

# **PICKLE BALL COURT NOISE AND ITS DISRUPTIVE and NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF NEARBY RESIDENTS**

**By Dr. Soraya Faris Applegate. Kaneohe Hawaii. 808 721 3083**

The pickle ball game has been around for a few years but has become really popular in the last 2 years. So much so, that councils, HOA's, Recreation depts etc began changing existing recreation courts (usually tennis courts) into pickle ball courts and began building new pickle ball courts wherever there was an available space. Many of these conversions/new courts were built without any sound research or education on the impact of pickle ball noise and how it is so different to other recreational sports such as the usual tennis, volleyball, basketball previously played in these locations.

In 2022, complaints began to be heard nationally. Residents who lived near any of the newly converted/built pickle ball courts started complaining about the NOISE of pickle ball, the disruption to daily life and the huge stress leading to negative health impact it was having on them. Now, in 2024, there is no excuse for any pickle ball courts to be built without due research, sound studies or environmental considerations as there is plenty of research that shows exactly how loud pickle ball is at a certain distance, where to build and where not to build a court and what sound barriers can be used to mitigate the sounds.

**The sound of pickle ball violates 2 laws if placed in close proximity to residential homes.**

- 1. The right to the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of one's home.**
- 2. The maximum decibel range permitted in a residential area.**

**"Impulsive noise" or "impact noise" means any sound with a rapid rise and decay of sound pressure level, lasting less than one second, caused by sudden contact between two or more surfaces, or caused by a sudden release of pressure, including but not limited to any hammering, pile driving, and explosion."**

Since 2022, those residents impacted by pickle ball court noise, have spoken out and have slowly been able to make their concerns heard, sometimes with the help of lawyers and mitigation. Many wrongly placed pickle ball courts have been permanently closed. New pickle ball courts are being built with the advice of sound engineers (and common sense and consideration).

The actual distance required for a pickle ball court to be built from a residential property, is still under debate (variables – topography, environmental ambient sound, etc), however, it is certain that no pickle court should be built within 350 feet of a home (and at that closeness will require sound mitigation/barriers etc to be put into place). It is agreed that 1000 feet or more from a residential property would be the starting line for placement consideration.

I have put together here a list of examples where pickleball noise for residents has been enough of an issue that it has made the news headlines in print and on tv news since 2022 with increasing numbers. Links here indicate where positive action has been taken and pickleball courts have been permanently closed. This list also contains links to lawsuits that have been filed and successfully won. Also, here are links to sound studies made by professional sound engineers. As well as health reports showing the negative effect that having to listen to pickle ball noise in one's home on a daily basis.

Why do I know so much about pickleball sound and its negative impact for anyone forced to listen to it in their own home. This year, 2024, the HOA where I live, converted the volleyball court to a pickle ball court. This happens to be right outside my house. I have lived here for 13 years, with no complaints about the noise from the recreation courts outside my home, until this year, when the PB court was created. The noise was unbearable. It caused me so much stress that

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I did not even want to come home until after 9pm when the courts would be empty. My tenant, who lives on the ground floor of my home, also stated the pb noise was unbearable and she requested to terminate her tenancy if it didn't stop. The stress I was under due to the noise, having to complain to the Board of Directors, having to stand up to my neighbors (who live in the community but not close to the pickleball court), resulted in me experiencing health issues: high blood pressure, anxiety, overly emotional – crying in my own home. During my research, I found hundreds of people who are being effected in the same negative way, by the noise of pickleball courts being built next to their homes. (see facebook group 'pickleball noise relief')  
[\(3\) Pickleball Noise Relief | Facebook](#)

I contacted a professional sound engineer (who also happens to be a professional pickleball player and usaa referee). He took one look at where my home is and where the pb court is, and said, it needs to be closed/moved, no amount of sound study of sound mitigation would prevent the noise from disturbing our peace in our home.

I am presenting this information here, my personal experience and ongoing stress concerning the pickle ball court outside my home, and the information that is going on nationally in response to the uneducated placement of pb courts throughout the USA.

Pickleball noise is like shot gun noise – it is loud, piercing, rapid fire, - no one would place a firing range within earshot of people's homes.

Here in Hawaii – a land that honors and lives by nature, there is a fast and furious increasing number of ill thought out pickle ball courts. ***'NEWS FLASH! City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation announces the build of new dedicated pickleball courts and with permanent nets! Get the details [here](#). Throughout Oahu, the City & County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation has repurposed existing volleyball and tennis courts for pickleball. We are deeply appreciative of their efforts to help support the growth of pickleball and to provide us with places to play. In under seven years, there are now 191 public pickleball courts at 95 parks! [Pickleball Courts – Oahu Pickleball Association](#)***

**The City and County of Honolulu, Recreation department just updated its pickle ball page information: 'Update on adding more pickleball courts, proposed rule changes for all outdoor courts'[Pickle Ball Courts \(honolulu.gov\)](#)**

*[Last year](#) (March 2023) we announced an innovative way of adding more dedicated pickleball facilities quickly and cheaply by repurposing underutilized courts around the island. This bypassed the lengthy and costly process of building entirely new courts. Prior to this effort, there were only 18 dedicated public pickleball courts in City parks around O'ahu. **A year into this effort we have already doubled that number to 36!** As part of that announcement, we identified 17 park locations where these court conversions would happen. So far, we have converted courts at three of these locations: Ke'ehi Lagoon (12 courts), Kailua District Park (4), and Ka'ala Neighborhood Park in Wahiawā (2). **However, we have made adjustments to this list based on community feedback.** This kind of flexibility and park user input is exactly how we want this process to continue. We understand there is still a desire for more dedicated courts, however we*

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*must balance the needs of all park user groups and do not want to create an imbalance of facilities or conflict amongst the diverse population of park users.*

*The court conversions are mixed in with our resurfacing efforts for other courts. We will begin incorporating the dividing fencing into the original court conversion effort moving forward.*

\* 2 pickleball courts were closed in Newport Beach in 2019.

<https://www.ocregister.com/2016/04/07/woman-sues-newport-beach-over-pickleball-noise-at-park-near-her-home/amp/>

\* Bend, Oregon; November, 2022 <https://www.wsj.com/articles/its-been-awkward-pickleball-is-pitting-neighbor-against-neighbor-in-noise-conscious-communities-11669830955>

\* Lake Oswego, Oregon; January, 2023 <https://www.koin.com/local/lake-oswego-shuts-down-city-pickleball-courts-indefinitely-due-to-noise-complaints/>

\* Falmouth Massachusetts; March, 2023 <https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/11/business/pickleball-sports-noise-complaints-tennis-ctpr/index.html>

\* Ottawa, Canada; March, 2023 <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/ottawa-pickleball-courts-shut-down-after-noise-complaints-1.6333635>

\* Denver Colorado; April, 2023 <https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/next/next-with-kyle-clark/pickleball-noise-divides-neighbors-and-players/73-8beb759c-c19f-40f2-83f3-e09d0753242a>

\* West Linn Oregon; April, 2023 [https://www.westlinntidings.com/news/west-linn-to-remove-two-pickleball-courts-at-tanner-creek/article\\_64358078-acb8-11ed-af57-ffd1095dea91.html](https://www.westlinntidings.com/news/west-linn-to-remove-two-pickleball-courts-at-tanner-creek/article_64358078-acb8-11ed-af57-ffd1095dea91.html)

\* Niagara-on-the-Lake (near Toronto Canada); May, 2023 [https://www.thestar.com/life/home-and-garden/noise-about-pickleball-rises-in-communities-across-the-country/article\\_c79cec68-7cef-5ad7-a5a8-a339a71178a9.html](https://www.thestar.com/life/home-and-garden/noise-about-pickleball-rises-in-communities-across-the-country/article_c79cec68-7cef-5ad7-a5a8-a339a71178a9.html)

\* San Clemente, California; June, 2023 (finalized Nov. 2023)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/145879006219534/permalink/1470403713767050/?mibextid=cr9u03>

\* Centennial City, CO; July, 2023 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFyOzHgKSkU>

1\* Radnor, PA; August, 2023

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<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=radnor%20pa%20pickleball>

\* Long Beach, CA; August, 2023 <https://abc7.com/pickleball-noise-complaints-long-beach-courts/13723436/>

\*Grand Rapids, MI;  
August 2023 <https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/walker/authorized-pickleball-games-leads-to-walker-closing-tennis-courts/69-bee33c1e-81d8-4706-8a47-eaaff6a92ea5>

\*Franklin Parks, PA; August, 2023  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pickleballnoiserelief/permalink/3407775579482498/?mibextid=K8Wfd2>

\* Portland, OR; September, 2023 <https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/pickleball-courts-relocating-sellwood-park-portland/283-c1fc444b-c695-4e92-b4ec-d9fca3ea78e0>

\* Wichita, KS; September 2023; <https://www.ksn.com/news/local/is-pickleball-too-noisy-wichita-listens-and-responds/>

\* Kirkwood, MO; October 2023 <https://fox2now.com/news/contact-2/pickleball-noise-level-exceeds-ordinance-country-club-remains-unable-to-play/amp/>

\* New York, NY; <https://www.thedinkpickleball.com/anti-pickleballers-prevail-in-nyc/>

\* Herrick Park, East Hampton, NY; December 2023;  
<https://www.easthamptonstar.com/government/2023427/over-pickleball-racket-east-hampton-village>

\* San Francisco, CA; January 2024; <https://sfstandard.com/2024/01/19/san-francisco-pickleball-players-protest-at-presidio-wall/>

\* City of Ojai, CA: January 2024; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8t5\\_G155yFk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8t5_G155yFk)

\* Falmouth, MA; January 2024  
[https://www.capenews.net/falmouth/news/plans-for-a-dozen-trotting-park-pickleball-courts-dropped/article\\_00594c4d-2d51-5453-9b2d-39d37b79b4a2.html](https://www.capenews.net/falmouth/news/plans-for-a-dozen-trotting-park-pickleball-courts-dropped/article_00594c4d-2d51-5453-9b2d-39d37b79b4a2.html)

\* Fairfax County, VA; February 2024; <https://www.ffxnow.com/2024/02/01/pickleball-dropped-from-renovation-of-barton-hill-tennis-courts/>

\* The District of North Saanich, British Columbia; May 2024  
<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/north-saanich-opts-to-close-wain-park-pickleball-courts-citing-noise-8684820>

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\* Murray, KY; May 2024; [https://www.murrayledger.com/news/city-council-votes-to-locate-pickleball-courts-in-central-park/article\\_72ddf616-0e80-11ef-acab-c347642564eb.html](https://www.murrayledger.com/news/city-council-votes-to-locate-pickleball-courts-in-central-park/article_72ddf616-0e80-11ef-acab-c347642564eb.html)

\*The lawsuit filed in Carlsbad CA to ban pickleball from the community tennis courts and seeking \$300,000 in damages for distress <https://www.kpbs.org/.../homeowners-are-increasingly...>

\* Lakewood Colorado April 30 2024 closed pickle ball courts due to noise disturbance to nearby residents. [One last hurrah: Lakewood gathers for pickleball court closure \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OneLastHurrah)

\* Settlement Agreement Forbids Pickleball Play At Lawrence School – Falmouth May 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 [Settlement Agreement Forbids Pickleball Play At Lawrence School | Falmouth News | capenews.net](https://www.capenews.net/settlement-agreement-forbids-pickleball-play-at-lawrence-school-falmouth-news)

\*The Lawsuit filed against Piedmont, CA, over the Pickleball court conversion <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=7ed2715978&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg>

\*Denver Pickle ball courts closed due to excessive decibel sound violation: [Denver Pickleball Courts Closed By The City \(rumble.com\)](https://www.rumble.com/DenverPickleballCourtsClosedByTheCity)

\* Arizona 2023: [https://youtu.be/SVd\\_W-2yr8Q?si=BNo1uuYDSTykSDQx](https://youtu.be/SVd_W-2yr8Q?si=BNo1uuYDSTykSDQx)

\* Couple go on Hunger Strike to stop pickle ball noise 2024: [pickleballunion.com/hunger-strike-pickleball-noise/](https://pickleballunion.com/hunger-strike-pickleball-noise/)

## **More information about the impact of pickle ball noise and its effect on the lives of nearby residents – violation of covenant to quiet and peaceful enjoyment of ones home/property.**

\* The **267** hotspots around the United States (as of 5/13/24) that have ongoing Pickleball controversies and disputes over pickleball noise. <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=pickleball%20hotspots%20>

\* The **109** media/video reports (as of 5/13/24) ON people whose personal lives, families, and homes have been impacted from the unique impulsive noise of pickleball. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist..>

\***\_**Wall Street Journal 2024 – Why is pickleball sound so annoying?  [\(3\) Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/3)

\* The avid / expert pickleball player and seasoned real estate investor who does not want his home near pickleball courts, and who estimates that a home's property value could decline by **10% – 20%** if pickleball courts are constructed across the street. <https://www.financialsamurai.com/quantifying-pickleball.../>

## **Cities passing ordinances on location of pickleball courts:**

**CENTENNIAL, CO 2023:** No pickleball court is allowed within **250** feet of a residential property. <https://www.centennialco.gov/.../City.../Pickleball...>

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\***PARK CITY, UT:** IN GENERAL courts must be at least **150 feet** from property lines.2022 <https://www.parkcity.org/.../code-amendments/pickleball>

\***TORRENCE, CA:** No pickleball court is allowed within 250 feet of a residential property. <https://www.dailybreeze.com/.../torrance-sets-new.../>

## **\* HOA Pickleball lawsuit in Boca Raton, Florida**

\* video educating people on the noise pickleball brings to the soundscape from Waipuilani Park Pickleball Courts in Kihei, Maui. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8GB2CzgTfY>

\*Laguna Beach community Counsel meeting:  
[https://youtu.be/4Kv35l6nBQI?si=\\_haYhPhQbvTVkp2X](https://youtu.be/4Kv35l6nBQI?si=_haYhPhQbvTVkp2X)

\* Fairfax county sport Authority <fy24-sports-court-updates.pdf> (fairfaxcounty.gov) slide 33

Fairfax county pickleball study ref: [final pickleball study report-dec 2021.pdf](final%20pickleball%20study%20report-dec%202021.pdf) (fairfaxcounty.gov)

\*Steiner Rance Austin Texas: <https://youtu.be/JhkFrnOI5pU?si=IFVAvKRppVFDXqgP>

\* Hawaii public radio: [Local tennis association weighs in on tensions with pickleball players | Hawai'i Public Radio](Local%20tennis%20association%20weighs%20in%20on%20tensions%20with%20pickleball%20players%20%7C%20Hawaii%27i%20Public%20Radio) (hawaiipublicradio.org)

\*Neptune New Jersey: Prohibited Nuisance: [Neptune NJ 2024 - Ordinance 24-12 Prohibited Nuisances- Noise.pdf](Neptune%20NJ%202024%20-%20Ordinance%2024-12%20Prohibited%20Nuisances%20-%20Noise.pdf)

\*Trotting Park Noise Study: [Trotting Park Noise Study - 01-03-2023.pdf](Trotting%20Park%20Noise%20Study%20-%2001-03-2023.pdf)

\*Murry KY: Newspaper article, town mayor agrees pickleball too loud for residents.  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10163474673143812&set=gm.3587445481515506&idovanity=3367374030189320>

\*Pickleball courts at Wain Park in North Saanich. [North Saanich opts to close Wain Park pickleball courts - Victoria Times Colonist](North%20Saanich%20opts%20to%20close%20Wain%20Park%20pickleball%20courts%20-%20Victoria%20Times%20Colonist)

\*Pickleball noise is fueling neighborhood drama from coast to coast LA Times article: [Pickleball noise is pitting neighbor against neighbor - Los Angeles Times](Pickleball%20noise%20is%20pitting%20neighbor%20against%20neighbor%20-%20Los%20Angeles%20Times) (latimes.com)

\* Saddlebrook Ammenities in Conflict”: [‘Pickleball noise creates a human health risk,’ study says](Pickleball%20noise%20creates%20a%20human%20health%20risk%2C%27%20study%20says) (sachub.net)

\*Irvington Club Pauses Pickleball After Receiving Cease-and-Desist Letter From Neighbor:  
[Irvington Club Pauses Pickleball After Receiving Cease-and-Desist Letter From Neighbor](Irvington%20Club%20Pauses%20Pickleball%20After%20Receiving%20Cease-and-Desist%20Letter%20From%20Neighbor) (wwweek.com)

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\*KPBS Public Media: [Homeowners are increasingly taking legal action over pickleball noise | KPBS Public Media](#)

\$10,000 Prelitigation Settlement & Ban on Pickleball - This is the woman in Carlsbad at Sea Cliff. The link is in a comment below. \$48,000 Prelitigation Settlement & Ban on Pickleball

<https://www.lubinphamcaplin.com/portfolio/>

<https://www.lubinphamcaplin.com/portfolio/10000-prelitigation-settlement-ban-on-pickleball/>

\* Noises which are excessive or disturbing can result in a nuisance lawsuit. [Can You Sue Your Neighbor for Noise Disturbance? | LegalMatch](#)

\*WPSD NEWS: Locals don't want pickleball courts : [Locals don't want pickleball courts near neighborhood, citing noise, traffic, parking issues | WPSD Local 6](#)

\*Newport News: City of Newport Sued Over Pickleball Noise: [Newport Sued Over Pickleball Noise - Newport This Week](#)

\*LCF City Council 3 19 24 FIS Pickleball contract and CEQA Notice of Exemption: [LCF City Council 3 19 24 FIS Pickleball contract and CEQA Notice of Exemption \(youtube.com\)](#)

\*Pickle ball game sound in environment Video: <https://youtu.be/n8GB2CzgTfY?si=zw-WC4xqQy6fV5ZE>

\* May 2024 Seattle News: [KUOW - It's a no to pickleball and a yes to wildlife for Seattle's Lincoln Park](#)

### **MORE YOUTUBE VIDEOS, INTERVIEWS, INFORMATION**

Informative Pickle ball interviews on Youtube with sound engineers, city planners etc.

\*[https://youtu.be/\\_02PXvdSPaU?si=9J4yDhfoX5KxZoX0](https://youtu.be/_02PXvdSPaU?si=9J4yDhfoX5KxZoX0)

\*Understanding Noise Impact Studies with Dr. Lance Willis

[https://youtu.be/1zYGjyC4b9g?si=OrMYpb\\_ed2F2aYIE](https://youtu.be/1zYGjyC4b9g?si=OrMYpb_ed2F2aYIE)

**HERE IS A LINK TO OVER 100 YOUTUBE VIDEOS MADE ABOUT THE PICKLE BALL NOISE SITUATIONS WHICH HAVE MADE THE NEWS: [Pickleball Noise in the News - YouTube](#)**



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\*Science Direct Paper from Journal of Environmental Psychology: [Acute stress effects of impulsive noise during mental work - ScienceDirect](#)

\*Noise and its Effects– A Review on Qualitative Aspects of Sound. Part II: Noise and Annoyance: Acoustic study: [2005noise-perceptionStudy.pdf](#)

[\(2\) Pickleball Noise Relief - YouTube](#)

## **All states have sound ordinance laws. Here is Hawaii's:**

SECTION 1. Chapter 663, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

[NPC Law Library: Hawaii Noise Code \(nonoise.org\)](#) §11-46-3 Classification of zoning districts. This section shall describe the zoning districts as specified in Table I, maximum permissible sound levels in dBA, found in section 11-46-4, and as provided in section 11-46-4:(1) Class A zoning districts include all areas equivalent to lands zoned residential, conservation, preservation, public space,

<b>Zoning Districts</b>	<b>Daytime (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.)</b>	<b>Nighttime (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.)</b>
<b>Class A</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>45</b>

[HB3001 - Hawaii State Legislature](#)

House of representatives 24 legislature, 2008 A bill for an Act Relation to NOISE

**"§663- Noise; private nuisance; relief.** (a) A person who alleges the existence of a private nuisance due to excessive noise may bring a civil action for appropriate injunctive relief, or actual damages, or both within two years after the occurrence of the alleged violation of this part.

(b) An action commenced pursuant to subsection (a) may be brought in the circuit court for the circuit where the alleged violation occurred, where the complainant resides, or where the person against whom the civil complaint is filed resides or has a principal place of business.

(c) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Damages" means damages for injury or loss caused by excessive noise or vibration, including reasonable attorney fees;



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(2) "Excessive noise" means the presence of sound of a volume or in quantities and for durations that unreasonably interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property; and

(3) "Nuisance" means any interference with reasonable use and enjoyment of property and includes all claims that meet the requirements of this definition regardless of whether a complainant designates the claims as brought in nuisance, negligence, trespass, or any other claim under law or equity.

."