



# SUMMER PICKLEBALL TRAVEL LEAGUE RULES

Provided by PickleballZone.com

Update Date: May 16, 2023

The goal of the league 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 to more competitive play. If the need arises, there may be rule changes, so always refer to the date at the top of this document. Captains will be notified via email of rule changes.

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 is currently 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.

## 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.

## Match Scoring:

Each club will field three doubles courts per team for each match, although exhibition matches are encouraged if players and courts are available. Exhibition match results are not recorded in the system.

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.

The league rankings will be based on the Match Winning Percentage of each team. If two teams have the same Match Winning Percentage, then the team that won the head-to-head matchup will be ranked higher. If each team had a win, the match scores will be compared (i.e. 2-1), followed by the total number of games won, and then followed by the total number of points won.

### League Matches Won / Lost

Team	Matches Won / Lost	Match Winning %
<a href="#">Lakes-KK Coed Level-1</a>	6 / 1	86%
<a href="#">Wedgewood Coed Level-1</a>	6 / 2	75%
<a href="#">Kinsale-TJ Coed Level-1</a>	4 / 3	57%
<a href="#">Worthington Hills Coed Level-1</a>	4 / 3	57%
<a href="#">Lakes-MJ Coed Level-1</a>	3 / 3	50%
<a href="#">TCC at Muirfield Village-KL Coed Level-1</a>	3 / 3	50%
<a href="#">Brookside Coed Level-1</a>	2 / 5	29%
<a href="#">Kinsale-JH Coed Level-1</a>	2 / 5	29%
<a href="#">New Albany Coed Level-1</a>	1 / 6	14%

## Teams:

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

- 1) Level 1 (2.5 – 3.3)
- 2) Level 2 (3.4 – 3.9)
- 3) Level 3 (4.0+)

Level 1 players need to understand the rules and execute basic strategy. To determine skill level, some clubs may offer a ranking clinic. Players with ratings from 3.4-3.9 will be in the Level 2 group. Level 3 is for the higher skilled players with a rating of 4.0 and above. 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 any level. There is no requirement to have a Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 team. A club may have more than one team in any skill level.

A player must be old enough to 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 and forward them to PickleballZone.com via email at [PickleballZoneHelp@gmail.com](mailto:PickleballZoneHelp@gmail.com) or hardcopy. A picture or scan of the signed waiver form is acceptable.

## 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. 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 and time of play.

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

Date Played	Opponent	% Points Won By Court	Result
Sun, Jun 6	<a href="#">Brookside Coed Level-2</a>		W, 2-1
<b>Court 1</b>	<b>Court 2</b>	<b>Court 3</b>	
T.Puleri-W.Poll	D.Fishman-J.Fishman	R.Feibel-S.Puleri	
44%	67%	55%	
14-16, 15-12, 15-6	15-5, 15-10	15-13, 15-12	
D.Watson-K.Close	K.Brooks-S.Levine	J.Brooks-L.Teteris	
Sun, Jun 13	<a href="#">Scarborough Coed Level-2</a>		L, 1-2
<b>Court 1</b>	<b>Court 2</b>	<b>Court 3</b>	
J.Tennenbaum-K.Friedman	W.Poll-S.Friedman	S.Puleri-T.Puleri	
50%	49%	60%	
15-13, 11-15, 15-13	15-11, 9-15, 15-12	15-10, 15-10	
A.MalloyMcCoy-H.Chang	H.Matthews-M.Venkataraman	M.Levin-T.Freeman	
Sun, Jun 27	<a href="#">Kinsale Coed Level-2</a>		W, 3-0
<b>Court 1</b>	<b>Court 2</b>	<b>Court 3</b>	
J.Tennenbaum-G.Hough	J.Duebel-D.Fishman	K.Friedman-J.Fishman	
77%	65%	77%	
15-7, 15-2	15-10, 15-6	15-1, 15-8	
Y.Maseck-D.Hayes	P.Johnson-C.Svec	C.Richardson-H.Schumm	

## **Game Rules:**

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/docs/ifp/USAPA-Rulebook.pdf>

## **Game Rule Highlights:**

Selection of End, Serve, Receive, or Defer: Any fair method shall be used to determine which team has first choice of end, serve, receive, or defer (e.g., a 1 or 2 written on the back of the line-up sheet, flipping a coin). If the winner chooses to serve or receive first, the loser chooses the starting end. If the winner chooses the starting end, the loser chooses to serve or receive. Once a selection has been made, it cannot be changed.

Teams may change the starting server between games.

Change of Ends: Teams switch ends upon the completion of each game. If the match goes to three games, the teams will switch ends when the first team reaches eight (for a 15 point game). The player locations and the server remains the same after the switch.

Time Between Games and Time-outs: Play should be continuous, although players are permitted to quickly towel off or take a drink between rallies, as long as the flow of the game is not adversely impacted. A team is entitled to two time-outs per game, of up to one minute each. The standard time break between games is two minutes. We understand that some play will take place during the hottest part of the day, please be reasonable in allowing more time for breaks as needed.

## **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 via an email at [pickleballzonehelp@gmail.com](mailto:pickleballzonehelp@gmail.com). The goal is to not have any court defaults.

There may be cases in which a player clearly does not have adequate skills to participate on the Level 2 team. After consulting with the PickleballZone.com board, that player might be moved down to that club's Level 1 team. This will not change any previous scores.

## **Team Substitutions:**

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

Level 1 and Level 2 players may "play up" as a substitute for another team at their club to avoid a default at the next higher level team. This will NOT be considered a default and the team will receive points as appropriate for any wins. When playing up the substitute would normally be placed on a lower level court, but that will also depend on the skill level of his/her partner.

A Level 2 or Level 3 player may not "play down" on a Level 1 or Level 2 team respectively. If that were to happen, that court and any underlying courts would be defaulted.

If a club should have more than one team at the same level, individuals may substitute on only one team for the entire season. Each lower level team player is limited to three times as a substitute and they cannot play for that team if that team reaches the playoffs. If a club should have more than one team at the same level, the player may substitute on only one team of the same level for the entire season.

Example:

Team ZZZ has the following teams: ZZZ Level 1, ZZZ Level 2-AB, ZZZ Level 2-CD, and Level 3. A player on the ZZZ Level 1 team, can sub on the Level 2-CD team up to three time during the season, but then cannot sub on the Level 2-AB team. The player is not eligible to play on the Level 2-CD playoffs.

If a club has more than one team at a specific level, they cannot substitute between their same level teams. If they did play to allow more individuals to participate, they would need to play on court 3 and it would be a default.

Each team should have between 12-15 players. Level 2 or Level 3 teams may have less players because of the potential of team players "playing up".

Substitutes must be included on one of the team roster's for the club. When playing up a level for a match the scores will be reported and they should be clearly marked in the score-reporting function as a substitute.



**PICKLEBALLZONE.COM**

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HOME	PART. CLUBS/SITES	TEAM LOOKUP	RESULTS   INFO	CAPTAIN'S TOOLS	PHOTOS	ABOUT PBZ
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### Step 5 of 7 - PickleballZone Score Sheet: ZZZ Test Team Coed Level-2

Match Date: June 4, 2023

Save Changes and Proceed to Printable Page

Team	ZZZ Test Team Coed Level-2	Opponent	Worthington Hills Coed Level-2
Captain	Lauren Gerber	Captain	Patti Price

[Click for help](#)

**NOTE:** Always enter the winning scores, for example, **15-12, 15-8**, not **12-15, 8-15**. A 3-set score would be 15-11, 12-15, 15-9.

Doubles:	Won	Lost To	DNF	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Opponents
1) Gerber, Kathy Nohat, Scooter	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	15-6	15-9	Set 3	1) Herrel, Grant Herrel, Annie
2) Krush, Kyle Gerber, Lauren	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	15-10	15-17	15-9	2) Price, Patti Price, Sid
3) Nohat, Scooter Gerber, Zoey Smith, John	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	15-3	15-9	Set 3	3) Heil, Pam Carter, Pat
<b>MATCH COMMENTS</b> (To be viewed by others):	John Smith played up from ZZZ Test Team Level 1 / Pat Carter played up from WHCC Level 1						

Enter scores from a winner's perspective, even if it is a loss.

Type in player's name if they are not on your roster or the opponent's roster.  
Include comments about the match. These will be seen by others.

### Exhibition Matches:

Teams are encouraged to play exhibition matches when extra players and extra courts are available. Exhibition matches do not count as an official league match and are just for fun, but they may still be helpful for a captain to better determine player skill levels. The results are not reported into the PickleballZone.com system.

In addition, the league is experimenting with allowing younger players to participate in exhibition matches with their parents as long as the players are 13 years or older. The junior players' skill levels should be similar to other players on the parents' teams. When scheduling an exhibition match that includes a junior player, always make sure that the opposing captain is aware of this and is comfortable with this. If the opposing captain does not wish to play against a junior player, then the junior player cannot participate.

**Match Information:**

Match Lineup: Captains will exchange their PickleballZone.com line-ups simultaneously, **prior** to the beginning of the team match. This is facilitated by entering line-ups using the Captain's Tools on PickleballZone.com. It is recommended that both teams complete and bring two copies of their lineup to each match to exchange with the other captain. 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.

**Costs:**

The cost per player charged by PickleballZone.com is \$25/player. Clubs may charge other fees associated with the league. Fees will be collected by the club and forwarded to PickleballZone.com.

Level 1 or Level 2 players who play up on their Level 2 or Level 3 team are not charged any additional fee.

Match Preparation Kit for: Worthington Hills Coed Level-2

**WORTHINGTON HILLS COED LEVEL-2 vs.** [Go to PickleballZone - Home](#)  
 - Jun 5, 2022

TEAM	Worthington Hills Coed Level-2			TEAM				
CAPTAIN	Patti Price			CAPTAIN				
SCORE				SCORE				
<b>DOUBLES:</b>								<b>OPPONENTS:</b>
	WON	LOST TO	DNF	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3		
1) Angie Herrel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	-	-	-	1)	
1) Grant Herrel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	-	-	-	1)	
2) Patti Price	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	-	-	-	2)	
2) Sid Price	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				2)	
3) Mary Riddle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	-	-	-	3)	
3) Pam Heil	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				3)	



**Worthington Hills Coed Level-2 Roster** - Kristi Brown, John Folk, Scott Gerber, Pam Heil, Grant Herrel, Angie Herrel, Andy Lewis, Kevin Lickman, Patti Price, Sid Price, Mary Riddle, Cindy Ziegler.

**MATCH COMMENTS:**

Member is logged in as: kathygerber@cs.com - Access level is: xcoach + all

## **Results Reporting and Verification:**

The captain or a designated individual from the host team will post the match results by 8:30pm 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 [pickleballzonehelp@gmail.com](mailto:pickleballzonehelp@gmail.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.

If play will not be completed as scheduled, the host captain will send an email to [pickleballzonehelp@gmail.com](mailto:pickleballzonehelp@gmail.com) by 8:30pm the day of the originally scheduled match to notify league administrators and provide status of when the match will be rescheduled.

## **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 [pickleballzonehelp@gmail.com](mailto:pickleballzonehelp@gmail.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 reduce the occurrence of having multiple home matches on the same day, but due to the number of teams participating in the league this is unavoidable. Please make sure to review the match schedule and reserve courts accordingly.

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

## **Inclement Weather:**

Both captains need to agree on a rain out decision. On rain dates, matches should take place indoors (Scarborough, Olympic, Elysium, or Groveport Recreation Center). The location will be selected by the host captain. Captains should follow the Procedures for Use of Indoor Facilities posted within the "Captain's Tools" portion of PickleballZone.com. When the weather conditions for a match look questionable, the host captain should contact an indoor club to determine what courts are available. This way, the match could be played on the same date and approximate time in which the players have already committed. The individual players will be responsible for the nominal fees. If the match cannot be played indoors, the host captain will provide the visiting captain with two dates/times that will work for the host team.

Make up matches 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.

### **Playoffs:**

There will be a league playoff for the top teams. Players must compete two times for their team 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. For more information on league rankings, refer to the Match Scoring section above.

The large number of teams at each level caused there to be multiple divisions for Level 1 and Level 2 teams and one for the Level 3 teams. The monikers, West, East and North, were used as division names for various levels even though many of the teams do not fall geographically into this description. Since the strength of each division is unknown and likely to be unequal, simply having the best teams in each division may not be the best way to select teams for the play-offs. Instead, the top two teams in each division are included in the playoffs for their level. The playoffs will take place in back-to-back matches at the same time and date.

For example, the West's Team A and Team B have a Match Winning Percentage of 75% and 65%, respectively. The East's Team C and Team D are the best two teams and their Match Winning Percentages are 80% and 60%, respectively. Team A will play Team D in the first round and the winner of that match will play against the winner of Team C and Team B for the championship. Regular scoring will be used and the championship and the third and fourth place matches will take place 30 minutes after the last semi-final match is completed (or as agreed to by both teams).

For divisions that have three groups (i.e. Level 1 has West, East, and North), the two teams with the highest Match Winning Percentage will have a bye in the first round of the playoffs and the remaining four teams will play. The two highest Match Winning Percentage teams will then face the winners of the first round.

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Please refer to the tiebreak considerations below if the Match Winning Percentages are the same for two or more teams.

If two teams have the same Match Winning Percentage, then the team that won the head-to-head matchup will be ranked higher. If each team had a win, the match scores will be compared (i.e. 2-1), followed by the total number of points won. These comparisons will be done between the two teams.

If three or more teams have the same Match Winning Percentage, then head-to-head comparisons will be made and the team that won the head-to-head matchups will be ranked higher. If each team had a win, the match scores will be compared (i.e. 2-1), followed by the total number of points won. Again, these

comparisons will only be done among the teams that are tied. If there is still some combination of ties that are not included in these rules, the PickleballZone board will determine the play-off contestants.

During the playoffs, it may be necessary to stop play as soon as a match is clinched (i.e. two courts have won) to insure that the playoffs finish in a timely manner.

### **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 as soon as practical 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](https://ohiotenniszone.com/how_to_team_photos)