

In Forsyth County, GA pickleball, the terms “Official Open Play” and “Unofficial Open Play” are used locally (especially by parks and player groups) to distinguish between structured, sanctioned sessions and informal, player-organized sessions.

Here’s what each means:

✔ Official Open Play

Definition:

Play sessions that are scheduled and sanctioned by Forsyth County Parks & Recreation (or a community center).

Key features

- ✔ Listed on the county’s official schedule
- ✔ May be posted on the county’s website or Rec1 (rec registration system)
- ✔ Sometimes staffed or monitored by park personnel or volunteers
- ✔ May have court reservation slots or planned hours
- ✔ Generally open to all ability levels unless otherwise noted

Who organizes it?

- Forsyth County Parks & Rec
- Community centers or recreation departments
- Sometimes sponsored by local pickleball leagues

Examples

- “Open court at Fowler Park: 9 AM–11 AM”
- “Pickleball open play Tuesdays & Thursdays — all levels”
- Sessions that show up on the county calendar or recreation brochure

Benefits

- More predictable schedules
 - Recognized by the county
 - More likely to have rules/structure
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🔄 Unofficial Open Play

Definition:

Player-organized, informal play that isn’t scheduled or sanctioned by the county parks system.

Key features

- ✓ Not on the official county calendar
- ✓ Organized by players through apps, Facebook groups, or word of mouth
- ✓ Often free and open to all
- ✓ Can pop up spontaneously or on a recurring player-set schedule
- ✓ May use courts during non-reserved times

Who organizes it?

- Local pickleball players
- Player groups (Forsyth County Pickleball Facebook, TeamReach, etc.)

Examples

- “Coal Mountain Park open play 8 AM — players show up and start games”
- “Saturday morning doubles meetup” arranged in a group chat

Benefits

- Flexible and social
- Often tailored to specific skill levels (beginner, intermediate)
- More casual environment

Important Differences (Side-by-Side)

Feature	Official Open Play	Unofficial Open Play
Organized by	Parks & Rec / Rec Dept	Players or groups
Posted on county calendar	✓ Yes	✗ Usually not
Reservation needed	Sometimes	No
Structured rules	Often	Informal
Skill grouping	May be specified	Depends on players
Communication	Official schedule	App or group chat

How Players Use These Terms

Local players often say:

- “Official open play at Fowler this morning”
→ Means it’s on the county parks schedule
- “Unofficial open play at Coal Mountain”
→ Means players set it up on their own

Sometimes unofficial groups will use apps like TeamReach or pickleball Facebook groups to coordinate time, skill levels, and court usage.

Tips for Joining Open Play

For official open play

- Check the county parks website or Rec1 program listings
- Arrive early if it’s popular

For unofficial open play

- Join local pickleball groups (Facebook, TeamReach)
- Look for recurring times/locations
- Be ready to rotate players in and out