

PICKLEBALL TUTOR

OWNER'S MANUAL

Introduction

This manual contains important information concerning the proper use and care of your Sports Tutor Pickleball ball machine. Please read completely before operating your Pickleball Tutor.

Please call us toll free at **1-800-448-8867** if you have any questions about your Pickleball Tutor ball machine.

IMPORTANT: Read the **battery charging instructions** on page 3.

Check for shipping damage

Even though your machine may appear undamaged, it is possible for internal parts to be damaged even if the external case is un-damaged. If your machine is damaged from improper handling during shipping, contact Sports Tutor immediately at **1-800-448-8867**.

Save the original shipping carton

The original carton should be used if it ever becomes necessary to ship your Pickleball Tutor to the factory for service under warranty.

What's Inside

	<u>Page</u>
Consistency of Ball Throws	2
Important Warnings	2
Battery Charging	3
Operating Pickleball Tutor	3
Setting Ball Trajectory	3
Control Panel	4
Maintenance and Cleaning	5
Transporting and Storage	5
FAQ/Service or Questions	6
Warranty	7
Extended Warranty	8

Consistency of Ball Throws

Pickleballs that have been used or played with are the preferred balls to use. This helps to remove the waxy “film” common on the surface of brand new balls. If new balls are used exclusively you may notice some transfer of the “film” and coloration from new balls onto the throwing wheels over time. This is normal and will not affect the machine. If there is a significant build-up on the throwing wheels, it can affect the consistency and speed of ball throws, so cleaning of the wheels periodically is recommended. (see section on Maintenance and Cleaning).

Note: Pickleball Tutor will work equally well with both outdoor pickleballs (TOP, Dura 40, Onix) and indoor pickleballs. Balls with smaller diameter (Pure 2) or larger holes (indoor) may have slightly less speed for the same setting. For maximum consistency of throws, do not mix different types of balls together in the machine.

IMPORTANT WARNINGS

DO NOT STAND IN FRONT OF BALL EJECTION OPENING.

DO NOT INSERT HANDS OR FOREIGN OBJECTS INTO THE MACHINE.

DO NOT OPERATE Pickleball Tutor WHEN WET.

Never put wet balls in Pickleball Tutor.

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Battery Charging - “Smart” charger included.

The Smart battery charger should be connected to the Pickleball Tutor continuously when not in use. The Smart charger will maintain a full charge but **will not overcharge the battery**, even if plugged in for long periods. **The LED light on the charger will show RED as the battery is charging and turn to GREEN when fully charged.** It will typically take between 12 to 18 hours to fully recharge the battery. Do not allow the Pickleball Tutor to be stored for long periods WITHOUT being charged as this can allow the battery to discharge.

Note: If using the **External Battery Pack**, connect the External Pack at the **beginning** of play. **Do not** use the External Pack as “back-up” battery after the internal battery has drained.

Operating the Pickleball Tutor

The optimum position for most shots with the Pickleball Tutor is 1-2 feet behind the baseline on a standard Pickleball court. Turn the machine ‘ON’ and set the controls to produce the desired ball throws. Turn the machine ‘OFF’ and wait for five seconds to allow the **10 second start-up time delay** to reset. Turn the machine ‘ON’ again (and Oscillator ‘ON’ if desired) and walk to your playing position.

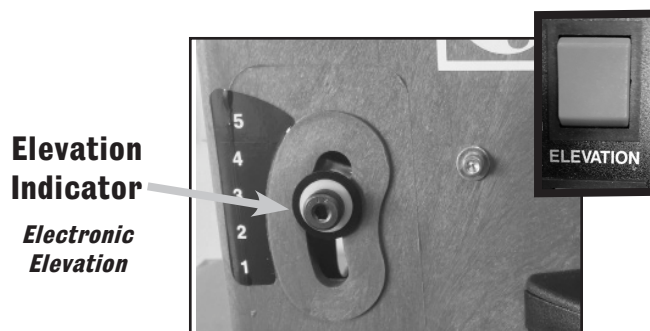
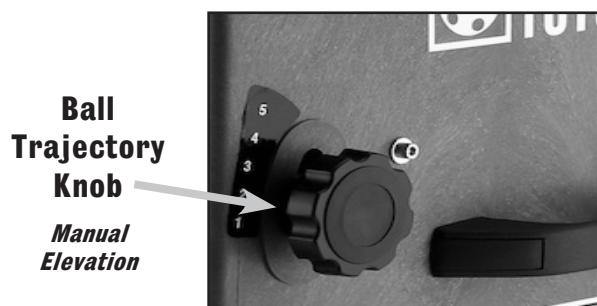
The **oscillation feature** will direct shots randomly across the court. **2-Line oscillation** will alternate a shot to two preset positions (forehand and backhand), an ideal feature for practicing rapid volley drills or for players who play doubles.

Setting Ball Trajectory (see photos below)

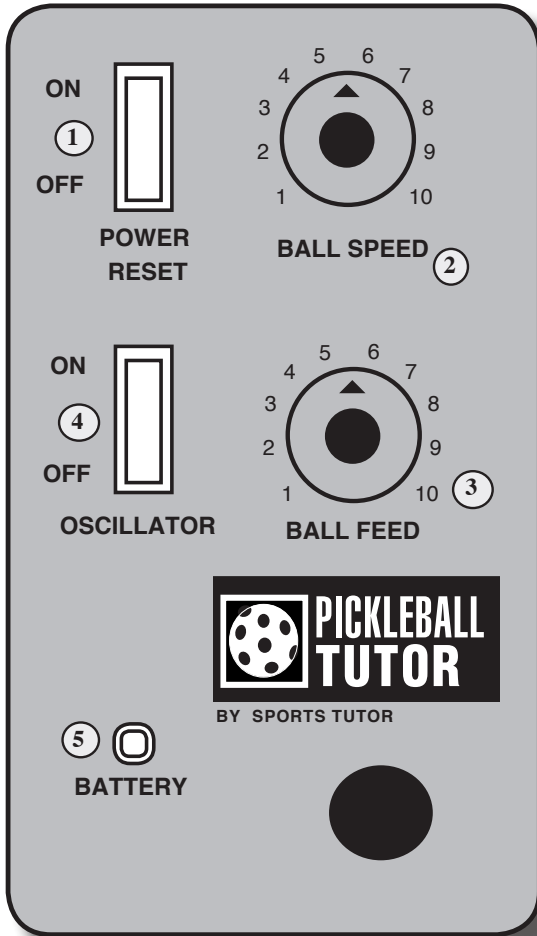
On Manual Elevation Models: Loosen the ball trajectory knob by turning it a few turns counter-clockwise. Brace the machine with one hand and move the ball trajectory knob with your other hand. Slowly move the knob up to increase the height of the ball throws or down to decrease the height of the ball throws. When the ball throws are at the desired trajectory, tighten the knob firmly against the case by turning clockwise.

On Electronic Elevation Models: On the control panel, hold the elevation button in the UP or DOWN position to automatically adjust throws to the desired trajectory. As you adjust the elevation, the “elevation indicator” will move up or down to indicate the trajectory position. You often only need to “pulse” the button up or down to get the desired setting.

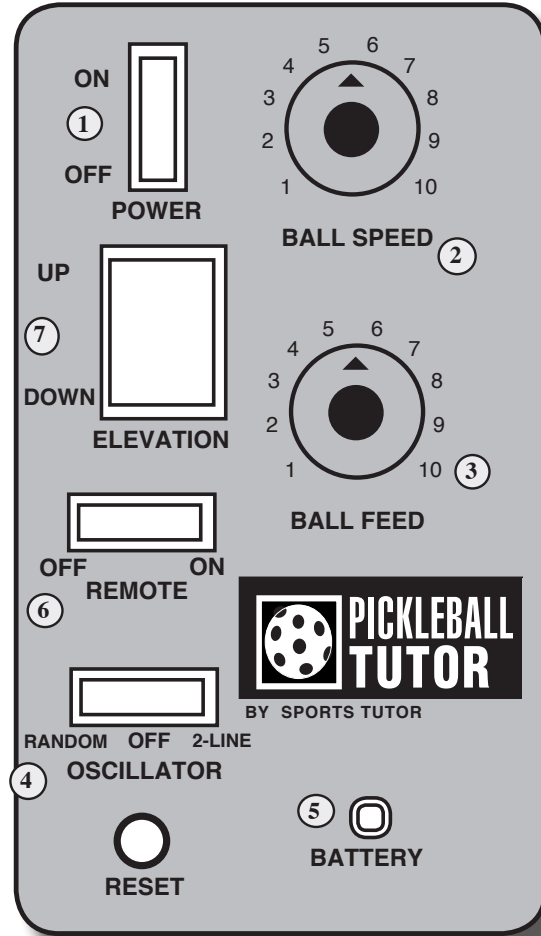
NOTE: *The Pickleball Tutor will provide any shot while set on the court surface, but a popular alternative is to place the machine up onto a cart or table during play. You can also slightly raise the front or rear of the case with a shim or thin piece of wood to customize shots even more.*



Pickleball Tutor Control Panels



PANEL WITH RANDOM OSCILLATION



PANEL WITH WIRELESS REMOTE AND 2-LINE OSC. & ELEC. ELEVATION OPTIONS

- ① **POWER** - Pushing to the 'ON' position begins a **start-up time delay period of 10 seconds** before pickleballs are thrown.
RESET - If the Pickleball Tutor shuts off while balls are still loaded in the hopper, turn the power switch OFF. Remove the balls and see if a ball is jammed in the hopper or between or under one of the throwing wheels. Remove the ball and turn power switch on. On the wireless remote panels, check if reset button has tripped. If so, turn machine OFF and push reset button in until it locks in place. Turn the machine on again and test. If the Pickleball Tutor shuts off again or does not power up, contact Sports Tutor for service.
- ② **BALL SPEED** - Turning clockwise increases the speed at which balls are thrown.
- ③ **BALL FEED** - Turning clockwise increases the frequency of ball throws from one ball every 10 seconds at the lowest setting, to a ball every 1 second at the highest setting (for quick reaction volleys).
- ④ **OSCILLATOR** - Depending on the model you have, push switch to **ON**, or **RANDOM** for sweeping shots across the court. On 2-Line oscillation models (**optional**), push switch to **2-LINE** for alternating shots to two preset positions (forehand & backhand).
- ⑤ **BATTERY CHARGE JACK** (Battery model only) - Plug the Smart Battery Charger into this jack and a live AC outlet to charge the battery.
- ⑥ **REMOTE CONTROL (optional)** To operate the **WIRELESS REMOTE** system, turn the remote switch on the panel to ON. On the hand-held transmitter, press the BALL FEED button to alternately stop and start the ball feed function. Press the OSC button to alternately stop and start the oscillation at the desired position on the court.
- ⑦ **ELEVATION - (Electronic Elevation models only)**. Hold button UP or DOWN to automatically adjust the trajectory of shots.

Transporting the Pickleball Tutor

Remove all pickleballs and close the ball hopper flaps before transporting the Pickleball Tutor. Lift and carry the Pickleball Tutor by using the carrying handle. (Max. weight is 29 lbs).

If you prefer to transport the Pickleball Tutor on wheels, use the portable **towing cart** that was included with the Pickleball Tutor. The towing cart folds up for compact storage and includes bungee cords to secure the machine.



Maintenance and Cleaning

Pickleball Tutor requires very minor regular maintenance. For optimum performance we recommend that you **clean the internal ball throwing wheels on a regular basis** to remove any build-up that can result from the “waxy film” from brand new pickleballs. Routine cleaning of the wheels will maintain consistent throws. Some of the coloration from balls can transfer to the wheels but this is normal and will not affect the ball throws.

Clean the ball throwing wheels only when the Pickleball Tutor is OFF. The most effective means of cleaning the wheels is with a 80-100 grit **sandpaper sponge**. Regular sandpaper can be used, but a sponge is easier to hold and more effective. Reach into the ball ejection opening and hold one of the throwing wheels still. Sand the entire circumference of each wheel a section at a time. Go around each wheel 2-3 times using firm pressure. You will not damage the throwing wheel. If the throwing wheels appear to have developed a grooved or “cupped” appearance, this would indicate excessive wear and the wheels should be replaced. Under normal use, the throwing wheels will provide 2-3 years of use before replacing. If cleaning the throwing wheels does not improve performance, please contact Sports Tutor.

To clean the **case** use a slightly damp cloth. Do not use chemicals or abrasive cleansers to clean the case or the throwing wheels. Use a vacuum cleaner to clean dirt from the inside of the machine. Do not use compressed air.

Storage

Store the Pickleball Tutor in a clean dry place. It is important to keep the smart battery charger plugged into AC power and to the charging jack while in storage to maintain a charge on the battery. If unused for long periods and not charging, the battery will slowly discharge which can prevent the battery from recharging.

Do not store the Pickleball Tutor in the trunk of a car. Heat build-up inside a car trunk can reach 180 degrees during summer months, which may damage your machine.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I raise the machine up onto a table or platform during use?

Yes, you can place the Pickleball Tutor onto a raised surface during use. It is not necessary, but raising the Pickleball Tutor off of the ground provides additional shot angles. Make sure the machine is safely secured on any raised surface before using.

How often should I clean the throwing wheels?

With typical use, we recommend once a month. It also depends on the balls. Brand new pickleballs have a “slick film” and some of that transfers to the surface of the throwing wheels. So if a lot of new balls are used, the wheels may need more frequent cleaning. The more the balls are used, the better they perform as this film is quickly worn off of the balls.

How does the 2-Line oscillation work?

2-Line oscillation will deliver the same shot to two alternating positions (forehand and backhand). Before you use 2-Line, it is recommended that you position the machine on it's side. Turn the machine on and the Oscillation switch to Random. You will see the aluminum oscillation plate move back and forth. When the plate is squared to the case, turn the switch off. Now when you use the 2-Line, the two positions are centered on the court. 2-Line oscillation is ideal for practicing rapid forehand and backhand volley drills or for multiple players to hit off the machine at the same time.

How does the External Battery Pack work?

For personal use, the built-in battery will provide more than enough capacity. If the machine is being shared by a group or club and used at different times during the day, the External Battery Pack would provide up to an additional four hours and help prevent deep discharge of the built-in battery.

How does the External AC Power Supply work?

The External AC Power Supply is used with a battery-powered model to provide unlimited playing time provided you have accessible AC power on the court.

Should I discharge the battery completely before recharging?

No. Draining the battery completely can prevent the battery from recharging. Always keep the “smart” battery charger plugged into AC and to the machine when it is not in use to maintain a full charge. It will not overcharge the battery.

Do I need to lubricate the Pickleball Tutor?

It is not necessary to lubricate any components in the machine. It is advisable to open the underside of the machine once a year and vacuum out any dust or dirt.

Can I add the wireless remote control later?

Depending on the options your machine was ordered with, it may be possible to add the wireless remote control function at a later date. The cost of the remote would be the same and you would need to install the remote receiver. You will need to contact us so we can determine if the remote can be added.

Service or Questions

Please call Sports Tutor toll free at **1-800-448-8867** if you have any questions regarding your Pickleball Tutor or if your Pickleball Tutor should ever need service. You can also email us at customerservice@sportstutorinc.com.

Pickleball Tutor Limited Warranty

Warranty period

Sports Tutor, Inc. warrants the Pickleball Tutor ball machines for a period of three years from the date of original purchase, except for the battery, which is warranted for one year.

Scope of warranty

This warranty covers all defects in material and workmanship. The following are not covered by the warranty:

1. Units on which the serial number has been deleted, modified or removed.
2. Units damaged by accident, misuse, abuse, neglect, unauthorized product modification or failure to follow instructions contained in the owner's manual.
3. Units damaged by repair by anyone not authorized by Sports Tutor.
4. Units damaged during shipment (claims must be presented to shipper).

Who is protected

This warranty is valid only within the United States. This warranty protects the original purchaser and any subsequent owner(s) during the warranty period, so long as the Pickleball Tutor was purchased in the United States and a copy of the original bill of sale is submitted whenever warranty service is required.

What Sports Tutor will pay for

Sports Tutor will pay for all labor and materials to repair a warrantable defect. Sports Tutor will also pay for shipping charges to return your Pickleball Tutor to you within the United States.

How to obtain warranty service

Call or write Sports Tutor, Inc. Deliver the unit POSTAGE PREPAID to Sports Tutor. Include your name, address, daytime phone number, copy of original bill of sale, and a brief description of the problem.

Limitation of implied warranties

All implied warranties, including fitness for a particular purpose and merchantability are limited in duration to the length of this warranty. We neither assume nor authorize any representative or other person to assume for us any other liability in connection with the sale or shipment of our products.

Limitation of incidental or consequential damages

Sports Tutor is not responsible for any incidental or consequential damages of any kind. Our liability is limited to the repair or replacement, at our option, of a defective product. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and/or do not allow the exclusion of incidental or consequential damages so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

**Sports Tutor, Inc.
3300 Winona Ave.
Burbank, CA 91504**

PICKLEBALL TUTOR 2-YEAR EXTENDED WARRANTY

What it covers

The Pickleball Tutor extended warranty covers both parts and labor under the same terms as the original Pickleball Tutor warranty, **excluding the battery.**

Length of Extended Warranty

The extended warranty will cover the Pickleball Tutor for an **additional two years** at a cost of \$60.00.

How to purchase

- 1) The extended warranty must be purchased within 30 days of the purchase of your Pickleball Tutor ball machine.
- 2) Detach and mail the coupon below with your check or money order for \$60.00, and a copy of the original bill of sale to:

Attn: Warranty
Sports Tutor
3300 Winona Ave.
Burbank, CA 91504

- 3) Sports Tutor will send you a receipt for your extended warranty coverage.

EXTENDED WARRANTY COUPON

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Pickleball Tutor Serial Number _____

IMPORTANT: Be sure to include a copy of your original bill of sale.