

PREMIER PICKLEBALL LEAGUE

PART I: League Structure

1. **Name and Objective:** The name of this league shall be the **Premier Pickleball League (PPL)** and will be comprised of local area – Martin & St. Lucie County (with the option to include Indian River & Palm Beach County in the future) - private clubs with memberships, residential subdivisions with court privileges and public facilities that have the ability to reserve courts for home matches to:
 - a. Manage and promote amateur, social, competitive, all-surface, team pickleball for traditional men and women’s double play, mens only play, women’s only play & the option to expand to include singles play in the future
 - b. Utilize a player dynamic rating system to promote competitive fair play - TopDogLive
 - c. Maintain high standards and good sportsmanship among its players
2. **Participants:** *Will play at their own risk & will not hold PPL responsible for any injuries or losses resulting from 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.*
 - a. Teams will be formed and the captain will submit a team commitment form by the advertised deadline date per season
 - b. Fees will be per player and will be paid to each team captain who will then be invoiced after a determined date per season when additional players can no longer be added to the team
 - \$30 per player per 2026 season
 - c. Five (5) basic levels of play will be offered with the option to offer additional divisions in the future – ex 4.5
 - 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5 & 4.0
 - d. Divisions can be offered as daytime play, nighttime play, weekend play & age restricted. Open for future additional age restricted categories – ie 70+.
 - e. Format of play –
 - Traditional – 4 positions of doubles / 1 mens dbls, 1 ladies dbls, 2 mixed dbls
 1. Gender specific – 2 positions of doubles (see pages 8 & 9 below)
3. **League Administrator (LA):** Jessica Agee-Bradshaw / PPLJessica1@gmail.com
 - a. Will administer the league through the TopDoglive team management/scoring system
 - Assist players with all aspects of the TopDoglive system
 1. Will add brand-new players to the system
 - Create league levels/divisions
 - Create schedules
 1. Playoffs for divisions with five (5) or more teams if approved & if time is available in the season
 - Maintain/revise & make league guidelines available on the PPL TopDog site with assistance from the **Independent Advisory Council (IAC)**
 - Maintain open communication with all facilities and team captains
 1. Preferred method of communicating is via email

- Track player ratings to determine if/when players exceed their existing “benchmark” rating/level – **RATINGS NOT CALCULATED FOR SPRING '26 PLAY**
 - b. Schedule/hold captain’s meetings if needed or requested by captains
 - c. Pay fees for use of TopDoglive
 - d. Pay for end-of-season awards
4. **Advisory Committees (AC):** This is the name given to the captains of each playing level/division per season who will help the LA make decisions for each specific playing level/division so it can be most enjoyable for all that are playing.
- a. One (1) committee per playing level/division per season
 - b. Be open-minded and put the needs of the league ahead of personal needs/wants for one’s self and/or their club/facility
 - c. Be able to support decisions made by consensus
 - d. Work together with the LA to resolve any issues and formal complaints including disciplinary matters.
5. **Independent Advisory Council (IAC):** These are selected individuals who are anonymous that advise the **LA** on matters that need to be addressed league-wide with the league’s best interests in mind to promote fair play & to continue to grow the league.

PART II: LEAGUE OPERATING GUIDELINES

IMPORTANT:

- *PPL does not provide courts for play or require play at any particular facility or club.*
 - *League teams declare their “home” courts – within PPL’s guidelines - and such decision is independent of PPL.*
- *PPL is not conducted or run out of any one exclusive facility, park or club.*
- *PPL does not provide the game/match balls.*
- *PPL is not responsible for personal injury or loss of any kind.*

1. Player Requirements:

- a. Must be at least **21** years of age prior to the first match of the current playing season.
 - OR minimum age for age specific leagues/divisions
- b. This league is for amateurs only.
 - Any player who is or has been professionally ranked or has received prize money for playing is **NOT** permitted to play.
 - If such a player is discovered, they will be removed from the league immediately, any points obtained stripped & NO player fee refund.

2. Player Ratings:

- a. Every player will have a pre-determined level of play or “benchmark rating”.
 - 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 or 4.5 are the current “benchmark” levels
 - Player is permitted to play at their “benchmark” level & only one (1) level higher.
 - Example – a 3.0 benchmark player NOT permitted to play 4.0

- Player is NOT permitted to play below their “benchmark” level.
 - Example – a 3.0 benchmark player NOT permitted to play 2.5
- Player permitted to play two (2) different levels during one (1) season
- b. Every brand-new player to PPL must have a starting DR rating to begin play.
 - e.g. - 2.00, 2.25, 2.50, 2.75, 3.00, 3.25, 3.50, 3.75, 4.00, 4.25, 4.50 or 4.75
- c. Playing below one’s actual ability for sole intent of winning will be cause for immediate DQ of said player and removal from the league with no player fee refund! The captain will be given one (1) formal warning from the LA and it will be recorded. A subsequent occurrence by same captain in future seasons will result in the captain’s removal from that current season, loss of privilege to be a captain in future seasons if so decided by the LA & AC.
 - Any previous wins by a removed player for above reason will be reversed and awarded to opposing team
- d. Player’s ratings will be calculated after each match and will be known as their “dynamic rating” & is calculated by a proprietary algorithm owned by TopDog. This dynamic rating will be displayed in TopDoglive for each player for every player to see.
 - If a player’s dynamic rating exceeds their current “benchmark” level during season play, they are permitted to finish out the current season.
 - Benchmark levels = 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5 & 4.0
 - Said player in #1 above MAY BE required to move up a level for the next season if the AC deems appropriate – regardless of said player’s DR at season’s end.

TRADITIONAL PLAY - If a player’s dynamic rating reaches/exceeds their current “benchmark” level during current season play, they are allowed to finish out the current season with no restrictions.

- Said player in #1 above MAY BE required to move up a level for the next season if the AC deems appropriate – regardless of said player’s DR at season’s end.

GENDER SPECIFIC PLAY - If a player’s dynamic rating reaches/exceeds their current “benchmark” level during the current season of play, they are restricted to play on positions #1 & #3 only.

- Said player(s) in #2 above, cannot play together & only ONE (1) restricted player is permitted to play per match. (see pages 8 & 9 below)
 - e. Use of a DUPR (*Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating*) will not be utilized in this league.

3. Teams / Traditional divisions:

- a. A roster must have a minimum of six (6) players / is limited to twelve (12) players.
 - There will be no persons denoted as “sub” on any rosters.
- b. Additional players may be added to a team’s roster during the season –
 - Roster cannot exceed twelve (12) players
 - ❖ A deadline date to add players will be provided to all Captains soon after the division schedule is published.
- c. All players must be rostered on the team before participating in a team match.
 - Players pay a player fee to the captain - **\$30.00** each
 - Captain fee is waived (Co-Captain pays regular fee)
- d. Once a season has begun, a player is not allowed to change teams IF he/she has already played a match for the team. If he/she has not played a match, he/she may change teams by submitting a request in writing to the LA – PPLJessica1@gmail.com

- Special circumstances may be taken into consideration & handled on a case-by-case basis – e.g. moved residency to different club/facility

4. **Format of Play / Traditional divisions:** (*gender specific see pages 8 & 9*)

- Standard play –
 - One (1) position of mens doubles
 - One (1) position of women’s doubles
 - Two (2) positions of mixed doubles
- The same two (2) men and women may field the two (2) mixed doubles positions
- Best 2 out of 3 games
 - first to 11 by 2 points / at 14-14, next point on team’s serve wins

5. **Scoring:**

PPL determines team placement in the standings by total points won.

- Three (3) points awarded for winning in two (2) straight games /non-winning team receives zero (0) points
 - A position won by default receives 3 points
- Two (2) points awarded for winning in three (3) games AND the non-winning team will receive one (1) point for winning one (1) game
- If match is tied, winner will be the team that has won the most total number of points per games played for all positions played for the match.
 - If still tied, a TIE will be recorded

6. **Line-ups / Traditional divisions:**

- Applicable to the two (2) positions of mixed doubles –
 - Combined rating of the pair placed in position #1 must be higher than or equal to the combined rating of the pair placed in position #2
- Captains are responsible for verifying proper placement of mixed doubles positions prior to play beginning. If overlooked, the match is considered to be played in “good faith” and results will stand.
- Pre-populated printed line-up/scorecard will be exchanged prior to play beginning.
 - Changes can be made with the opposite captain’s approval for unusual/unforeseen situations **prior to play beginning.**
 - **Once a player has started play, they must finish or “retire”.**
 - Standard “grace” period for players to show up shall be 15 minutes past scheduled match start time
 - Additional time allowed if both Captains agree

7. **Scheduled Matches:**

If a home match is scheduled at a public park facility, it is that Captain’s responsibility to secure courts in advance for the match. If courts are not secured & the visiting team shows up for the match, they will not be expected to wait for open courts to play. The match will be scored as the home team’s default with the visiting team winning 12 points.

- [USA Pickleball](#) rules will be followed unless there is a current existing written PPL guideline in place stating otherwise.
- Home team Captain will make contact at least two (2) days prior to the match to confirm match time/location & any other pertinent information.
 - If a position default is declared by Captain “A”, Captain “B” does not have to oblige if Captain “A” later rescinds the default

- c. Home team will supply the playing balls –
 - Approved balls - DURA Fast 40, Franklin, Selkirk & LT Pro 48
 - Onyx is a true beginner ball - for 2.0 division only
 - [OnixPure2](#) for clay court play
- d. Trade pre-printed match lineup scorecard with opposing Captain.
 - If an injury or illness occurs for a player during the mens & ladies doubles matches, an eligible player who is available on-site can be put in the mixed doubles lineup. Lineup/scorecard will be adjusted to reflect such a change staying within the guidelines of strength to weakness.
- e. A coin toss for each court will decide side or serve.
- f. Change sides of the court after each game.
 - Two (2) minutes allowed between games.
 - If a 3rd game is necessary, change sides of the court after six (6) points **OR** eight (8) points if playing to 15
- g. Two (2) sixty (60) second timeouts per game (playing to 11 or 15) /per team are permitted.
 - Equipment failure is not a reason for a timeout.
 - **NO TIMEOUT** allowed to be taken by either team on game point.
- h. Standard “grace” period shall be 15 minutes past the scheduled match start time.
 - Additional time allowed if both Captains agree.
- i. Level/division schedules will be published in the TopDoglive system for all to see.
- j. Once published, match dates/times/locations are non-negotiable under normal standard playing conditions. Below are the exceptions –
 - Actual rain activity or unplayable courts due to a previous rain event.
 - Extreme heat 95°F+ degrees or extreme cold 40°F- degrees at host site.
 - Weather Channel – <https://weather.com>
- k. **RAIN RESCHEDULE** - If any of the above situations in item j. occur, both Captains will let the LA know. Captains will then work together to agree upon another date/time to play the games **PRIOR** to their next regularly scheduled match. **IMPORTANT – Home team provide at least, but not limited to, three (3) dates/times (morning, afternoon, evening, weekend) to get process started. If no dates/times can be agreed up, whichever team was MOST available/flexible will be awarded the win by default. Copy LA on all emails.**
 - If NO play has begun, both team lineups can be changed for the makeup.
 - If play has begun for a specific position, only those four (4) players can complete the match. NO changes to either team’s players.
 - The makeup match does not have to be made up as a “team” match. It can be made up as individual positions. If this is done, Captains are agreeing only to the date/time & position that is to be played – not the actual players.
 - If it rains on the agreed upon makeup date, you have an additional six (6) days to play the match before the next regular scheduled match.
 - HOME TEAM captain will provide at least three (3) possible dates/times for makeup to the visiting team captain to start the process.

- I. Playoffs, after the regular season schedule ends, can be scheduled for each level/division that has a minimum of five (5) teams IF said level/division captains agree to have them & enough time is available.
 - Playoff dates/locations will be determined as quickly as possible after level/division schedule has been published on PPL TopDog.
 - Players must have physically played in at least two (2) matches to be eligible to participate in the playoffs. A win by default does not count.

8. **Defaults & Retirements:** The purpose of PPL is to play pickleball so every effort to play all scheduled matches is expected.
 - a. A default can be declared by either Captain at the 2-day courtesy contact prior to the scheduled match. Once declared, the opposite Captain does not have to agree to play if the default is rescinded. (See guideline 7b above – Scheduled Matches)
 - Defaulting team receives zero (0) points – winning team receives three (3) points - (See guideline 5a – Scoring)
 - b. A default can be declared if the standard 15 minute “grace” period has elapsed.
 - Defaulting team receives zero (0) points – winning team receives three (3) points
 - c. A **retirement** occurs during a game in progress when either team’s player(s) cannot continue for any reason. *NO substitutions can be made once play has begun on a specific position.*
 - The appropriate number of points will be awarded
 - first game score is 9-3. Team A with 9 points cannot continue. Match score is entered in TopDog as a **retirement** with Team A showing 9 / Team B showing 3 for first game & Team A showing 0 / Team B showing 0 for the 2nd game. Team B toggled as the winner – match status “retired”. Team B will receive three (3) points for winning in straight games. (See guideline 5a-Scoring)

- ❖ **Example** – Man playing mens doubles gets injured. That position is recorded as a “retirement” (see above). If the same man is scheduled to play in the mixed doubles, a different man may be placed in to play as long as start of play is not hindered (replacement player should be on site). Opposing captain can agree to give extra time.

9. **Awards & Recognition:** An end-of-season event (EOSE) can be held and will be handled by a volunteer committee. Example round robin event or awards banquet. If NO EOSE, awards will be given to winning team captains as quickly as possible.
 - a. Based on a division with three (3) teams or less, 1st place will be awarded only.
 - b. Based on a division with four (4) teams or less, NO playoff will be held, 1st & 2nd place will be awarded.
 - c. Based on a division with five (5) teams or more, a playoff may be held if desired &/or enough time is available. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place will be awarded.
 - d. Based on a division where teams have been split into two (2) flights prior to play,
 - if a playoff is held between flights - 1st, 2nd & 3rd places will be awarded
 - if no playoff is held between flights – 1st 2nd & 3rd places will be awarded per flight

Captains Responsibilities include (but are not limited to) -

- a. Provide complete and accurate information to the league.
 - Brand-New Players to PPL should fill-out & submit their own form
- b. Provide a team commitment to the LA by the set deadline date
- c. Provide the team roster and league fee to the LA by the set deadline dates
 - JABAAR, LLC * PO Box 518 * Palm City, FL 34991
- d. Be the spokesperson for the team
- e. Attend all League meetings & AC meetings held for the division or send a designee
- f. Read, review, uphold and abide by all League Guidelines & US Pickleball Rules.
 - Review the forementioned with all the team players prior to the start of league play and at any time during the season if need be.
- g. When scheduled as the home captain, contact visiting captain 2 days prior to the match
- h. For each match -
 - determine pairings and accurate placement of those pairings
 - prepare the printed scorecard for exchange with the opposing captain
 - verify that the visiting players are eligible & in the correct court positions based on the combined ratings BEFORE play begins. If not verified,
 - Matches played will stand with end results as played in good faith
- i. **ENTER RESULTS** – does not matter which captain does this. Just looking for results to be entered in the TopDog system no later than 6:00pm for a daytime match or 10:00 PM for a nighttime match on the date of play.
 - Opposite captain will receive an email asking to log in & verify match entries
 - Ratings are calculated overnight so scores need to be entered & verified promptly
- j. Instruct team members that in case of a rain (or other) interruption, they should:
 - make note of the server and the order of all servers
 - note the game score(s)
 - note the sides and ends of court of each team
 - have the opposing team players acknowledge (initial) a written recording of these notes is a wise idea to avoid future conflict
 - resume play in the makeup as the acknowledged (initialed) notes indicate
- k. Arrange date/time of rematch and promptly notify the LA
- l. If a complaint is to be filed over any match incident, it must be submitted the SAME day of completing said match by the team Captain.
 - PPL TopDoglive News Section – PPL Forms – Complaint Form
- m. Ensure that all players/spectators conduct themselves appropriately.
 - It is expected that the captain will reprimand any player/spectator found to be acting inappropriately.
- n. Have spectators removed from the viewing area if they are not conducting themselves appropriately.
 - If opponent(s) make the request to have spectator(s) removed, it must be obliged immediately.
 - Bad behavior by a spectator(s) can result in their future attendance of league matches being prohibited.

GENDER SPECIFIC PLAY (Mens or Ladies Only)

1. **Teams –**
 - a. Roster minimum six (6) players
 - b. Roster maximum twelve (12) players
 - c. There will be NO persons denoted as “sub”
 - d. All players must be rostered on the team in TopDog before participating in a team match
 - Player fee - \$30.00 - paid to the Captain
 - Captain will be invoiced when regular schedule has three (3) matches left or roster has twelve (12) players & everyone has played in a match
 - Captain’s fee is waived (co-captain fee is not)
 - e. Player permitted to change teams if he/she has NOT played a match yet
 - Request emailed to LA at least 24 hours in advance – PPLJessica1@gmail.com
 - Unusual circumstances reviewed on a case-by-case basis
2. **FORMAT OF PLAY -**
 - a. Standard shall be a DUAL match
 - Two (2) doubles matches played on same scheduled date/time/location
 - #1 & #2 position play = Match #1 / #3 & #4 position play = Match #2
 1. After Match #1 switch partners within your own team to play Match #2 OR up to four (4) new ladies may be put in for Match #2.
 - a. Same pair cannot play together for Match #2
 2. Match #1 - Combined dynamic rating of pair #1 must be = to/or greater than the combined dynamic rating of pair #2
 3. Match #2 - Combined dynamic rating of pair #3 must be = to/or greater than the combined dynamic rating of pair #4
 - b. Best 2 out of 3 games
 - First to 11 by 2 point / at 14-14, next point on team’s serve wins
3. **LINE-UPS –**
 - a. Pre-populated printed lineup/scorecards with ALL four (4) positions will be exchanged between captains prior to play beginning.
 - Standard “grace” period shall be 15-minutes past the scheduled start time in TopDog
 1. Captains can agree to give additional time depending on the situation
 - b. 4 positions total are playing so 4 positions need to be filled in on lineup/scorecard
 - ONLY two (2) positions play at one (1) time
 - c. Strength to weakness of positions #1 & #2 & then strength to weakness of positions #3 & #4
 - Calculated dynamic ratings or
 1. If player(s) reach a dynamic rating of the next higher “benchmark” level, they will be restricted to ONLY play position #1 and/or position #3 for the remainder of the playing season.
 2. Only ONE (1) player who has reached this new “benchmark” level’s dynamic rating is permitted to play per scheduled match
 - a. If team has two (2) players who reach the new “benchmark” level’s dynamic rating, ONE can play position #1 and then the other can play position #3
 - b. The two (2) players CANNOT be played together.
 - d. Captains are responsible for verifying proper placement prior to match play beginning.
 - If overlooked, match stands as “played in good faith” & results stand