



TO: Team Managers, 1st Annual Dink the Halls Pickleball Tournament  
FROM: Baylor Hellmuth, Recreation Supervisor  
Tournament Director  
SUBJECT: Tournament Information and Format

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Please review the following information about the 1st Dink the Halls Pickleball Tournament. Tournament schedules will be posted online at [www.teamsideline.com/casperwy](http://www.teamsideline.com/casperwy).

DATE/LOCATION:

**Saturday, December 13th**

Casper Recreation Center, 1801 E 4<sup>th</sup> St, Casper, WY 82601

Please note, this is an evening tournament with a tentative schedule of 5:30 pm - 10:00 pm.

GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

1. Tournament Play – Play will begin with a round robin where each team will receive 3 games. Teams will then be seeded based on pool play performance and entered into bracket play. Each game will be played to 11, win by 2.
2. Good sportsmanship and observance of Casper Recreation Center and other facility rules will be required. Please help take care of the facility where you are playing.
3. Player Eligibility: Players must be 10+ years of age or older to participate. **Physical rosters will be provided to teams via team packet that should be filled out prior to beginning the tournament and submitted to the site supervisor or tournament staff.** No roster additions will be allowed after this time without permission from the Tournament Director. If there is a player/roster discrepancy at any juncture, please inform a tournament official ASAP so corrective action can be taken. Players will be required to show proof of age and identification, if the opposing team protests, to a tournament official before the game.
4. Protests must be voiced to tournament staff and settled immediately upon occurrence. Judgment calls cannot be protested.
5. Tournament Schedule – Please note: The Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust/combine divisions at any stage of the tournament. Schedules are posted online. All teams should be prepared to play at the time listed on the schedule. ***All times on the schedule are merely estimates***; this tournament follows a rolling schedule. When multiple courts are used, movement through the bracket progresses quite rapidly. All teams should be ready to take the court within **5 minutes** of the end of the **previous game**. Teams not ready to play within 5 minutes of the end of the previous game will be forfeited for that game. This tournament is on a timed schedule. When both teams are available, playing ahead is not only encouraged, but recommended. Teams should expect a tentative delay of 15-45 minutes between the culmination of pool play and the beginning of bracket play as staff will be seeding brackets.
6. Teams are allowed to register as same-gender teams or mixed. Players may only play on one team. If a player is found to be playing on a different team, they will be required to choose one team for participation. Possible forfeit of games may be considered.
7. Teams will be expected to report their game scores to the score table upon completion of each game. Please complete this quickly so the tournament can avoid delays.
8. **NO ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO** products may be in anyone's possession at any of the tournament facilities. Anyone who is found possessing alcohol or tobacco within any of our facilities will be grounds for expulsion from the tournament.

## TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES

### **Basic Rules**

- Pickleball is played as doubles (two players per team)
- The same size playing area and rules are used for both singles and doubles
- The Casper Recreation Center will provide the official game ball

### **The Serve**

- The server's arm must be moving in an upward arc when the ball is struck.
- Paddle contact with the ball must not be made above the waist level.
- The head of the paddle must not be above the highest part of the wrist at contact.
- A 'drop serve' is also permitted in which case none of the elements above apply.
  - When executing the drop serve, the player must not force the ball to the ground.
- At the time the ball is struck, the server's feet may not touch the court or outside the imaginary extension of the sideline or centerline and at least one foot must be behind the baseline on the playing surface or the ground behind the baseline.
- The serve is made diagonally crosscourt and must land within the confines of the opposite diagonal court.
- Only one serve attempt is allowed per server.

### **Serving Sequence**

- Both players on the serving doubles team have the opportunity to serve and score points until they commit a fault \*(except for the first service sequence of each new game).
- The first serve of each side-out is made from the right/even court.
- If a point is scored, the server switches sides and the server initiates the next serve from the left/odd court.
- As subsequent points are scored, the server continues switching back and forth until a fault is committed and the first server loses the serve.
- When the first server loses the serve the partner then serves from their correct side of the court (except for the first service sequence of the game\*).
- The second server continues serving until their team commits a fault and loses the serve to the opposing team.
- Once the service goes to the opposition (at side out), the first serve is from the right/even court and both players on that team have the opportunity to serve and score points until their team commits two faults.

\*At the beginning of each new game only one partner on the serving team has the opportunity to serve before faulting, after which the service passes to the receiving team. The first server will call out "0-0-2" to begin the game.

### **Scoring**

- Points are scored only by the serving team.
- Game is played to 11 points, win by 2.
- When the serving team's score is even (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10) the player who was the first server in the game for that team will be in the right/even court when serving or receiving; when odd (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) that player will be in the left/odd court when serving or receiving.

### **Two-Bounce Rule**

- When the ball is served, the receiving team must let it bounce before returning, and then the serving team must let it bounce before returning, thus two bounces.
- After the ball has bounced once in each team's court, both teams may either volley the ball (hit the ball before it bounces) or play it off a bounce (ground stroke).

## **Non-Volley Zone**

- The non-volley zone is the court area within 7 feet on both sides of the net ("kitchen").
- Volleying is prohibited within the non-volley zone. This rule prevents players from executing smashes from a position within the zone.
- It is a fault if, when volleying a ball, the player steps on the non-volley zone, including the line and/or when the player's momentum causes them or anything they are wearing or carrying to touch the non-volley zone including the associated lines.
- It is a fault if, after volleying, a player is carried by momentum into or touches the non-volley zone, even if the volleyed ball is declared dead before this happens.
- A player may legally be in the non-volley zone any time other than when volleying a ball.

## **Line Calls**

- A ball contacting any part of any line, except the non-volley zone line on a serve, is considered "in."
- A serve contacting the non-volley zone line is short and a fault.
- If the ball touches the net and lands outside the "kitchen" area, the ball may still be played.

## **Faults**

- A fault is any action that stops play because of a rule violation.
- A fault by the receiving team results in a point for the serving team.
- A fault by the serving team results in the server's loss of serve or side out.

## **Determining Serving Team**

Teams will play one game of rock, paper, scissors to determine first serve.

The following is the tiebreaker policy for placement in brackets:

- a) Win-loss record (best winning percentage).
- b) Head to Head
- c) Head to Head Differential
- d) Total Points For
- e) Coin Toss

**1st ANNUAL DINK THE HALLS PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT  
ROSTER & LIABILITY FORM**

I agree to abide by the established rules of the facility or program. I understand that the City of Casper does not carry accident insurance for participants in recreation programs. I also agree to release the City of Casper, its Council, Manager, officers, employees, agents, subcontractors, the Casper Recreational Leagues Association, Natrona County School District, Casper College, YMCA from any and all liability, responsibility, claims, demands, actions, or causes of action whatsoever arising out of my injury or death, or damage or loss of property while participating in the tournament. The terms of this Release and Indemnification are contractual and not a mere recital. The undersigned acknowledges by execution of this Release and Indemnification that he/she understands these provisions and freely and voluntarily enters into them.

By Signing and submitting this Liability Release Form, I understand that I am a legally rostered player for the team listed. If it is discovered that I played illegally for a different team, I will be suspended for the tournament.

TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER'S NAMES-PRINT

PLAYER'S SIGNATURE

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**\*PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST SIGN FOR PARTICIPANT IF THE PARTICIPANT IS UNDER THE AGE  
OF 18.**