



ATLANTA TEAM PICKLEBALL

LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS FALL 2024

THESE RULES MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL LEAGUE MATCHES

USTA Atlanta presents The ATLANTA TEAM PICKLEBALL League.

- All players participating in the Atlanta Team Pickleball League, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide and be bound by the Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Orders; the National, Sectional District, and Local League Regulations and the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. Furthermore, all participants agree to follow the Atlanta Team Pickleball rules for fair play and sportsmanship for all players.

- The Dynamic Universal Atlanta Team Pickleball Rating (DUPR) is the official system to determine computer ratings for players participating in the Atlanta Team Pickleball League.

- **Match Time (formerly Tennis Point) is the official system for registering teams, reporting scores, and providing standings.**

- The Atlanta Team Pickleball Coordinator is the person who implements and administers the Atlanta Team Pickleball League. The ATPB Coordinator reserves the right to make changes during the season.

- It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member read and understand Atlanta Team Pickleball League's Rules & Regulations before league competition starts.

SECTION I. ELIGIBILITY

1) TEAMS

A. A minimum of four (4) players on the team roster for same-gender competition is required.

B. Teams must play out of facilities within the geographic boundaries of, namely Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Douglas, Gwinnett, and Paulding (east of Highway 61) counties. Teams whose facility resides near the boundaries and have received special permission to play in the leagues will also be permitted (contact the league coordinator).

NOTE: The Atlanta Team Pickleball Coordinator reserves the right to combine divisions to improve drive times and the level of play.

2) DIVISIONS OF PLAY

The 2024 ATPB Fall League will have the following divisions of play for the men's and women's teams

- a) M18+ 3.0 & W18+ 3.0
- b) M18+ 3.5 & W18+ 3.5



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Players competing in each division must have a MAXIMUM DUPR rating of the following:

- 3.0 Division → 3.49
- 3.5 Division → 3.99

NOTE: If a player has 5 matches or less in the DUPR rating system, this is NOT considered part of their average. These players can go by a Captain's Rating. The player is required to discuss their rating to be entered with the captain. The player will enter the agreed-upon rating as a "Captain's Rating". The "Captain's Rating" should reflect that player's skill as accurately as possible.

Ratings will be calculated using only the first decimal point from the rating system. For example: A player with a 4.49 rating will be entered as a 4.4-rated player. Averages will be determined using only the first decimal from each rating system. For the 2024 competition year, there is no MINIMUM rating a player must have to roster on a team, although it is highly recommended that players be no more than 0.5 lower than the listed rating for that division of play.

3) PLAYERS

A. All players must use their current DUPR rating when registering. If they do not have one, they may register using the national DUPR guidelines. <https://mydupr.com/>

Failure to provide accurate information will subject the player and/or the captain to sanctions and disqualifications.

After joining DUPR each player needs to select USTA Atlanta Club on DUPR.

B. Players must play at or above their DUPR rating. ALL League participants' DUPR ratings will be frozen as of the FIRST DAY OF REGISTRATION.

C. All players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in their first league match.

D. Eligible players may be added to a roster before the team match starts. In the event of matches rescheduled due to inclement weather, a player can be added prior to their participation in a match.



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E. After the initial registration period ends, players may be added to a roster until 11:59 p.m. the day before the last scheduled match of the regular season. NOTE: players who are added to the roster after the registration period will be subject to their current DUPR rating as of the day they are added to the roster.

3) COURTS, BALLS, PADDLES, AND ATTIRE

A. COURTS AND FACILITIES. Each team must guarantee the use of TWO (2) hard outdoor courts. Indoor venues are acceptable provided they use typical hard outdoor court surfaces. Atlanta Team Pickleball courts for match play must be at an approved facility (Match Time or other acceptable PB entity). For facility approval contact your PB League Coordinator. Courts must be available simultaneously with light (for evening matches) from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

NOTE: Atlanta Team Pickleball strongly encourages home courts to have dedicated pickleball nets. Tennis nets will be allowed ONLY at the discretion of the pickleball coordinator.

B. BALLS. Balls used must be USA Pickleball-approved outdoor or indoor balls in accordance with the facility. Balls, either new or in good condition, with an enhanced color for visibility such as “optic yellow” or “neon”. Pink and Orange color is NOT permitted. The team listed as the home team is required to supply the balls. It is recommended that at least three (2) balls be available for each line. The same make, model, and color ball MUST be used for ALL lines played in the match.

C. PADDLES. Paddles must be USA Pickleball approved for tournament play.

D. There is NO restriction regarding the color of clothing a player may wear.

SECTION II. TEAM CAPTAINS' DUTIES

1) Captains must have a current email address to receive league information throughout the season.

2) PREPARING LINEUPS

A. Any player may play any position at any time throughout the regular season. For a player to be eligible to progress to the playoffs, that player must have played at least twice during the regular season in the team that qualified. i.e. from the first match through the final regular season scheduled match. Receiving a default can only count as one of the matches played.

B. If it is discovered that a player(s) is on the wrong court in an individual match before the first game of all matches affected has been completed, players are to go to the correct courts and begin the matches over. If the discovery occurs after the first game is completed, the matches will be completed as started and count as matches played in good faith.



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3) SCHEDULING MATCHES

A. The home team captain should contact the visiting team captain at least three days before a scheduled match to provide information and arrange for it. If the captain listed on the schedule will not be present at the match, they should notify the opposing captain as to who will be acting as their team representative and give the opposing captain the phone number of that person. (We do not allow a team to rotate captains on a weekly basis).

B. Match ball brand to be used; As a courtesy to other teams, the home team captain should inform the opposing team captain of what brand of ball will be used. e.g., Selkirk, Franklin, Core etc.

C. Both Doubles Lines are to start at 7:00 PM.

D. Two courts are needed to complete the matches.

E. With the agreement of BOTH captains, and with the certainty of court availability:

-The team match or individual match may be changed to an earlier or later start time on the same scheduled day.

-The team match or individual match may be changed to an earlier day and time during the regular season schedule.

F. For any changes in a team or individual match start time/day or any playing order changes that deviate from the default order to be official, BOTH captains must agree in writing regarding the rescheduled date and time. ATPB suggests that once both captains have agreed in writing on an "official" rescheduled date and time for the match, they notify the pickleball coordinator via email.

G. If a team knowingly begins a team match, including a match rescheduled for inclement weather, without a full complement of players for the lineup, they must default from the last matches. For example, a team with only 1 line available would default Women's Doubles Line 2 (women's division)/ Men's Doubles Line 2 (men's division).

4) OTHER CAPTAIN AND PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- **SCORE REPORTING**: The home team captain must report the score within 48 hours. After the score is posted, the visiting team captain will have 48 hours to contest the score. The score will become official if not contested after 48 hours.
- **RECORDS**: All captains are to keep records of all match results until the end of the season in case of discrepancies or disputes.
- **CONDUCT**: Captains and players are to monitor behavior to ensure conduct is in accordance with the USA Pickleball Code of Conduct.
- **RULES**: Captains and players are to read and understand the Atlanta Team Pickleball rules and regulations.



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- **DISPUTES**: Players involved in a dispute during a match that can't be resolved on the court can declare that the match is being played under protest and must continue the match to its conclusion.
- **GRIEVANCES**: A captain may file a formal grievance for a Rule/Sportsmanship/Code of Conduct issue with the Pickleball Coordinator via email at pickleball@ustaatlanta.com.
- The Pickleball Coordinator's decision on all matters, grievances, and/or concerns is FINAL.

5) MATCH PLAY

A. To start a team match, complete written lineups must be simultaneously exchanged. The start of the team match may be delayed until written lineups are exchanged.

B. WARM UP COURTS. ATPB does not require facilities to provide warm-up courts before a match is scheduled to begin. Visiting team captains should check with the home team captain before the match to see if warm-up time is available. In any event, teams are allowed a five-minute warm-up after the posted match start time, to be monitored jointly by the team captains.

C. The default time is 15 minutes after each match's scheduled start time. No default may be claimed if a court has not become available. If players agree to play the match after the default time, the match result stands. No default may be claimed after the fact. Any player who arrives after the scheduled start time but before the 15-minute default time expires will be allowed a warm-up not to exceed five minutes after it expires.

D. Once the teams exchange lineups no movement of players is allowed. EXCEPT MATCHES RESCHEDULED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER, NEVER MOVE PLAYERS ALREADY LISTED ON THE LINEUP TO ANOTHER POSITION. Points may be reversed for violation of this rule.

E. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must be played to constitute a valid team match. If a situation arises where the majority of the individual matches would not be played (not a "valid" team match), the first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present, or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards.

F. All team matches should be played to completion.

G. If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents.

H. A substitute is defined as a player not listed on the original lineup. A substitute can be used only:

1. If a player or players listed on the original lineup do not arrive within the 15-minute default time



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- 2. If a player is injured or becomes ill before the individual match starts.
- 3. If a match is rescheduled by inclement weather.

6) SCORECARDS

Captains should print a scorecard from MatchTime before each match to use for lineup exchanges. All eligible players will be listed at the bottom of each scorecard; therefore, if you have additions, printing the scorecards before each match will avoid confusion with the opposing team.

- A. Scores must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of a match. The winning captain is responsible for ensuring that scores are entered. Score confirmation or score disputes must be made within 48 hours of score entry. Scores for the last match of the regular season must be entered within 2 hours to confirm winners and develop playoff draws or the match may be double defaulted.
- B. Captains should keep a hard copy of each of their scorecards.

SECTION III. FORMAT OF PLAY AND SCORING

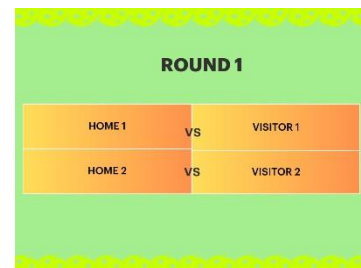
1) FORMAT OF PLAY

A. All team matches will be two (2) rounds of two (2) lines, three (3) games each to 11 (win by 2 points).

Round Robin format (as follows):

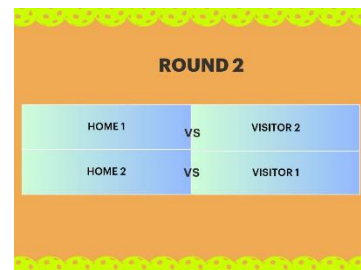
a) Round 1:

- (1) Home Team Line 1 plays Visiting Team Line 1
- (2) Home Team Line 2 plays Visiting Team Line 2



b) Round 2:

- (1) Home Team Line 1 plays Visiting Team Line 2
- (2) Home Team Line 2 plays Visiting Team Line 1



Home teams will STAY on the same courts for each round of play. Visiting teams will SWITCH courts after each round.

B. Defaults and disqualifications shall be scored according to League Regulations.



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- C. The warm-up must be accomplished in a maximum of five (5) minutes, including serves. Do not practice returning serve during warm-up.
- D. Matches will be 3 games played to 11 and win by 2 points (standard side out scoring). A total of 2 matches will be played; There is a 5-minute rest period between round 1 and round 2.
- E. Time Outs: Each team is permitted one 2-minute time out per line played per match.
- F. Coaching IS allowed between games and during timeouts. BUT IS NOT PERMITTED from the sideline during the match.
- G. Cell phones and any device that may receive communication must be turned off during the match. Fitness trackers and smartwatches may be worn during a match. However, if a player suspects an opponent is receiving communications of any kind (other than fitness data) via the fitness tracker or smartwatch, the suspecting player may ask the opponent to remove such fitness tracker or smartwatch and discontinue monitoring of the device during the match.
- H. In the event of a broken or damaged paddle during a match, a player shall have a maximum of three minutes to leave the court to obtain a replacement paddle. This will not count as a team timeout. Violation of this time limit will result in forfeiture of the match.
- I. If the receiving team determines that a serve motion was clearly illegal, the receiving team may opt to call for a REPLAY before the return of the serve in question. If the server continues to use an illegal motion, then a drop-serve must be used.

2) MATCH SCORING

- A. Atlanta Team Pickleball will use the APPL style format for match scoring.
- B. Depending on the result of each individual game played to 11 (win by 2), a team may earn either two (2) points, one (1) point, or zero (0) points towards their overall TEAM score.
 - 2 points = won the game (e.g.: team A won against team B score 11–5)
 - 1 point = lost the game but scored at least 6 points (e.g.: team B lost against team A score 6-11)
 - 0 points = lost the game and scored 5 points or less (e.g.: team B lost against team A score 5–11)
- C. For each TEAM (2 doubles lineups of 4 players), there are 12 games in which 2, 1, or 0 points can be scored. After the 2 rounds are played, team points earned across all 12 games are totaled and the winning TEAM is determined.



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SECTION IV. MATCH REQUIREMENTS

1) COURTS

- Each team must guarantee the use of two (2) pickleball courts.
- Courts should be certified through MatchTime requirements (See MatchTime for court certification requirements).
- Temporary nets ARE permitted.

NOTE: Atlanta Team Pickleball strongly encourages home courts to have dedicated pickleball nets. Tennis nets will be allowed ONLY at the discretion of the pickleball coordinator.

- Indoor or outdoor courts are permitted.
- Any player may deem a court unsafe for play.
- Courts with lights are required for evening league play and **MUST BE AVAILABLE TO STAY ON FROM AT LEAST 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.**

2) COACHING/MATCH COMMUNICATION

A. Coaching IS allowed between games and during timeouts. Spectators (including teammates, coaches, and fans) may not volunteer advice regarding line calls, scoring, or the conduct of a match while the match is in play. They may not offer advice or instruction that is audible, visible, or by electronic device to the players on the court. It is each captain's responsibility to control his or her spectators during match play.

B. Once a match has begun, any communication, including cheering from teammates, coaches, or fans should be understood by all, or it could be considered coaching. A pair on the court may speak to each other in any language; however, they need to be able to communicate with their opponent in a language that everyone understands.

C. NO spectators are allowed on the court during match play.

3) SPECIAL FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. The home team must pay the required court and/or guest fees for visiting team players. This includes indoor fees. In case of a make-up match or rain on the scheduled play day, the visiting team may share the cost, provided it is discussed and agreed to before the visiting team arrives.

B. If the home team facility has special requirements for guests entering their facility, such as: a specific dress code, the signing of a waiver, or requiring the collection of personal information (photo ID, email address, phone number, etc.). Captains must inform the visiting captain in advance.

C. If the home team cannot provide two courts at the home team facility, the visiting team has the first option of supplying courts for the match (if the scheduled visiting team chooses to provide courts for the team match, the visiting team is responsible for all required court/player fees due to facility). If the visiting team is unable to provide courts, the responsibility reverts to



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the home team and must be within a reasonable distance (a few miles). This includes all playoff matches.

D. All matches must be played to completion without interruption. There is no provision for a facility that places a time limit on courts. A visiting team is not required to move to different courts or interrupt play to resume later.

If this occurs, the visiting team has the option to:

- Continue play at their home courts or
- Declare a default against the home team and win the match.

In the event of a facility forcing the match to end due to lights going out or facilities closing (when matches are currently in progress past the 9 p.m. mark), all matches played up until that point will be considered valid matches and stand as completed matches.

SECTION V. INCLEMENT WEATHER

1) Inclement weather is defined as precipitation or severe weather (temperatures below 32 degrees or above 95 degrees) as determined by weather.com for the zip code of the location of the match. Wind chill and heat index are not a factor.

2) A one-hour delay from the agreed-upon start time for the team match is to be always observed for weather conditions to improve. This includes makeup matches. If within one-hour conditions improve or the temperature rises to at least 32 degrees, falls to 95 degrees or below, or winds slow to under 20mph, the match is to begin and all positions are to play.

3) Once inclement weather has caused the start of the match to be delayed by more than one hour from the regularly scheduled time, the match becomes a makeup match and inclement weather rules apply.

4) If the start of a team match is canceled due to inclement weather any defaults awarded in advance may now be played. **5)** In the event inclement weather occurs after the team match has begun, a one-hour wait to resume play is to be observed. If play cannot be continued:

A. Completed individual matches stand as played.

B. Points awarded for defaults given at the time the original written lineup was exchanged are considered completed matches. All players listed on the lineup who are involved in defaults cannot participate in a re-scheduled match.

C. Individual matches in progress must be made up and resumed by the same players at the exact game and point that existed when play was halted.

D. Any player not involved in a previously started match or default can participate in any matches that have not yet begun.



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- 5) In the event the temperature falls below 32 degrees, rises above 95 degrees, or winds exceed 20mph after the team match has begun, individual matches in progress must continue play to completion. Any individual matches that have not started may be delayed for one hour waiting for conditions to improve. If conditions do not improve within one hour, those matches may be rescheduled.
- 6) For matches delayed or rescheduled to play during darkness, the home team facility must have lights. (If the home team cannot provide courts with lights, see Section IV, Rule 3.)
- 7) In case of inclement weather for a team or individual matches whose start time or day had been officially rescheduled use the makeup default time. The exception to this rule is the final match of the season which must then be played at the regularly scheduled date and time.
- 8) Arrangements for make-up matches must be agreed upon within 48 hours of the original match start time or assumed rescheduled for the makeup default time.
- 9) Once a time, day, and location for the makeup match has been agreed upon by the parties involved in writing, that match **MAY NOT BE CANCELLED**, for any reason other than inclement weather.

SECTION VI. PLAYOFFS & CITY FINALS

- 1) A division winner is the team that has won the most team points at the end of the regular season competition in its division. In the event of a tie for the division winner and/or a tie for second and third-place positions, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following methods:
 - a. Winner of the most individual matches
 - b. Head-to-head winner
 - c. Loser of the fewest games
- 2) For teams that qualify for the playoff bracket in their respective division level, the playoff matches will begin on or around October 15 (women's division) and October 17 (men's division) at 7:00 PM. Playoff draws will be seeded. Playoffs will be held at the higher-seeded teams' home courts.
- 3) City Finals will be held on or around Saturday, November 9, 2024. More information about the location and time of City Finals will be released later in the season.
- 4) For a player to be eligible to progress to the local playoffs, that player must have played at least twice during the regular season of the team qualified, i.e. from the first match through the final regular season scheduled match. Receiving a default can only count as one of the matches played.



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5) For teams that qualify for the playoff bracket in their respective division level, the playoff matches will begin on or around October 15 (women's division) and October 17 (men's division) at 7:00 PM. Playoff draws will be seeded. Playoffs will be held at the higher-seeded teams' home courts.

6) City Finals will be held on or around Saturday, November 9, 2024. More information about the location and time of City Finals will be released later in the season.

7) For a player to be eligible to progress to the local playoffs, that player must have played at least twice during the regular season of the team qualified, i.e. from the first match through the final regular season scheduled match. Receiving a default can only count as one of the matches played.

NOTE: The Atlanta Team Pickleball Coordinator reserves the right to make any changes to playoff and city finals format and seeding, as well as advancement opportunities and tournaments.

Section VII: PB RULES

The Serve Rule

- On the serve, the ball MUST go diagonally across the net and land beyond the kitchen line. If the ball bounces ON the kitchen line or inside the kitchen area, the serve is considered FAULT.
- A player can only score points when they are serving.
 - A player gets ONLY one (1) opportunity to serve.
- The first server will ALWAYS start on the right box of the pickleball court at the score of 0-0.
- As long as the server holds serve, after each point, the server will alternate serving from the right/even and left/odd sides of the court.
- Both players on a team will serve until a side out is declared. A SIDE OUT means that the opposing team now gets a chance to start serving and scoring points.
- At the start of each side out, service begins in the right/even serving area.
- After each side out, service begins with the player correctly positioned on the right/even side of the court according to the team's score. This player is referred to as the "First Server" and the partner is the "Second Server." The First Server will serve, alternating service sides after each point is won, until a rally is lost or the server's team commits a fault. After the First Server's team loses a rally or faults, the Second Server will serve from the correct position and will alternate serving positions as long as the serving team continues to win points.

The Two Bounce Rule

- In pickleball, each player MUST let the ball bounce once on their side before they can hit the ball out of the air/volley. In other words, the receiver must let the ball bounce once as well as the server must let the ball bounce once before hitting the ball out of the air/volley.

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The Kitchen/Non-Volley Zone Rules

- If a player hits the ball out of the air, their feet CAN NOT touch the kitchen line or be inside the kitchen area. If a player hits the ball out of the air and the momentum carries the player into the kitchen even if the point is over, that shot is called FAULT.
- If the ball bounces into the kitchen, the player is allowed to step into the kitchen and hit that ball.

Section VIII: CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of the Atlanta Team Pickleball, I agree to uphold the following principles of conduct:

- I will play by the rules of pickleball and demonstrate honesty and integrity in all my actions on and off the court.
- I will refrain from engaging in any form of discrimination, harassment, or bullying.
- I will represent Atlanta Team Pickleball with pride and good sportsmanship.
- I will respect the facilities and equipment set by the league, using them responsibly and reporting any damage or safety concerns to the pickleball league coordinator promptly.
- By participating in the Atlanta Team Pickleball, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above Code of Conduct and agree to abide by its principles.

NOTE: The Atlanta Team Pickleball Coordinator reserves the right to REMOVE any player who violates the rules outlined in our code of conduct to ensure the fairness and integrity of the game.



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START TIMES & MAKEUP DEFAULT TIMES

Start Time:

- Women's division – Tuesday 7:00 PM
- Men's division – Thursday 7:00 PM

Makeup Deadline: 2nd Saturday (9 days later) – 7:00 PM

- Example: If a match scheduled for September 17th is rained out, players have until September 26th to make the match up.

If inclement weather occurs on the makeup deadline day (Saturday), the new deadline moves to the following Monday evening at 7:00 PM and continues weekday-to-weekday at 7:00 PM until weather permits the match to be played.

*Exception: If inclement weather occurs on the second to last match of the regular season, the makeup default time is that Saturday (2 days later) at 7:00 p.m. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season, the makeup deadline is Monday at 7:00 PM and continues day-to-day at 7:00 PM until weather permits the match to be played.

**If inclement weather occurs during the playoffs, the makeup deadline is Monday at 7:00 PM and continues day-to-day at 7:00 PM until weather permits the match to be played.

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