

# How do I get a Tennis Court at Laguna Woods Village?

There are ten tennis courts at Laguna Woods Village with two different systems in use for getting on a court:

- 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served for the majority of the courts (see [Tennis Facility Compromise Whiteboard System](#) for more info).
- Up to 3-day advance reservations via a smartphone/computer application (named “Kourts”) for the remainder of the courts (see [Kourts Reservation System](#) for more info).

## That’s very confusing; how did that come about?

Historically, all the courts were on a 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served basis with no reservations. This maximized the number of people who could access the courts and maximized flexibility for start and stop times.

For most of every day there were always vacant courts so there was **no waiting** at all to walk on to a court and no time limit on their use. From 7:30 to 11:00 a.m., courts were fully used, so people put their names on a waiting list for the next available court. Average wait times were 15-20 min. While they waited, people chatted with others waiting, met new people, watched other folks playing and generally had fun. People who didn’t want to wait at all scheduled their play during the majority of the day when the courts were not fully utilized.

When the coronavirus hit, the courts were first closed with no play at all allowed to reduce disease transmission. As time passed and plans were made to reopen, it was realized that all the socialization that used to happen had to be curtailed for everyone’s safety. Social distancing had to be enforced. A smartphone/computer application named Kourts was purchased to schedule access to the courts and maintain a 15 min. time separation between players finishing a match and those arriving for the next match. Masks were required when people were not actually playing.

Everyone who arrived in the Village during the pandemic learned and became comfortable with the Kourts reservation system and feared that if the 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served system were reinstated it would be chaotic and they would spend too much time waiting, or worse, wouldn’t be able to get a court at all. Some people who had been here for years enjoyed being able to reserve in advance.

As the pandemic eased, about two-thirds of the players wanted to return to the 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served system and one-third of the players wanted to retain the Kourts reservation system. There are strong feelings on both sides and as a result, the current compromise was struck to use both systems on a six-month trial basis beginning January 31, 2022. See [Updated Tennis Court Use](#) and [Tennis Court Sign-Up](#).