

LAWRENCE PARKS AND RECREATION
Adult Pickleball By-Laws

Issued June 20th, 2023

I. STARTING TIME AND FORFEITURES:

- A. Game Times: - 6:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Game time is starting time. If either team is short of having their required number of players, a grace period of five minutes will be granted to field their team. The game will begin as soon as the team(s) field(s) their player(s). Five minutes after initial start time is forfeit time for game one, ten minutes after the official start will be forfeit time for game two, and fifteen minutes for game three.
- B. Forfeit rule: – If a team forfeits more than 2 games, the team will be ineligible for post season tournament and will be subject to suspension from any further league competition with **NO REFUND**. If teams are not able to play, we encourage them to contact the Adult Sports Office by no later than noon on the day of the game or noon on Friday for weekend games so that the opposing team’s manager can be contacted. If a team forfeits any games without contacting the Adult Sports Office within the time mentioned above, that team will not be eligible for league championship awards. The Adult Sports Office will not reschedule any games other than those canceled by the league office.
- C. In lieu of a forfeit, a team may submit ONE substitute of equal or lower DUPR rating to play in place of a missing player. That substitute must be submitted to the LPRD Adult Sports Office prior to the start of the match. In mixed leagues, each team member is allowed a permanent alternate of the same gender.

II. GAME REGULATIONS:

- A. All games will be played under the USA Pickleball Rulebook.
<https://usapickleball.org/docs/USA-Pickleball-Official-Rulebook-2023-v2.pdf>
<https://usapickleball.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-Rules-Summary.pdf>
- B. All games will be self-officiated and self-scored. An LPRD Adult Sports Supervisor will be onsite to distribute and collect scoresheets and balls for each match and keep the game clock.
- C. Teams listed as the Home Team will serve first. The Away Team will pick their side first.
- D. Matches will be played under a fifty minute time clock, beginning promptly at the assigned game time. Each match will consist of three sets. Each set will be played to a hard cap of eleven points. Points can only be scored by the serving team. If the fifty minute game clock ends before the end of the final set, the game will be called at that time and the score at called time will be the final score for that set. In this case, sets can end in a tie.
- E. Each team will be permitted three 30 second timeouts per match. No timeouts may be taken during the last five minutes of the play clock.
- F. League standings will be kept on a set by set basis (example: if Team A wins their first match two sets to one, their record in the standings will be recorded as 2-1.)
- G. Use of alcoholic beverages or drugs is prohibited at all City League sites.

- H. Each league will conclude with a single-elimination tournament. The top four teams from each league will make the tournament. Tournament play will follow the same rules as the regular season with the exception that matches will be truly best two of three sets (third set only played if necessary.)

III. PLAYER CONDUCT:

- A. Players will conduct themselves at all times according to the rules of the game.
- B. Any player, coach or spectator who displays any form of unsportsmanlike conduct such as: vulgar language, disrespect or deceit, shall be penalized in the following manner:
 - 1. An immediate point shall be awarded to the opposing team;
 - 2. In the event of a second unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the same person or for what the supervisor deems excessively unsportsmanlike the first time, the person will be ejected by the supervisor.
- C. Any player who is ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be penalized as follows:
 - 1. The first ejection: Must leave facility immediately for the remainder of the match. Exception: If the misconduct ejection occurs after the match is completed, the player will be suspended for the next scheduled match.
 - 2. The second ejection: A two match suspension (So stated to mean the next two league matches).
 - 3. The third ejection: Automatically disqualifies the player from further competition for one full year from the date of occurrence. This includes all Pickleball play-off and local tournaments which occur during the season.
- D. City Pickleball leagues are designed solely for the recreational values derived by players and spectators from the sport of Pickleball. Any player, coach, or spectator who engages in fighting or obviously attempting to injure anyone, threatening or purposely touching a league supervisor before, during or after a game will be suspended from the league and all leagues or activities the Recreation Department is directly or indirectly involved with for a period of two years. In addition, fees will not be refunded. The player shall be responsible for the actions of his/her self and spectators and for informing them of all rules. Badgering or taunting the opponents, supervisor or spectators is prohibited.

IV. PROTESTS:

- A. Legal Protest
 - 1. The only legal protest is one which involves a violation of playing rules or use of an ineligible player.
 - 2. A protest based on a player's judgment is not legal and the supervisor is instructed not to accept protests of this nature.

B. Process of Protesting

1. The protesting player shall immediately notify the Pickleball Supervisor of the fact the game is being played under protest. This shall be done before any succeeding play begins. (Exception: player eligibility, must notify supervisor before completion of game). The supervisor shall announce that the game is being played under protest; but failure of the supervisor to make this announcement shall not affect the validity of the protest.
2. A protest form available at the Parks and Recreation Adult Sports Office shall be completed and returned to the Sports Supervisor within forty-eight (48) hours after the incident. Accompanied with the protest must be a twenty-five (\$25.00) fee. (Exception: No \$25.00 fee necessary on player eligibility protest but the manager must also notify the Adult Sports Supervisor within 48 hours to validate the lodging of the protest). If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned and the game replayed. If not upheld, the fee will be forfeited to league fund, for administrative costs.