

## **Rules for ball machine use – BGCC Tennis**

**Use of the ball machine for the whole season is available to members who have paid the annual fee of \$20.**

**The following rules have been approved by the Executive Committee.**

- Hours of use will be every day 7:00 to 8:00 am, weekdays from 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm (except on Mondays until 2:00 pm, and Thursdays from 1:00 pm) and Friday, Saturday and Sunday after 5:00 pm. Club social events and summer games schedules may override these.
- The court may be booked by one or more players for ball machine use two days in advance, using the normal court booking procedure. Court 1 will normally be used.
- The ball machine and all balls must be cleared from the court before the end of the hour.
- These rules, and the list of those who have paid to use the ball machine, will be posted on the bulletin board beside the courts.
- Walk-on use of the ball machine is allowed at other times than stipulated above providing both courts are vacant, allowing the member to use the machine within the designated hour slot that he or she picks.

**SAFETY WARNING: The balls can come out of the machine at high speed!**



## Guidelines for ball machine use

- An instruction manual is provided; it is kept in the plastic case that holds the charger and cord and the remote control. For personal instruction on ball machine use please contact a member of the club executive committee.
- The ball machine runs off a battery; there is a charger with the ball machine that must be plugged in after every use. A red light will glow while the battery is charging, turning to green (faintly) when it is fully charged.
- There is a remote control that a player can use to stop and start the machine. If the remote does not work, it is likely that its battery needs to be replaced. Spare batteries are kept in the hut. Ask an executive committee member for assistance if you are unsure about how to replace the remote battery.
- Use the wooden ramp provided to roll the ball machine over the step at the door of the hut. Store the ramp in the hut when you have finished rolling the machine in or out.
- Move the ball machine out of and into the hut with the hopper empty. Carry one or two wire baskets full of balls separately out to the court. After you have finished, gather up the balls in the basket(s) and return the full baskets and the empty ball machine to the hut.
- Loading too many balls in the hopper increases the chance of a ball jam. It is recommended that one basket of balls at a time be loaded into the hopper.
- When two people are using the ball machine together, one can be gathering balls behind the machine while the other hits; this makes better use of court time. Be careful of rolling balls and **DO NOT** go in front of the machine to pick up balls while it is operating.
- The ball machine will not feed consistently with bald, soft or dead balls; please discard defective balls in the garbage. Also, don't use wet balls even if they are good; leave them to dry out.
- After using the ball machine, always plug in the charger and leave it charging. A red light on one side of the charger shows that it is charging the battery; if it does not glow red when you plug it in right after using the machine, check that all cords are plugged in. After a full charge has been reached, the light will glow green (faintly).

- If there are any problems with the ball machine, contact the club president or another member of the executive committee. Phone numbers are listed in the club brochure.
- Except for the player returning balls at the other end, no-one should be in front of the ball machine when it is turned on.

**SAFETY WARNING AGAIN: The balls can come out of the machine at high speed!**

