player and a level II IPTPA Certified Pickleball Instructor. He plays collegiate baseball at the University of Nebraska in the mid 80's. John tried Pickleball for the first time in 2017 and was immediately drawn to the strategy and competitive nature of the sport. John has earned numerous medals in a host of tournaments at the 4.0/4.5 levels and is a brand ambassador for Babolat Pickleball.



Bob – Pickleball Instructor

Bob is a Certified PPR (Professional Pickleball Registry) Pickleball Coach with 10+ years of competitive playing and teaching experience. He has also taught/coached ice hockey, soccer, golf and snow skiing. Bob really enjoys teaching kids and adults of all ages and playing levels to quickly improve their skills and have more fun!

Trish Snyder – Pickleball Instructor

Trish has been playing Pickleball for the past 13 years. She is a competitive tournament player who has competed in both the 4.0/4.5 skill levels in doubles and mixed play. In 2016, Trish became a USAP Ambassador because of her love for the sport and desire to share it with others. Trish has been teaching beginner and intermediate clinics since and has been instrumental in the start-up of numerous Pickleball programs in the Greater Charlotte area. She is a Level 2 USPTA Certified Instructor.





Blake McMurray - Pickleball Instructor

Blake's ready smile and passion for Pickleball are great additions to our instructional team at PBC. She is a level II IPTPA certified instructor and loves teaching clinics and coaching our members in instructional leagues. Blake's determination to improve her own game fuels her drive to help others improve as well.