



Early Spring Ladder League Rules March & April 2025

The USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) rulebook will govern all pickleball play unless stated otherwise by Pickleball & More (P&M). P&M reserves the right to modify game times, dates, formats, and playoffs.

MARCH/APRIL LADDER LEAGUE SUMMARY:

- Eight weeks of play: The Early Spring Leagues start the week of March 3, 2025.
- To be considered for medals/prizes, players must play in at least four (4) weeks of the season and playoff week.
- \$140 for the total eight (8) weeks
- Players must be members of Pickleball & More Court Reserve.
- Each player must fill out a **waiver form** before their first scheduled game of the season.
- The playoffs will occur in the final week, which is the 8th week of the session.
- The March/April Ladder Leagues are two-hour leagues. Play stops after the allotted two hours.
- A minimum number of 10 individuals will be required to start a league – unless otherwise decided by P&M.

REGISTRATION

To ensure competitive play, P&M reserves the right to evaluate a player by a qualified pickleball instructor to confirm that the player's ability aligns with the level of play in the specific league.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Registration will close 24 hours before the first game day, unless otherwise decided by Pickleball and More.

GAME OVERVIEW:

Pickleball is played on a court measuring 20' x 44'. The ball is served diagonally, starting from the right-hand service square, and only the serving side can score points. After the serve, players on both sides must allow the ball to bounce once before continuing to volley. A seven-foot no-volley zone, known as the kitchen, is on each side of the net to prevent spiking. The server continues serving, alternating between service courts, until the team faults. The first side to score eleven points, or the designated score, wins, with the requirement to win by one point. Games will only be played to a different designated score, such as 15, if circumstances warrant a change, and players will be informed before the game begins.

PLAYING:

Individuals will receive a match lineup from the Front Desk via Court Reserve or other software, detailing which individuals will play each week and on which courts. “Warm-up” time is included in the allotted 2 hours that teams will have for their match play. Individuals or pairs will decide whether to warm up or not.

Beginning of play: The players will follow the scoresheet on the court they have been assigned. At the start of each game, players will use a coin toss or other mutually agreed fair method to choose who will serve first.

Scoring: Each game will utilize the Side-Out Scoring System. This means your team must be serving to earn points. The winning pair will note their score on the scoresheet. Please return the scoresheet to the Front Desk at the end of play. Games are played to 11 (or a predetermined score), win by one (1). Partial scores will be recorded for games not completed after 2 hours. Any games not played by the end of the play time (2 hours) will not be counted or marked as “incomplete”.

Ranking in the League: Ranking is based on percentage scoring. It doesn’t matter how many games are played or if you miss a week or two. Players' scoring percentage is based on the points won over total points available. If one player plays all assigned games (8, for example), they had the opportunity to win 88 points, but they only won 65 points, so their percentage that day is 73.88% (65/88). Scores are calculated cumulatively week to week. Missing a week or two does not drastically impact a player’s score as the week missed does not count against them. The absent player will receive no scores for the game day they are absent.

PLAYOFFS: Players making the playoffs will be determined by the top percentage of points won over the points played. The number of players in the league will determine how many will qualify for the playoffs. P&M reserves the right to adjust the number of players qualifying for the playoffs. If a player can’t make the playoffs, the following qualifying player will play if needed for the playoff format.

FAULT:

A fault is committed when the ball:

- Touches any part of the non-volley zone on the serve (including the line)
- Is hit out of bounds
- Does not clear the net
- Is volleyed before a bounce has occurred in the kitchen on each side of the net
- If the ball hits the ceiling
- The serve hits an opposing player, and the serving team wins the point

OPT IN/OUT-ABSENTS: League players must “opt in” by 1 p.m. on league game days. They must also notify P&M as soon as possible if they cannot play that day.

SUBSTITUTES

- Being a league member requires a commitment to playing every game day. If a player is unavailable, they should make every effort to provide a substitute of equal skill level.
- P&M will maintain a substitute list for each league but cannot guarantee substitutes will be found.

If a substitute is needed for a player, the sub will not play in place of the player. Therefore, the absent league player will not receive any scores or points for that game day. Substitutes will not be required to pay a league fee unless the player becomes a permanent replacement. Only league players and permanent replacement players are eligible for the playoffs.

PERMANENT REPLACEMENT PLAYERS

- Replacement players who enter the league to replace another player are responsible for paying the fee for the remaining sessions.
- Individuals and pairs will enter the league at their current ranking if they have previously played as substitute players in this league. If the player has no ranking, they will start at the bottom of the league and work their way up.

REFEREES

All games will be self-refereed. Teams will announce all scores before each serve, and the receiving team will be responsible for calling the ball “in” or “out.” All players are expected to act honestly throughout the league. If teams are experiencing difficulties with this, a staff member on site will assist if possible or will officiate the game if necessary.

CANCELLATION / REFUNDS

A player's registration cannot be canceled within seven days of the league's start. A refund will only be issued if an approved replacement player is provided and registers for the league. Refunds can be processed using the original payment method or the member's account credit.

Withdrawal from the league after it has begun will only result in a refund if a permanent replacement player is provided and registers for the league.

A refund request may be submitted to P&M for consideration if a player withdraws due to injury.