

# 8-Team COED Recreational Pickleball Tournament Rules

## Player Eligibility

- Each team must consist of one male and one female, both being at least 18 years of age.
- All players must print and sign their signature on the liability waiver when checking in.
- No substitutions are allowed after the tournament starts unless approved by the tournament director for injury or emergency.

## Sportsmanship Rules

Players are expected to:

- Treat opponents, partners, volunteers, and spectators respectfully.
- Avoid abusive language, unsportsmanlike conduct, or intentional distractions.
- Accept referee or tournament director's rulings.

Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in:

1. Warning
2. Point penalty
3. Match forfeiture
4. Tournament disqualification

## Equipment

- USA Pickleball-approved paddles are recommended.
- Tournament balls will be provided.
- Players are responsible for wearing appropriate athletic footwear.

## Tournament Format

- 8 teams total
- Teams are split into:
  - Pool A: 4 teams
  - Pool B: 4 teams
- Each team plays every team in its pool once (3 guaranteed games)
- Top 2 teams from each pool advance to the playoffs
  - If teams are tied in pool standings, head-to-head result is the tiebreaker
- Matches are played on designated courts assigned by tournament staff.
- Tournament director's decisions are final.

## Match Format

### Pool Play

- Games played to 11.
- Win by 2.
- Rally scoring is **not** used; only the serving team can score points.
- There is no score cap.
- One timeout per team per game (1 minute).

### Playoffs

- Playoff Seeding
  - A1 vs B2
  - B1 vs A2
  - Winners advance to the championship
- Semifinals and Championship:

- Best 2 out of 3 games
- Games to 11, win by 2
- Third game (if needed) - switch sides at 6

### **Sample Schedule**

#### **Pool A**

- Team 1 vs Team 2
- Team 3 vs Team 4
- Team 1 vs Team 3
- Team 2 vs Team 4
- Team 1 vs Team 4
- Team 2 vs Team 3

#### **Pool B**

(same format)

#### **Playoffs**

- Semifinal 1
- Semifinal 2
- Championship

#### **Line Calls**

- Players make their own line calls.
- If partners disagree on a call, the ball is considered in.

#### **Serving Rules**

- Standard USA Pickleball serving rules apply.
- Serves must be made underhand with the paddle contacting the ball **clearly** below the waist.
- The serve must **clearly** be in an upward motion.
- The serve must land beyond the non-volley zone (kitchen) and into the correct service court.
- The two-bounce rule applies on every point.

#### **Pace-of-Play Rule**

- Teams must be ready within 2 minutes of previous game ending
- Warmups limited to 3 minutes

#### **Weather Policy**

- Outdoor play may be delayed, suspended, or modified due to weather conditions.
- The tournament director may shorten matches or adjust the schedule if necessary.