

## First Time Table Tennis Club Goers

Did you see some of that awesome table tennis clubs on Coloradott and decide that you would like to try an actual club for the first time instead of playing in your friends basement?

GOOD CHOICE!

Table Tennis clubs provide a much better experience than playing at home due to the high level of competition, variety of players and styles you will encounter, accessibility of coaching and potential practice partners. I recommend playing at clubs for both recreational players and advanced players. For rec players it is much more fun that at home! For advanced players and those looking to become advanced players, clubs are the only environment where it is possible to play with players that will help you increase your playing level!

So you decided to come to one of Colorado's great clubs!

### What should you bring?

- Table Tennis paddle – Most clubs don't provide paddles although they may have backups to give you in case you have never played before and don't own a paddle. Stop by at the local sports store and pick one up for cheap or even better – go to a site like [paddlepalace.com](http://paddlepalace.com) and buy a high quality paddle (anybody at your local club can help you with that)
- Shorts/Athletic Shoes – You will want to treat your visit to the club as if you are going to play any sport. Table Tennis is considered to be a sport at clubs, not a game and it is in bad taste to play in jeans or other restrictive clothing
- Money – Table Tennis clubs cost money. They range in price, but they are generally between \$5-10 per day. It is annoying to have to pay for a sport you can play at home, but when you consider the level of competition and the great playing environment plus how much cheaper it is than most activities, it is worth it!

### What to do when you get there?

This depends on the club, but there are some general rules you can follow for almost all clubs. At some places a coach will greet you and help you out, at others it will be up to you to just follow these rules in order to have a good experience.

- Walk up to any table and place your paddle against the side of one of the table legs. This indicates to the people currently playing that you will play against the winner of their match. If they are just practicing they may not want to switch so quickly so try to find a table where people are playing a match. You can place your paddle at any point, you don't have to wait!
- Matches are played with games up to 11 points, switch every 2 serves. You must win by 2. They are always played best of 5 games within clubs. After each game you switch sides of the table!
- At any time you can practice your technique or play matches! Just let the other person know what you want to do! It is called open play meaning you can do whatever you want!
- Some clubs have a robot that will feed you balls like a baseball pitching machine. These are great for practicing your technique! Ask the club owner or manager to use the robot. They may want to help you use it correctly because those robots are very expensive!
- Don't be afraid to talk to people or challenge tables by placing your paddle next to the table. In

some cases you could be sitting down for a while unless you do one of those two things!