

Southwest Florida – Pickleball League

Rules Detail

- Player registration:

All players need to be rostered to compete in the match. If online registration is not possible (leaguesforpickleball.topdoglive), notification to the League coordinator **BEFORE** the match begins made by done by **EMAIL, TEXT** or **PHONE**.

Failure to register and individual, or notify the League coordinator **PRIOR** to play will result in default of that court.

- Match Lineup:

Captains will exchange their team scorecards simultaneously, **prior** to the beginning of the team match. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury, illness, no show, or disqualification of a player, prior to the start of match (first point played). If the substitution is made during warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up.

- Defaults:

Match default time is 15 minutes after scheduled time, provided court is available. Please use discretion when calling for a default. If the opponent is late for just cause, please try to be understanding and play the match.

Scoring in the event of a default is 15-0, 15-0 (see Recording Scores section for detailed information).

In case of retirement (unable to finish match), the non-retiring team will be credited with 15 points, keeping the score as was for the retiring team.

All teams must play all scheduled matches. **The League Coordinator should be consulted before a team defaults their entire match (all positions)**. Any team deliberately forfeiting an entire team match is subject to disqualification. All matches should be played before the last match of the regular season.

- Time of Play:

Matches are to be scheduled no later than 3:00 PM.

- Season Standings:

The goal of the league is to have participants play as many matches and teams as possible during allotted season.

- Byes – Some teams may have a bye while others do not, based on the number of teams in a division.
- Sometimes the number of teams in a division and the number of weeks of play do not allow for a complete rotation through the flight. As such divisions will use % won if the teams in a division play uneven number of matches. Percentage = # of Overall Team Wins divided by the # of Matches Played.

- The criteria that determines the winning team, when there is a TIE between 2 teams, and the number of matches are even, is listed below:
 1. Win-Loss record
 2. Head-to-Head (HTH)
 3. % games lost
- IF the schedule produces an unbalanced number of matches, then HEAD-TO-HEAD will be the criteria used to determine the winning team. Example, If Team A = 7-1 and Team B = 6-1, BUT Team B (6-1) beat Team A (7-1) the Head-To-Head winner is the champion.

- Stacking:

NEW RULE: Previously your lineups required you play ALL higher rated players ahead of lower rated players. For Example, Line 1: 3.5/3.5 and Line 2: 3.0/3.0.

You may now play the lineup you determine is the strongest. For example, Line 1: 3.5/3.0 and Line 2: 3.5/3.0. Make sure your best "individual team" plays on each court. In all cases, the highest combined team must play ahead of a lower combined team. Example, Line 1: 3.5/3.0 and Line 2: 3.0/3.0.

You may not play lower combined teams ahead of higher combined teams. For example, Line 1: 3.0/3.0 and Line 2: 3.5/3.5. This would be a stacked and illegal lineup.

If an opposing team files a stacking grievance, the Southwest Florida Pickleball League will review the play order and penalize appropriately.

- See super tie break

- Inclement Weather:

- Official rain out is one hour after original match start time, unless BOTH captains agree to declare it sooner. Players/teams must be available to play in case of a rain delay. Players should go to the home club and be ready to play.
- Match started and resumed SAME DAY– if the match has started and rain occurs, the original lineup must be used. If play is resumed on the same day, at a rescheduled time, match play will resume with the same players at the same positions, when play stopped. The exact score, game and set will be recorded and play will begin at that score. All completed games, sets and individual matches will count as played. Captains should meet, agree and write down the suspended match information, including serve, rotation and side of all players. There are no player changes to the initial roster. Any court that can't be played with the same players will be recorded as a retirement.
- Match started and resumed DIFFERENT DAY – if the team match has started and rain occurs, and the match is rescheduled for another day, a new lineup may be presented for any individual match that hasn't started; or, if the original lineup presented indicated a defaulted position. As mentioned above, for matches that had started, the games, sets, serve rotation, player sides should be recorded by the captains and players.
- Team captains should mutually agree on time to reschedule a rain-delayed match. Every attempt should be made to complete match within TWO weeks. In any event, all matches must be played before the last match of the season. Individual matches may be scheduled at different times and at either club. If teams can't agree on time, the league coordinator may pick the date for the make-up match. The scheduled home team has the first option of playing

the match at their facility. Please confirm match and court times with your professional/facility.

- Partially completed matches can't be entered into the software. The home captain CAN change the date for the new match. When the home captain enters a new date, an email is automatically generated to the opposing captain. The opposing captain must confirm the change. The match will be read "unconfirmed" until the opposing captain agrees to the new match. If matches are to be played on different dates, the dates can be listed in the "comment" section. Players and captains can ready this section to see how the rescheduling of the match has progressed.
- If some or all of the matches are rained out during the last week of play, the matches for the last week may be deleted or cancelled.

Home team provides the balls (type of ball is subject to rules of facility and/or community). Home team must also provide water (near the courts) for match play. Many home clubs provide refreshments after play, but this is not required.

- Teams and Rosters:

- All teams must be identified with a club or facility. The number of positions for a match varies depending on the league and division. Team rosters should have enough players to play a match plus two to four extra players. There is no limit to the number of players on a team roster.
- All league team players must be residents and/or members of the facility they represent (membership = minimum of one month membership at their host club.) The players must be members during the time they are playing on a team. Understanding the league rules, clubs, facilities and communities may have restrictions regarding play on non-members on their teams.
- When playing mixed doubles, in all matches, the players total level should not be higher than the level in which the team is playing. This applies to all matches including the super tie break match. Example, in the 6.0 division -- if a 3.5 player is paired with a 2.5 player on court 1 and two 3.0 players are competing on court 2, for the final match the captain must choose 2 players, where the level does not exceed 6.0, so the one player from court 1 would be the 2.5 and then one of the 3.0 players on court 2.

- Insufficient Players:

If a team can't field the required number of players, default the bottom position. Contact the opposing team captain if you are unable to fill all positions. Having insufficient players is not a valid reason to reschedule.

- Schedules and Schedule Conflicts:

Due to the tremendous growth of Pickleball in our area, facilities may experience some scheduling difficulties and conflicts. To avoid conflicting schedules, it is possible that a team may have more away than home matches. If the facility registers multiple teams playing on the same day and time, it will be necessary to provide different starting times to accommodate the match play. Captains will coordinate with the facility and/or professional and notify opponents at **least one week before play**. The match may have to be moved to the away team's facility or rescheduled for a different day or time. Additionally, individual matches may be scheduled at different times and locations.

Captains, please notify league coordinator of any schedule changes.

Schedules will be available at leaguesforpickleball.topdoglive on the dates published. Please check your schedules and resolve conflicts as soon as possible. The match schedule is subject to change after publication if conflicts occur. All captains are required to check the online match schedule for any changes.

- *Coaching and Court Conduct:*

No coaching is allowed at any time during the match (even at time outs) by captains, spectators, teammates or professionals. Profanity of any kind is against the rules and subject to penalties. All electronic devices capable of sending or receiving messages must be turned off; offense is match default. Penalties will be enforced by opponents on court. Line calls or disputes during a match, can only be resolved by players participating in that match. General supervision of all aspects of play belongs to the facility and their professional staff.

- *Team Levels and Ratings Review:*

To keep the league competitive, an annual review of team and individual results is done at the end of each Winter season. The Topdog Pickleball software performs this analytical review. Teams and/or players may be asked to move up or down. A report with a list of players whose ratings have been changed will be posted on the website by August 1.

- *Equipment:*

At various times, equipment will be deemed ineligible for match play. Currently, the Joola paddle (or any recalled paddles in the future) are **NOT** allowed in league play, **not even in the warmup**. Please remind your opponent. If play continues with the paddle, the opposing team must produce a video (with 2 points of play). This will be required to demonstrate that an illegal paddle has been used.

- *Miscellaneous:*

If you choose to video tape your match, you must have permission from all players on the court to video the play.

- *Season Awards:*

Awards will be given to the first place team in each division. In divisions with several flights, awards are given the first place team in each flight.

- *Privacy Notice:*

The contact information for Southwest Florida Pickleball League participants included in the Topdog Pickleball website is considered confidential and is exclusively for use by the Southwest Florida Pickleball league coordinator and for contact between and among the league participants. The information in this site should not be used for business, commercial, political, or any other non-Southwest Florida Pickleball League purposes and it should not be disclosed or published to anyone outside of the Southwest Florida Pickleball League.

- *Participant's Waiver of Liability:*

Acceptance of my entry in the Southwest Florida Pickleball Leagues is without assumption of responsibility of any kind by this organization, Topdog Pickleball, the host club, committees or the management and officers of the Southwest Florida Pickleball League, in which I may be entered or

may participate. In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I do hereby for and on behalf of myself and my heirs and legal representative release and forever discharge the organization, host club, their officers, umpires, committees and representatives and their successors and assigns, of and from any and all claims and demands of every kind, nature and character which I may have or may hereafter acquire for and all damages, losses or injuries which may be suffered or sustained by me in connection with my activities during the period for which such permission is waived and released and I covenant not to sue therefore. I understand that this tournament/league will be governed by applicable organization rules and regulations, the rules and regulations of this tournament/league, the rules and procedures governing discipline of players in Topdog Pickleball, and Topdog Sports sanctioned tournaments/leagues, the Tournaments For Fun, Topdog Pickleball Code of Ethics, tournament/league policy, and ranking regulations, and agree to conduct myself accordingly.