



Adult Mixed Doubles Pickleball League Rules

Fall 2024

❖ Game Rules

- Games are self-officiated. All games will be played according to the International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) Rulebook.
- [CLICK HERE](#) for the rulebook.

❖ Registration and League Format

- Both partners of a doubles team must be individually registered prior to the registration deadline to participate in the League.
- Any players that do not have a partner should register in the “No Partner” section. The League Commissioner will contact individuals if/when another individual is available to play.
- Any substitute players must sign HCRP waiver and pay \$7.00 “drop-in” fee.
- Participant’s skill levels are listed with registration and are self-rated.

❖ Equipment

- HCRP staff will provide nets and balls for play.
- Participants are required to bring their own paddles

❖ Schedules

- Schedules will be sent out on the last Monday before the start of the season. **No adjustments will be made once the schedule is distributed to teams at the start of the season.**
- Teams may request dates that they’re unavailable to play during the season within the registration process. E-mail requests will be accepted until the last Friday before league play starts. Requests are not guaranteed.
- Any team that cannot attend a scheduled match must provide the League Commissioner at least 24 hours prior notice to avoid penalty. Teams will be granted two advanced notice occurrences per season that will be made-up on league sanctioned date. Each subsequent occurrence thereafter will be deemed automatic forfeit. Failure to provide any notification will lead to forfeiture of matches without reschedule. Opposing team will be credited with the victory and league points.

❖ Game Format

- **Starting Time:** Matches will start as scheduled. Teams will be given a 10-minute grace period before a forfeit is announced. For every minute a team does not have at least 2 eligible players, the opposing team will be given 1 point. If a team does not have two team members present after 10 minutes, the match results will be listed as a forfeit.
- **Coin Flip:** Teams will flip a coin to determine which team will serve first.
- **Games:** Teams will play best two out of three games to 9 points (win by two points) against their opponents each week. Teams shall switch sides at 6 points (3rd game only). No match lasts longer than a 13th point
- **Time Cap:** There is a 1-hour time limit on matches.

- **Extra Time:** If teams finish matches before the 1-hour time limit, they can use the remaining time for friendly play. Friendly games will not count towards league standings.
- **Time Outs:** Each team will be granted one 60-second timeout per match.
- **Game Scores:** Both teams are required to report scores to League Commissioner. Scores should be reported before players exit the facility/courts each week. Any scores not received within 24 hours of match completion will result in a double forfeit in which both teams will receive a loss for the match and therefore 0 league points.
- **Forfeit:** Any team that does not arrive within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled match start time will forfeit the match. Any team that fails to provide adequate communication (24-hour notice) to the League Commissioner that both team members are unable to attend a scheduled match will forfeit the match. A forfeit will count as one (1) loss on the overall team record and add 0 pts for the teams' overall league score. One (1) win for the overall team record and six (6) league points will be awarded to the opposing teams. Repeated uninformed forfeits will result in expulsion from league at discretion of League Commissioner; refunds will not be offered under such circumstances.
- **Substitution:** Teams are permitted to find their own substitute player to stand in for a registered player that is unable to attend. The designated substitution must complete an HCRP waiver release form **PRIOR** to participating as a substitute. Substitutes must pay a \$7.00 drop-in fee to participate in match. Failure to complete an HCRP waiver release form and pay drop-in fee will mark an **ineligible player** and result in an automatic forfeit. Repeated violations will lead to team disqualification at the discretion of the League Commissioner; at which time no refunds of any kind will be honored. Substitute players participating in 3 or more matches must pay full registration fee.
- **Make-Up Matches:** Each team will have the ability to make up (two) 2 matches per season. Any such matches will be scheduled and agreed upon by both teams and must be cleared with League Commissioner to qualify as an official match. If a team can not make a scheduled match time as assigned but can move to a later time AND their scheduled opponent can also move times, then a same day schedule change can be approved.
- **Standings:** Based on the match results (wins, losses, ties, forfeits) of games played throughout the regular season. Teams will be awarded the following league points system: **3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss (including forfeit)**. League Points are scored per match, per week.
 ie: Match 1 Team A wins 9-6 (Score 3 pts); Match 2 Team A wins 9-7 (Score 3 pts); Match 3 Becomes a Friendly match; no score is recorded as official play has ended. Total Score for Team A is **6 league pts and 1 team win**
 ie: Match 1 Team Red wins 9-7 (Score 3 pts); Match 2 Team Red loses 6-9 (Score 0 pts); Match 3 Team Red loses 4-9 (Score 0 pts) Total Score for Team Red – **3 league pts and 0 team win**
 - Tie Breakers (if needed) – Ties in league standings will be broken based on following criteria in order of its occurrence:

1. Head-to-Head Record
2. Total League Points
3. Point Differential

- **End of Season Single Elimination Playoff:** All teams will make playoffs. Seeding will be based on regular-season standings. Highest seed will play lowest seed in the first round. The winner of the match moves on until there is one team remaining. In the event a bye is needed the highest seeded team to advance to the round will receive the bye. Championship match will determine

League Champion. Playoff will operate as a “one-day tournament” to decipher League Champion.
Teams will follow regular season rules for playoffs. No substitutes will be permitted during playoff.

❖ **Inclement Weather and Cancellations**

- In the event of inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances the League Commissioner reserves the right to cancel or reschedule games.
- Canceled games will be rescheduled at the discretion of the League Commissioner.
- Delayed “sliding schedule” game starts are not possible.
- The inclement weather line will be updated at least one hour prior to the start of games.
- **In the event of inclement weather, please call (410) 313-4451 to receive an update on the program status. Please listen to the menu guide and **press 1** for Instructional Sports, Tennis & Golf, Activities, Trips & Hikes, and then **press 2** for Pickleball Programs.**

League Commissioner: Devon Standard; dstandard@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-4637

Information: www.howardcountymd.gov/pickleball

Inclement Weather Line: 410-313-4451; Option 1 for Instructional Sports and then Option 2 for Pickleball Programs.