



League and Facility Rules

Pickleball Instructional Videos

- For those new to the sport, the following links will provide instruction on how Pickleball is played and scored
 - How to Play: <https://youtu.be/fTvPYdKZqO0>
 - Pickleball Scoring: <https://youtu.be/RoheCHp6IDw>

Format

- **Divisions:** Due to limited court space and this being a fun and recreational league, this league will be played with one single division. USTA/NTRP ratings are not necessary and will not be used. Playoffs will consist of the top 4 teams based on regular season records.
- **Match Format:** Each week teams will compete in a “meet” that consists of 3 lines of doubles. Teams will complete a match of men’s doubles, women’s doubles, and mixed doubles. The winner of the meet will be the team that wins 2 out of the three doubles matches. Each match will be the best 2 out of 3 sets.
- **Set Scoring:** Matches will be played as best 2 out of 3 sets to 15 points. If sets are tied 1-1, the third set will be played to 11 points.
- **Match Times:** Matches will begin each week at 6:30pm. Play will begin with men’s doubles followed by women’s doubles and then mixed doubles. If both captains agree, men’s and women’s doubles starts can be switched.
- **Courts:** Each team will be assigned a specific court for each week on the schedule. All three lines will be played on that court. It is the responsibility of the captains to ensure that all matches are completed before facility lights are turned off (10pm).
- In the event that a team wins both the men’s and women’s doubles matches, the third line of mixed doubles will still need to be played. Individual matches will be used to determine tie breakers for playoff seeding if needed.
- Lineups are to be given to the opposing captain prior to the start of play. Following the completion of all matches, lineups and score cards are to be turned in to the athletics supervisor on site.

ROSTERS

- Each team must have a minimum of 6 players made up of 3 men and 3 women. Additional players can be added to a roster up to a maximum of 10. Once a team has at least 3 men and 3 women, there is no rule for how many of the additional players added must be male or female.
- Roster forms will be sent to captains before the first week of play. Rosters must be completed and signed by each player on the roster prior to the start of play on week 2 of the season.
- Once rosters are completed, players can no longer be added to any team. An exception will be made only if a team loses a player during the season and no longer meets the minimum roster requirements.
- Teams caught playing with players not on their official roster will be ineligible for postseason play and will be subject to possible removal from the league without refund.
- In an effort to prevent any forfeits and maintain a fun and social league, teams may allow a player to play multiple lines during a meet if they do not have enough players available that week. For example, if only 2 men or women on your team show up for a meet, one of those men/women can play both the line for that gender, as well as the mixed doubles match. Otherwise, a 3rd available player would be expected to play the mixed doubles line.

League Rules

- **Starting Play:** Teams should be on the courts and ready to play starting promptly at 6:30pm. Prior to the start of each match, players may warm up for no more than 5 minutes. It is the responsibility of the captains to ensure the 5-minute time limit is being followed.
- **Service Order:** The service order will be determined for each match by the home team for that week. The home team can choose to either to be server or receiver of the first game of the match in which case the opponents will choose which side to start from or B. Choose the side they want to start on in which case the opponents would choose to either serve or receive first.
- **Substitutions:** A team can substitute a player of the same gender into a set for *any reason*, if the following guidelines are met.
 - A player must complete at least one set before they are substituted. Substitutions can be made at the conclusion of a point after one set has been completed.
 - Once replaced, that player cannot return to play for the remainder of that match.
 - When coming in for another player, substitutes must maintain the same side and service order as the player they are replacing.
 - Substitutions cannot be made during a tiebreaker set.

- **Pickleballs:** Prior to the start of play each week, the captain for each home team will be given pickleballs to use for matches. All balls will need to be returned to the supervisor on site at the end of the night.
- **Defaults/Forfeits:** Teams will be given a 15-minute grace period for the first 6:30pm line. If a team fails to provide enough players to begin play before the 15-minute grace period is up, they will forfeit that week's meet. The default score will be recorded 3-0 for the present team. Teams can decide to play the remaining matches for that night if they would like, but the score for that week will be recorded as a forfeiture regardless. If both captains agree, teams can decide to play women's double first to avoid defaulting. Once a match is complete, players for the next match should immediately take the court for the five-minute warm up.
- **Mixed Doubles:** Mixed Doubles players should not play in more than one full match per night. That means each team is required to have at least 3 men and 3 women ready to play each night. A player who has played in the men's or women's doubles matches may substitute into a mixed doubles match only after the substitution requirements have been met.
- **Inclement Weather:** In the event that weather should cancel play completely, we will do our best to make that determination and send out communication by 4pm on the night of play. Communication will be sent out to team captains who are then responsible for informing their team. If a week of play is canceled completely, it will be rescheduled for the week following the end of the regular season schedule. As a result, playoff and championship schedules would then be pushed back a week.

If it begins to rain during match play, please ensure that scores are recorded at that time so matches complete from where they left off at a later time. It is the responsibility of the captains to ensure these are recorded correctly. If play cannot continue that night, please make sure to still turn in your score cards to the supervisor on site. Matches that are rained out can be completed the following week if there is time after your originally scheduled match.

Departmental/Facility Rules

- Any player who is ejected from play for any reason will be suspended for the next two games. On the second offense (in the same season), the player will be suspended from the league for one year from the date of the violation.
- If a player touches an official in anger or threatens them in any way, he/she will be barred from all S.P.R.D. recreational programs for at least one year from the date of the violation.
- Any player found under the influence of intoxicants, shall be removed from the park and automatically barred from participation in any program sponsored by S.P.R.D at the discretion of the Director of Parks and Recreation. **Alcoholic beverages are illegal in all city parks.**

- A team that leaves the court for any reason before play is completed will be dropped from the league and forfeit their entry fee.
- Any player suspended from the league or ejected from play will not be allowed in the playing area at any time.
- Only players and/or managers are allowed on the courts during league play. It is the duty of the site supervisor and team managers to keep any unauthorized persons off of the playing area.
- If an argument lasts more than one minute, the supervisor shall call for play to begin. If the arguing team refuses to play within one minute, the game will be forfeit to the other team. The manager is the only one to discuss rule interpretations with the supervisor. There is no discussion on judgment calls. The supervisor has the right to bar any player from the league for misconduct.
- Any league with fewer than 6 teams will not have tournament play. Any league with 6 or more teams will have a one-night, single elimination playoff tournament for the top 4 teams. A minimum of 4 teams is needed for the league to take place. If not, all registered teams will be refunded.