



VSL Pickleball League Rules & Guidelines

Captains: Please read these rules in full and make sure all team members understand the rules and expectations before participating.

Event Information

- All matches will be played at The Sandy Pickle.
- Address: 5683 Village Glen Dr, Dallas, TX 75206.
- League play is scheduled from 7:00 PM-11:00 PM.
- Each team is guaranteed 2 matches per league night.
- Teams will be scheduled in groups of four and will play back-to-back matches against different opponents.
- Matches are self-officiated and self-scored.
- Team managers/captains are responsible for reporting final match scores.

League Nights & Divisions

Monday - Recreational Doubles

The Recreational division is intended for newer and casual pickleball players who want organized competition in a social, lower-pressure environment.

- Players may still be learning consistent serves, returns, dinks, volleys, court positioning, and scoring.
- Rallies may include more unforced errors, and players are not expected to use advanced strategy consistently.
- Players should understand the basic rules of pickleball and be able to keep a rally going at a recreational level.
- This division is a good fit for beginners, developing players, and casual players who prioritize fun and improvement over high-level competition.

Wednesday - Intermediate Doubles

The Intermediate division is intended for players who already have a solid understanding of pickleball fundamentals and are comfortable playing organized doubles.

- Players should be able to serve and return consistently and sustain rallies with reasonable control.
- Players should understand dinking, volleying, the non-volley zone (kitchen), doubles positioning, and basic partner strategy.
- Players will generally attempt to place shots intentionally rather than simply returning the ball over the net.
- Players should be comfortable with faster rallies, controlled drives, resets, and moving together with a partner.
- This division is best for experienced recreational players who are ready for a more competitive and strategic level of play.

Governing Rules

Current USA Pickleball rules will govern play except where specifically modified by VSPORTS league rules and guidelines. If a VSPORTS rule conflicts with the USA Pickleball rulebook, the VSPORTS league rule will take precedence. A copy of the USA Pickleball rules will be available for players to reference for technical playing rules, including serving, faults, the non-volley zone, line calls, and other situations not specifically addressed in this document.

Team Format

- League matches are played as doubles (2v2).
- Teams are responsible for maintaining an eligible roster and having enough players available for their scheduled matches.
- Only eligible registered players and approved substitutes may participate.
- Players should compete in the division that most accurately reflects their current ability and experience. VSPORTS reserves the right to address significant division-placement issues when necessary to preserve competitive balance.

Nightly Match Format

- Each team is guaranteed 2 matches per league night.
- Four teams will be assigned to the same scheduling block.
- Teams will play two back-to-back matches against two different opponents within that block.
- Teams should arrive early enough to check in, warm up, and be ready to begin at their scheduled start time.
- Because matches are scheduled back-to-back, teams are expected to keep play moving and transition promptly between opponents.

Match Scoring

- Matches are played best 2 out of 3 games.
- Games 1 and 2 are played to 11 points.
- If the match is tied 1-1, the deciding third game is played to 7 points.
- Players are responsible for knowing the applicable USA Pickleball scoring and serving rules.
- Any league-specific scoring or time-limit adjustments communicated by VSPORTS staff will take precedence.

Self-Officiating & Line Calls

No referees will be assigned to regular league matches. Players are expected to officiate themselves honestly, respectfully, and in accordance with USA Pickleball rules.

- Players are responsible for making calls on their own side of the court.
- Players should only call a ball out when they clearly see space between the ball and the line.
- When there is genuine uncertainty, players should resolve the situation respectfully and follow the applicable USA Pickleball rule.
- Repeated arguing, intentionally dishonest calls, or attempts to intimidate opponents may be treated as unsportsmanlike conduct.

Score Reporting

- Team managers/captains are responsible for submitting the results of both matches after play.
- Scores should be entered accurately and promptly.
- Teams should confirm the final score with their opponent before leaving the court.
- Standings and playoff qualification will be based on officially reported league results.

Substitutions & Roster Eligibility

- Substitutes may only be used in accordance with VSPORTS roster and substitute policies.
 - Registered roster players take priority over substitutes when available.
 - Teams may not use substitutes or ineligible players to create an unfair competitive advantage.
 - Playoff participation may be subject to additional roster-eligibility requirements communicated by VSPORTS staff.
- Use of an ineligible player may result in a match forfeiture or additional league discipline.

Forfeits & Late Arrivals

- Teams are expected to be ready to play at their scheduled start time.
- Because each scheduling block contains multiple teams and back-to-back matches, late arrivals can affect the entire block.
- Teams that cannot field an eligible doubles team may be required to forfeit the affected match.
- VSPORTS staff may establish or enforce a grace period when appropriate, but teams should not assume additional court time will be added because of a late arrival.
- Repeated forfeits or no-shows may result in additional league action.

Playoffs

- Playoff qualification will be determined by regular-season standings.
- Playoffs will use a single-elimination format unless otherwise communicated by VSPORTS staff.
- Teams must meet all roster and player-eligibility requirements to participate in the playoffs.
- VSPORTS staff will communicate playoff schedules, seeding, and any postseason-specific match procedures before the playoffs begin.

Sportsmanship & Code of Conduct

VSPORTS leagues are intended to provide a fun, competitive, and respectful environment. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.

- Treat opponents, partners, spectators, and VSPORTS staff with respect.
- Abusive, threatening, insulting, or discriminatory language is prohibited.
- Excessive arguing, intimidation, deliberate cheating, fighting, or threatening behavior may result in removal from play.
- Depending on the severity of an incident, VSPORTS staff may issue a warning, match removal, suspension, or season-long removal without a prior warning.
- All disciplinary decisions are subject to review by VSPORTS staff.

General League Expectations

- Know the basic USA Pickleball rules before participating.
- Arrive on time and be prepared to begin immediately.
- Keep matches moving so all teams receive their scheduled court time.
- Make honest calls and resolve disagreements respectfully.

- Report scores promptly after your matches.
- Compete hard, be a good partner and opponent, and help maintain a positive league environment.