

CENTRAL OHIO PICKLEBALL LEAGUE RULES

Provided by PickleballZone.com

Update date: March 6, 2021

During this inaugural season, league rules will be rather minimal. They will more closely resemble the Columbus-area winter platform tennis league, rather than the summer tennis league. The goal is to provide fun, skill-based pickleball, knowing that some players are new to the sport and that they will rapidly improve from attending clinics and from competitive play. Expect numerous changes from this inaugural year to years two and three. There may even be rule changes during the season if the need arises so always refer to the date at the top of this document. Captains will be alerted to rule changes via email.

These leagues will be far more social than in regular tennis, and PickleballZone.com will facilitate this with its player photos and heavily-linked content.

COED League Play:

The league will initially be coed. This means that there could be 80% women or 80% men on a given team. There is no requirement that teams have a certain number of men or women. Skill levels are quite similar between men and women in pickleball, more so than in platform tennis, and much more so than in regular tennis. That said, players of any gender need to be respectful of any player's skill level, especially since skill levels may vary from team to team during this inaugural year.

Balls:

The brand of ball is significant in pickleball because of the bounce. The league will use the Franklin X-40 ball. This is a moderately priced, popular, and durable ball that should last teams all season. New balls are unnecessary for each match. While it is the host's responsibility to provide balls for the match, the visiting team should bring a few extra balls just in case the wrong brand is offered. Franklin balls can be purchased in bulk for approximately \$2 per ball.

Match Scoring:

Each club will field three courts per team.

The goal of the league is to schedule matches to last between one and a half to two hours. Each team will play the best two out of three games. Games will go to 15 points, win by two. If the match goes quickly, players are encouraged to continue to play, perhaps by splitting the teams.

In terms of the team rankings, each team will receive one point for each match win per court, as well as one additional point if they win two of the three courts played. For example, a team would receive four points if they win all three courts because of the additional point for winning the match.

Teams:

Teams will be comprised of coed teams separated into two groups:

- 1) Advanced Beginner (2.3 – 3.3) and
- 2) Intermediate / Intermediate+ (3.4 – 4.2)

The Advanced Beginners need to understand the rules and execute basic strategy. To determine skill level, some clubs may offer a ranking clinic. For the first year of the league, the beginning group will include players with a ranking from 2.3 to 3.3. Players with ranking from 3.4 to 4.2 will be in the Intermediate/ + group. Please review the skill ranking levels by the USA Pickleball association via this link.

<https://usapickleball.org/tournaments/tournament-player-ratings/player-skill-rating-definitions/>

Each club can have any number of teams at either level. There is no requirement to have both an Advanced Beginner and Intermediate/+ team. A club may have more than one team in either skill level.

A player must be a high school graduate to participate.

Captains will be required to obtain signed league waiver forms for each team member at the start of the season.

Court Assignments:

Each team must play their teams in order of strength. If an opposing team files a stacking grievance, the PickleballZone.com board along with two captain representatives not associated with the grievance will review the play order and penalize appropriately. During this inaugural year, no stacking grievances are expected to be received. Teams need to be given some latitude as they sort out player skill levels.

The PickleballZone.com software will make it easier to scan for potential problems on all matches that are played by all teams. Similar graphs are currently used in PlatformTennisZone.com and OhioTennisZone.com. The graphs provide a quick visual scan of potential issues (i.e. court one is sacrificed to obtain wins on courts two and three).

Match Preparation:

Before each match played, the hosting captain or other representative will reach out to the other team's captain to confirm location, line-up, and discuss any COVID specific restrictions that may be unique to the hosting club.

Players should bring their own water. There will be no snacks or beer provided for the matches.

Game rules should be followed as outlined by the USA Pickleball Association, unless stated differently in this document. Click the following link for direct access to the rules:

<https://usapickleball.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-Rulebook-Indexed-FINAL-01-22-21.pdf>

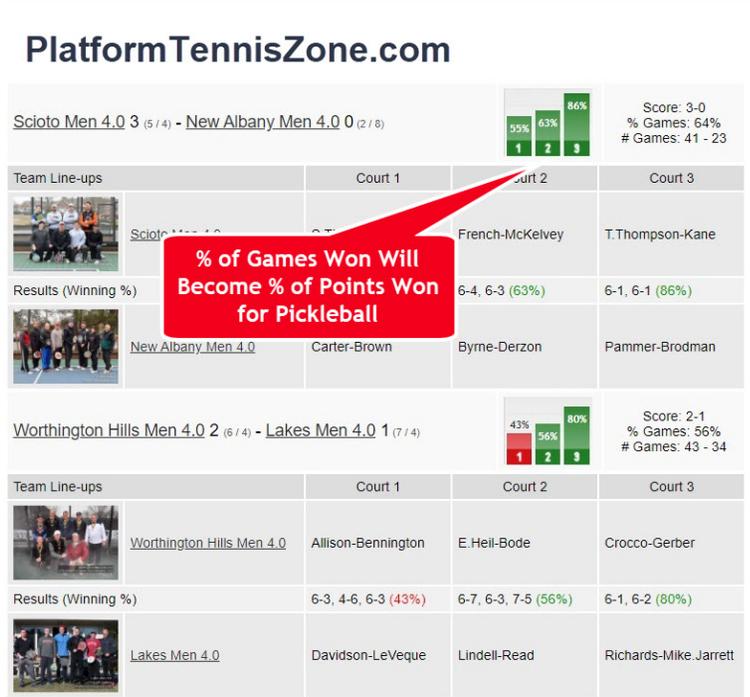
Roster Changes:

Team roster changes after June 1 may be allowed to accommodate late entries, realignment of players based on demonstrated skill level and possible unforeseen circumstances. These changes are to be submitted by the captain of the team and will be reviewed by the PickleballZone.com board. The goal is to not have any court defaults.

Team Substitutions:

All players must be registered to a team regardless of the frequency of play.

Players at the Advanced Beginner level may "play up" as a substitute for another team at their club to avoid a default at the Intermediate/+ level. This will NOT be considered a default and the team will receive points as



appropriate for any wins. The Advanced Beginner level substitute would normally be placed on a lower level court, but that will also depend on the skill level of his/her partner.

A player at the Intermediate/+ level may not “play down” on an Advanced Beginner level team. If that were to happen, that court and any underlying courts would be defaulted.

If a club should have more than one team at a specific level, individuals may not substitute for the other team.

Each team should have between 8-13 players. Intermediate/+ teams may have less players because of the potential of Advanced Beginner level players “playing up”.

Substitutes must also be included on the team roster and they should be clearly marked in the score-reporting function as a substitute.

If a site has more than one Intermediate/+ team, an Advanced Beginner player is restricted to playing for just one of those teams.

Match Information:

Match Lineup: Captains will exchange their PickleballZone.com line-ups 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.

Inability to Field Players: If a team cannot field the required number of players for the match, the lowest court (i.e. court 3) will be defaulted. Contact the opposing team captain if you are unable to fill all positions. Having insufficient players is not a valid reason to reschedule.

Start Time and Warm-up: At the assigned start time, each captain or other designated individual from each team will introduce their players, and direct players to assigned courts. There will be a warm up period, followed by play to start ten minutes after the assigned start time of the match.

Default: Match default time is 15 minutes after scheduled time for match play to start (not warm-up), 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. Defaulted matches are recorded as 0-0, 0-0 matches in the score-reporting system.

Coaching:

Most clubs will not be sending pros to pickleball matches so this is unlikely to be an issue. If there is coaching, please keep it brief and respectful. Play should not be delayed by coaching comments.

Costs:

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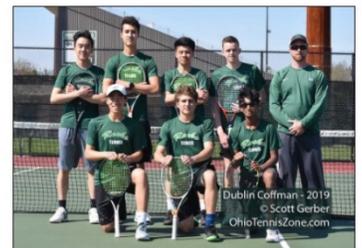
DUBLIN JEROME vs. DUBLIN COFFMAN - Mar 5, 2021

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TEAM	Dublin Jerome		TEAM	Dublin Coffman				
HEAD COACH	Ken Berlin		HEAD COACH	Brett Hundertpfund				
SCORE			SCORE					
SINGLES:		WON	LOST TO	DNF	SET 1	SET 2	SET 3	OPPONENTS:
1) Max Fickas (11)		○	○	○	-	-	-	1)
2) Anish Patel		○	○	○	-	-	-	2)
3) Christopher Knight		○	○	○	-	-	-	3)
DOUBLES:		WON	LOST TO	DNF	SET 1	SET 2	SET 3	OPPONENTS:
3) Andrew Dvorkin		○	○	○	-	-	-	1)
3) Stanley Cao								
3) Kevin Liu (11)		○	○	○	-	-	-	2)
3) Tanish Pairu (11)								



Dublin Jerome Boys Tennis Team



Dublin Coffman Boys Tennis Team

Dublin Jerome Roster - Stanley Cao (Recent Grad - 2020), Andrew Dvorkin (Recent Grad - 2020), Max Fickas (Junior - 2022), Christopher Knight (Recent Grad - 2020), Kevin Liu (Junior - 2022), Sahil Madan (Recent Grad - 2020), Tanish Pairu (Junior - 2022), Anish Patel (Recent Grad - 2020)

The cost per player charged by PickleballZone.com is \$25/player or \$40/couple. Players are encouraged not to marry simply to obtain the \$10 discount.. Clubs may charge other fees associated with the league.

Advanced Beginner level players who substitute on an Intermediate/+ level are not charged for playing on that team. They are limited to three times as a substitute and they cannot play for that team if that team reaches the playoffs.

Results Reporting and Verification:

The captain or other designated individual from each host team will post the match results by 10pm on the same day of the match via the PickleballZone.com score-reporting software. These results will be shared with players early the following morning. If the opposing team identifies any inconsistencies in the score results, they need to email info@pickleballzone.com by 5:00pm the following day, but should first try to contact the host team captain to attempt to clarify the score or issue.

Grievances / Conflict Resolution:

Any conflicts between teams should first try to be addressed by the team captains and or club representatives. If the issue cannot be addressed under the current rules, then this issue can be escalated to the PickleballZone.com board where it will be reviewed with two representatives from clubs not associated with the issue in question. Any issues should be sent via email to info@pickleballzone.com.

Facility Requirements:

All participating facilities must have courts available for home matches. League approval is required for exceptions to this rule. If a facility has more league teams than courts available per home match time slot, they must provide stagger play times or an alternate home match time.

Every effort will be made by PickleballZone.com to insure that those with just two courts have just one home match on the same day (just as it has been done for the platform tennis league with Brookside, New Albany, and Swim & Racquet – each with two courts).

Some facilities use their platform tennis for pickleball. Those courts may not be used for league play.

Inclement Weather:

In case of rain, both captains need to agree on a rain out decision. Make-ups should be done within two weeks if at all possible, but definitely by the end of the season. If the match has started and rain occurs, the original lineup must be used. Any court that cannot be played with the same players will be recorded as a default. 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. Make-up matches are to be held at the host location, or other location as agreed to by both captains.

Please abide by all facility rules when lightning is suspected. If there are no facility rules, the Ohio High School Athletic Association rules on lightning are as follows:

- Evacuation – If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- Thirty-minute rule – Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice of competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. Any

subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.

Playoff:

There will be a league playoff for the top teams on August 8. Players must compete two times in order to be eligible to play in the playoffs. (Defaulted matches do not count toward this total.) The playoffs will be hosted by the higher ranked team. No substitutes can participate in the playoff. More information will be posted about playoffs as the number of teams are determined.

Gender-Based Teams:

Offering coed teams is believed to be the best way to get the league started, but gender-based teams certainly make sense in the future as do age-based teams (i.e. Gold, Silver). Please feel free to share your thoughts with your captain and PickleballZone.com.

Photos:

Photos will play an important role in making the league more social. PickleballZone.com plans to travel to facilities to take numerous team photos, but is unlikely to get photos of all of the teams. For those teams without photos, captains will need to take team photos prior to June 1 and identify the players in the photo. For more information on how to take a high-quality cell phone team photo, please refer to the following link:

https://ohiotenniszone.com/how_to_team_photos