

HKCTA Pickleball League 2026 Rules and Regulations

Administration

1. All communication will be communicated through the team captains and the club/team representatives. All communication from teams should come through team captains and/or the club/team representatives only.
2. HKCTA reserves the right to modify the rules.
3. League competitions shall be administered by the League Management Committee (LMC) in accordance with the rules of pickleball of Global Pickleball Federation as the same may be modified by these Rules from time to time.
4. The LMC, which is appointed annually by the Council of the Hong Kong, China Tennis Association (HKCTA), shall comprise a Chairman and not less than 6 additional members from various pickleball clubs/groups.
5. The LMC shall be responsible for the:-
 - a. registration of players and teams,
 - b. division of teams,
 - c. establishment of League schedules of play, and
 - d. publishing of a League Handbook or its equivalent on the Internet, the results of play and the interpretation of Rules
6. The LMC shall also be responsible for the arbitration of disputes between players/teams/Clubs on League matters and on conduct. The LMC may either upon receipt of a complaint or at its own instigation convene a meeting of the LMC (which shall regulate its own proceedings and at which a quorum shall be four) to deal with any of the above matters and any other matters relating to the League and shall have power to:-
 - a. suspend players/teams from the League,
 - b. expel players/teams from the League and / or
 - c. refuse entry of a team or player to a future League and/or
 - d. take any other action as the Committee thinks fit.
7. All communications relating to in Rules 5 and 6 must be directed by League Players to the LMC through their Captain. The LMC will communicate with the Teams by sending their correspondence to the Captain and one other person nominated by each Club from time to time.

Entries

8. Division 1 has no restriction on the DUPR rating of player entries.
9. *Division 2 Restricted to players that have no rating and up to a DUPR rating of 3.699 at entry deadline.*
10. Division 3 Restricted to players that have a DUPR rating between 0.001 – 2.999 at entry deadline.
11. If players have no DUPR rating, they will only be allowed to play in Division 1 or 2
12. If players are found to have multiple DUPR accounts, rating will be based on the DUPR account with the highest reliability score.
 - a. Results will be submitted under the DUPR account listed on the entry form.

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- b. Players that wish to merge multiple accounts can contact DUPR by filling in the form https://dupr.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new?ticket_form_id=22866866563476
13. There is no limit on the number of registered players per team, however players must be registered prior to entry deadline.

Eligibility

14. Preference of registration will be given to teams that can provide their own courts.
 - a. Teams are required to have a minimum of 1 court available per team on the match day, when they are identified as the home team.
 - b. Courts should have at least an additional 5ft of space from the baselines and sidelines.
 - c. Teams using courts not owned by them, must have written proof that the venue they will use will allow courts to be used for any potential home games for the duration of the league in order to be able to be considered as having courts.
 - d. *Teams may only play at a venue, unless approval is given by LMC.*
15. All teams must provide adequate playing facilities and must have adequate insurance against claims for personal injuries suffered by players playing on their courts to be registered in the competition. Please note that in the event of any accidents, the host team will be held responsible for any liabilities that may arise. Players must hold a valid Hong Kong Identity Card.
16. No unregistered player may be allowed to play.
17. No individual may represent a team in any Playoff Match unless he/she has played for the team for 1 game. Being named as a team member in a walkover match shall not be counted as an occasion for eligibility to represent a team in a Play-off Match.

Format of Play

18. League will be a mixed format and participating teams can select to have their home matches take place on the following days/times:
 - a. Monday to Friday – 7:00 PM; Saturday and Sunday – 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM.
 - i. Teams must indicate their selected day and time for their home matches on the registration form.
 - ii. *Teams may only select one day and time for their home matches.*
 - b. First game shall start within 15 minutes of start time. subsequent games shall start 2 minutes after the conclusion of the previous match.
 - c. Captains and representatives must report any changes of captaincy during the period of the League, (whether temporary or permanent) to the pickleball committee.
 - i. A representative should be designated by the team, if the captain and/or assistant captain is not attending the match.
 - d. Each player can only represent one team/division per season.
 - i. *Players may substitute for their higher team Round Robin match up to 2 times per season.*
 - *After a player has maxed their substitution. Teams representative/captain must declare within 48 hours after the*

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completion of the players 2nd match they substitute if they will play remain in the same division or play-up for the remainder of the season by emailing pickleball@tennishk.org. Failure to do so will be consider that the player will remain in their current division for the remainder of the season.

- *If a player represents plays up team for the first time on the final round robin match. Teams representative/captain may declare within 48 hours after the completion of the match if the player will play up or remain in their current division for the remainder of the season by emailing pickleball@tennishk.org. Failure to do so will be consider that the player will remain in current division for the remainder of the season.*

ii. If the club/team has multiple higher division teams the substitute player may only substitute for one of the higher division teams.

iii. Players may not represent more than 1 division for play-offs.

e. No additional player shall be allowed after the start of the league season except in the case of an injury replacement/prolong absence.

19. Unless otherwise stated, USAP Rules will be used.

20. Each match will consist of 4 games played to 21 points using USAP rally scoring rules, win by 2, no cap. Change sides at 11 points.

a. Match consist of the following games:

- i. Game 1: Women's Doubles
- ii. Game 2: Men's Doubles
- iii. Game 3: Mixed Doubles
- iv. Game 4: Mixed Doubles

- A player may only participate in one mixed doubles game per match.

v. If tied 2-2 at the end of doubles, 1 team-singles game will be played.

- Team-Singles Format:

a. Captains will reveal their lineup at the same time. Lineup will consist of 2 male and 2 female team members who played in the match in the order of male->female->male->female.

- Game will be rally score to 21 points, win by 2, no cap, players will rotate every 3 rally, teams will change sides every 12 points, and the team must win on their own serve.

b. Teams are entitled to 1 one-minute time out per game.

c. All Games must be played except the Team-Singles.

- i. In the event of a retirement the score will be recorded as 21 for the winning team and the losing team score will be the score that they have at the time of retirement.
- ii. In the event of a match forfeiture. Teams will be awarded points for the match, but the games and scores of the Walkover Match will not be counted in the determination of team's position in a Group or Division

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21. Ranking will be based on:
 - a. Wins
22. In the event of tie the following will be used as the tiebreaker:
 - a. The final standings in each group shall be determined by the following count-back calculation (i.e. determined by the first of the following methods that applies, following the order set out below):
 - i. Greatest number of points.
 - b. If two teams are tied with an equal number of points, head-to-head results.
 - c. If three or more team are tied with an equal number of points, the following decides the winner (in the order set out below):
 - i. highest percentage of matches won;
 - ii. highest percentage of games won from all matches played;
 - iii. highest percentage of points won from all matches played; then finally
 - d. The count-back calculation in Regulation
 - i. will continue until only two teams remain tied, at which point the tie between those two teams will be broken by rule 23 b.
23. Team list should be written down on paper or electronic device and both teams shall reveal the list at the same time prior to the start of the match by the captain/designated representative.
 - a. If an official is on site the team list shall be given to the official 10 minutes prior to the start of the match.
24. The captain of the winning team must submit a copy of the score card with signature from both teams within 3 days of the completed matches to an electronic form.
 - a. Failure to submit will result in forfeiture of the match.
25. Coaching is allowed by captains and teammates when the ball is not in play and should not affect the flow of the game.

Equipment

26. Paddles – USAP and UPA-A Approved Paddles
 - a. List of Approved Paddles can be found:
 - i. UPA-A: <https://upaa.unitedpickleball.com/approved-paddles/>
 - ii. USAP: <https://equipment.usapickleball.org/paddle-list/>
27. Approved Balls – USAP Only: <https://equipment.usapickleball.org/ball-list/>

Additional Players

28. The Pickleball Committee will only entertain applications for additional players up until the commencement of the League season of the relevant division. Clubs must follow the procedures stipulated on the League Entry Form when applying for additional players.
29. Any application received after entry deadline may be charged with an administration fee of HK\$200 for the processing of each additional player, or such other sum as may be determined by the pickleball committee from time to time.

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Replacement Players

30. During the League season should a player who already has played at least one matches in a team become unavailable to continue to play due to:
- injury or sickness, or
 - prolonged absence from Hong Kong,

the club may submit an application for a replacement player on the following conditions

- the replacement player rating is eligible for the division, and
- such application is made in writing by the Club/Team Representative and counter-signed by the outgoing and replacement players for whom the application is made, and
- such application is substantiated by documentary proof acceptable to the HKCTA pickleball committee.
- the replacement has not been registered for any club.

Unless a replacement player has played at least one game for his/her team, he/she shall not be permitted to compete in a Playoff Match in a multi-group Division or any of the final two fixture matches in a single-group Division.

An administration fee, to be determined by the HKCTA pickleball committee from time to time, will be charged for the processing of each replacement player.

(Note: This rule does not apply to default due to injury or sickness sustained by a player during a fixture match for which no replacement is allowed for that match.)

Inclement Weather

31. In the case of inclement weather before a match starts: –
- For un-officiated matches, when no agreement has been reached between the Captains of both teams to postpone the match, all scheduled players from both teams will have to attend the venue and wait to see if the match can be held. When both teams are at the ground, a match can commence if the Captains of both teams agree to do so. If the match cannot commence within 30 minutes of the starting time, the match shall be postponed.
 - For officiated matches, the on-court official appointed by the pickleball committee shall decide whether the match shall be played or not.
32. The following shall apply to any match (*excluding playoff matches*) in which play has commenced but is subsequently suspended because of inclement weather making the courts unfit for play:
- No match shall be suspended, or recommence after suspension unless agreed by the Captains of both teams. If the match cannot recommence within 30 minutes from the time of suspension, the match shall subject to:
 - If a match is so postponed, the following rules shall apply:

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- At the time of stoppage of play the team winning at least 3 games shall be declared the winner. Only games completed will be used towards calculations for playoff and position in the groups.
- If neither team has won 3 games when play is suspended, the match shall be completely replayed, subject to the right of either Captain to agree to forfeit any of the remainder of the unfinished and unplayed sets at the time of discontinuance to the opposing team.

Postponements

33. Participating teams should try their best to complete their League matches on scheduled dates in accordance with the fixture dates stipulated in the League Handbook. However, if it is not possible for one or both teams to play a match (excluding playoff matches) on the scheduled date, a postponement may be arranged by the two teams if both Team Captains agree to the postponement. However, the Home teams must, within 48 hours, offer at least 2 possible dates when home courts are available while the Away teams must also, within 48 hours, respond to and confirm the Home Teams' offer(s). Any postponed playoff match shall be played at a venue and on a date to be decided by the pickleball committee.
34. When the courts on which the match is to be played are, in the opinion of the Home Team Captain unfit for play, the Home Team Captain should immediately notify in writing the Away Team Captain and the pickleball committee of such unavailability. However, if the Away Team Captain contests this decision, a written complaint can be lodged with the pickleball committee who shall then conduct an inquiry. After the inquiry, if the pickleball committee is of the opinion that the Home Team has misrepresented the reason(s) for postponement, the Home Team will then be deemed to be in breach of this postponement rule and a Walkover Match shall be awarded to the Away Team.
35. The Captains of both teams shall inform the pickleball committee within 48 hours if a match has been postponed or cannot take place for whatever reason, as well as when a new match date has been mutually agreed by both Captains.
36. The Captains should arrange to play all postponed matches within 2 weeks from the original fixture dates, but in any case not later than one week after the last fixture match of their Group or Division of the League. All matches played after the deadline will be disregarded for the purposes of deciding playoff teams.
37. The Home Team Captain should notify the pickleball committee immediately if he/she fails to agree to reschedule a postponed match with the Away Team Captain within the pickleball committee stipulated postponement period. The pickleball committee shall then fix a date for this rescheduled match by giving to both Teams not less than one week's prior written notice (One week notice will not be applied for the last week of fixture match), whereupon the Home Team Club shall host this match on the rescheduled date. Failure of either team to compete on the rescheduled date will result in forfeiture of the fixture match to the other team. If both teams fail to compete on the rescheduled date, no points shall be awarded to either team.
38. In the event that a fixture match is not played within 2 weeks from its original fixture date, or that the match is not played within one week after the last fixture match of the League

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season, or that both Team Captains have failed to inform the pickleball committee within 48 hours of the original fixture date of the match's postponement status, then the pickleball committee shall regard both teams to have forfeited the match and no point shall be awarded to either team.

Champions/Placements

39. The Divisional Champions shall be decided as follows:-

- a. The winner of a Group, (or the Champion of a Division if there is only one Group) shall be the team which occupies the top position in that Group.
- b. If there are two Groups, there will be a cross playoff. The team in top position of Group 1 will play the team in 2nd position of Group 2 and vice-versa. The teams in top position of each Group will be the Home Team hosting the semi-final matches. The winners of these semi-final playoff matches will then play in the final to determine the Divisional Champion. The venue of the final matches will be determined by blind draw conducted by the pickleball committee.
- c. If there are 3 or more group in a division, the pickleball committee will decide on the playoff format and notify all contesting teams of its decision within 3 weeks after the commencement of the League season.

Club rules concerning mobile phones

40. Mobile phones may not, under any circumstances, be used by visiting players or spectators when playing at a club which forbids their use.

According to the rules of some clubs any person, whether a member or non-member, may be immediately asked to leave the premises. If, during a match, therefore, a visiting player infringes a club's rules regarding mobile phones and is asked to leave the premises, this player is deemed to have forfeited any remaining points in a game and all other unplayed games.

The pickleball committee expects all players to observe the rules of host clubs. Captains and Representatives should ensure that their players are fully aware of the points made above.

Rules concerning Recording Devices

41. Recording of a match may only take place with consent from all players on the court and with venue authorization.

- a. Players may withdraw consent to recording at any time.

42. The authorized recording of the match shall not be used to determine or dispute any calls in relation to the match.