



January 07, 2026 Captains Meeting

RECAP

Meeting began about 1:05pm after everyone signed in & found a seat (if available). We finished about 2:45pm.

Welcome to everyone!! Very pleased to see so much interest in league play.

Definition provided of BENCHMARK rating / Definition provided of a DYNAMIC RATING

- Explanation of how dynamic ratings work & how important one's "starting" dynamic rating is – especially to those NEW to PPL play
 - Your players may all be the same "benchmark" level players (2.5, 3.0, 3.5 or 4.0); however, they **cannot** all be the same skill level or have the same "dynamic rating" to start.

Guidelines – Key Revisions for Winter 2026

- Increase number of players permitted on each team to twelve (12)
 - Reiterated that PPL does not have "subs" –
 - **\$30** per player is the fee
 - Once someone plays in a match, they are "locked" onto your team & they cannot be removed. They will continue to hold on of your twelve (12) spots.

Discussion about the line-up/scorecard

- Stressed the importance of using the PPL TopDog system to create your line-up & printing out your match scorecards so they will be pre-populated with players & combined "dynamic ratings".
- After line-up/scorecard is exchanged with your opponent, you can easily decipher the player names & the combined ratings to determine if pairs are placed properly from high-to-low to make for more enjoyable fair competitive match play.
 - Traditional division play – Mixed #1 must have a higher combined rating than the Mixed #2 position.
 - The same two (2) men & two (2) women who played CAN COMBINE to play the Mixed positions. Technically, you need only four (4) players for the match; however, you could have eight (8).

- **IMPORTANT** – once line-up/scorecard exchanged with the opponent, you can only change it in case of injury/illness BEFORE play begins on either the mens doubles/womens doubles or before play begins on the mixed doubles. This needs to be done without hindering play. Captains can agree to give additional time to get a replacement player.
 - Example One of your men get hurt playing in the mens doubles. You cannot replace him in this mens doubles match (you would lose by retirement); however, if you have that man in one of your mixed doubles positions, you could replace him & change your line-up without hindering play.
- Gender specific divisions - #1 must have a higher combined rating than the #2 position ... this is your 1st match of the day. #3 must have a higher combined rating than the #4 position ... this is your 2nd of the day.
 - Pairs who played together in #1 or #2 CANNOT play together again in #3 or #4. If same players playing again, they must switch partners.
 - The same four (4) ladies who played in the 1st match CAN play again in the 2nd match so you technically only need four (4) players; however, you could have eight (8).
 - IMPORTANT – a change to your line-up can be made only in case of illness/injury prior to play beginning for the 1st match or the 2nd match.
 - Example ... waiting to see how your #1 & #2 positions did & then changing your match #2 line-up is not acceptable anymore

Discussion about player’s whose “dynamic ratings” reach/exceed their “benchmark” level of play during this Winter 2026 season.

- TRADITIONAL PLAY –
 - Such a player WILL BE PERMITTED to continue to play without any restrictions.
 - This was implemented in the Fall of 2025 & was in place when Winter 2026 teams were being formed so it will remain in effect for this Winter 2026 season & then will change.
 - Starting Spring/Summer 2026 season, such player WILL NOT be able to continue to play; however, will still be charged the player fee & take up a spot on the team’s roster.
 - Urge those with high dynamic ratings in each benchmark level to move up & make way for other up & coming players which is natural progression.
 - Deter captains from rostering players with high dynamic ratings on their team’s as deemed “ringers”.

- GENDER SPECIFIC PLAY –
 - Such a player will be restricted to play in either #1 or #3 positions only.
 - ONLY one (1) such player is allowed to play in the 1st match & 2nd match
 - Two (2) restricted players cannot play together

Advised improvement in game scoring –

- Best 2 out of 3 games
 - Games to eleven (11) **win by TWO (2)**
 - At 14-14, NEXT POINT WINS – to keep things moving
- TIMEOUTS –
 - Each team is allowed two (2) sixty (60) seconds timeouts per game
 - NO TIMEOUT ALLOWED ON GAME POINT

Much discussion about rain makeups/rescheduled matches being played to completion BEFORE your next scheduled match.

- Heavy emphasis on captains working together for the sake of playing pickleball!!!
- Home team provides at least, but not limited to, three (3) dates/times – morning, afternoon, evening or weekend. Each position CAN BE played independently.
 - If not played BEFORE next scheduled match, team who was being more available/flexible (according to the emails I’ve been copied on), will be awarded the win by default.

Discussion had about “illegal” or “banned” paddles.

- Player Robbie Jacobs spoke on this subject. I do have on the main PPL TopDog page in the NEWS Section a line item entitled BANNED PADDLES. I will keep that update.
- It was highly recommended that when the Captains communicate two (2) days prior to the scheduled match, that this subject be kindly brought up as NOT to cause a scene or ill-will at the onset of a match.

How to reach me -

- Email is the preferred method of contact at – PPLJessica1@gmail.com
 - If a quick response is needed, texting is the 2nd method – (770) 330-0696
- Expect responses via email Monday – Friday 9am to 3pm.
 - Limited response after hours
 - VERY limited response on weekends & holidays
- If you player reaches out with a matter I feel you as a captain should handle, I will kindly refer them back to you.

It was decided that TWO (2) new pickleballs be provided by the home team for each weekly scheduled match.

- The LT Pro 48 pickleball was added to the approved list of balls used in the PPL

I showed everyone WHERE to find things on the PPL TopDog site –

- Forms to be used – NEWS SECTION
- Deadline date to add player – NOTES Section above your match schedule
- Opposing Captain contact info – click on team name on your schedule, you are then on their team page. Left side of screen has their captain’s info. Scroll down slightly under their captain’s info & click on their club/facility name, you are now on that club/facilities page & can see the address. Scroll down slightly under the picture of the map & now you can click on “get directions”.
- **Anyone needing EXTRA help, please contact me to set up a one-on-one! I would prefer you get your answers from me 😊**

Strongly urged everyone to add the following email addresses into their address book –

- PPL = PPLJessica1@gmail.com
- TopDog = mailings@topdogsportsmail.com
 - If not added, any mail generated from the TopDog site MAY end up in your junk/spam folder & you will miss out on important information

I reviewed how PPL handles billing –

- Captains collect \$30 from players
- I will email an invoice to the captain soon after the deadline date to add players passes.
- ONE payment should be sent for the entire team once I send you your invoice
 - Payment forms accepted – cash, check, Zelle & Venmo
 - Anyone on your team roster who did NOT PLAY, will not be assessed the \$30

Items that did not get discussed –

- Time allotment for warm-up?
 - I will poll each division for a majority number.
- A new Independent Advisory Council is in place to assist me with guidelines & general advice with the best interests of PPL in mind & growing the league.
 - Each division STILL has an Advisory Committee comprised of its Captains to assist with division matters.
- Time ran out before pointing out page #7 - CAPTAINS RESPONSIBILITIES
 - Please take a moment & review them. They are included with the PPL Guidelines – 1.07.26 revision.

- Guideline – page #1 – item #2 – PLAY AT OWN RISK
 - *Participants will play at their own risk & not hold PPL responsible for any injuries or losses during organized match play. Players are all adults & are expected to conduct themselves as such. Poor sportsmanship will NOT be tolerated & WILL be dealt with swiftly.*