As of 20 Oct 2026

HKCTA Pickleball League 2026-27
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 team Captains. 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.

HKCTA Pickleball League 2026-27
Rules and Regulations

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. Participating teams must submit their entry form along with the entry fee HKD 1,800 by the stipulated entry deadline set by the HKCTA.

Eligibility

14. Preference of registration will be given to teams that can provide their own court(s).
    a. Each Participating Team is required to have a minimum of 1 court available on the match day for at least consecutively 4 hours, when they are identified as the host team.
    b. Each participating teams must specify on their entry form a minimum of four (4) date and time options, selected from the schedule designated by the LMC, for the availability for hosting match(es).
    c. Courts should have at least an additional 5ft of space from the baselines and sidelines.
    d. 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 host games for the duration of the league in order to be able to be considered as having courts. Court fees will be responsible by the host team. Booking confirmation will be required to prove they have courts for the match day.
    e. 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. The League consists of two phases: a single round-robin (first phase) followed by a playoff (second phase). The top teams from the first phase will advance to the playoffs. The exact number of qualifying teams and the playing format will be determined by the LMC based on divisional registration numbers and will be announced prior to the commencement of the League.

HKCTA Pickleball League 2026-27
Rules and Regulations

19. League will be in mixed format and the assigned host team shall host the match(es). On any given matchday, two or more participating teams, including the host team will be scheduled to play at the same venue. In the event that multiple matches are scheduled at the same venue on a single matchday, the host team shall be full responsibility for hosting and organizing all scheduled matches, regardless of whether their own team is participating. The matches will take place on the following days/times:
    a. Saturday and/or Sunday – 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM (In the event that a match cannot be commenced or completed due to force majeure, inclement weather, or other valid reasons recognized by the LMC, the postponed matches may be rescheduled for a weekday if agreed by the related teams)
    b. First game shall start within 10 minutes of start time. Subsequent games shall start 2 minutes after the conclusion of the previous game.
    c. The next match shall start within 10 minutes after the conclusion of the previous match.
    d. 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.
    e. Each player can only represent one team/division per season.
        i. Players may substitute for their higher team Round Robin match up to 2 matches per season.
            - After a player has maxed their substitution. Teams representative/captain must declare within 48 hours after the 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.
20. Unless otherwise stated, USAP Rules will be used.

HKCTA Pickleball League 2026-27
Rules and Regulations

21. 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 1
        iv. Game 4: Mixed Doubles 2
            - 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.

22. Ranking will be based on:
    a. Wins
23. 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 criteria are applied to determine the ranking (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 if only two teams remain tied, at which point the tie between those two teams will be broken by rule 23 b.
    e. The drawing of lots by LMC.

HKCTA Pickleball League 2026-27
Rules and Regulations

24. 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 5 minutes prior to the start of the match.
25. The procedure of the submission of the score card is as follow:
    a. For un-officiated matches, the captain of the winning team shall submit a copy of the score card with signature from both teams within 2 days of the completed matches to an electronic form. Failure or late to submit will result in forfeiture of the match. No results will be recorded. No late result submission will be accepted.
    b. For officiated matches, the on-court official appointed by the pickleball committee shall submit a copy of the score card with signature from both teams within 2 days of the completed matches to an electronic form.
26. Coaching is allowed by captains and teammates when the ball is not in play and should not affect the flow of the game.
27. The HKCTA reserves the right to make changes to the playing format.

Equipment

28. Paddles – USAP or 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/
29. Approved Balls – USAP Only: https://equipment.usapickleball.org/ball-list/

Registration of Players

30. Participating team shall register players prior to the entry deadline. There is no limitation on the number of registered players per team prior to entry deadline.
31. Once the entry deadline is passed, the pickleball committee will only entertain applications for additional players no later than three (3) days prior 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 with an administration fee HKD 200 for processing of each additional player set by the HKCTA.
32. A player may be removed from the team roster at any time after the entry deadline has passed.

HKCTA Pickleball League 2026-27
Rules and Regulations

Inclement Weather

33. In the event that any of the following circumstances occur two hours before the commencement of the venue's first match, all scheduled match(es) at that venue will be postponed without advance notice:
    a. Black Rainstorm Warning is hoisted; or
    b. Typhoon Signal number 8 or above is hoisted.
34. In the case of inclement weather not described in Article 33 before a match starts:
    a. 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.
    b. For officiated matches, the on-court official appointed by the pickleball committee shall decide whether the match shall be played or not. If the match cannot commence within 30 minutes of the starting time, the match shall be postponed.
35. 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:
    a. For un-officiated matches, 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:
        i. If a match is so postponed, the following rules shall apply:
            - 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 un-played games at the time of discontinuance to the opposing team.
    b. For officiated matches, the on-court official appointed by the pickleball committee shall decide the match to be suspended, or recommence after suspension. If the match cannot recommence within 30 minutes from the time of suspension, the match shall subject to:
        i. If a match is so postponed, the following rules shall apply:
            - 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 un-played games at the time of discontinuance to the opposing team.

HKCTA Pickleball League 2026-27
Rules and Regulations

Match Schedule

36. The pickleball committee shall be responsible for drawing up the match schedule and the participating teams shall play in all their matches according to the match schedule. The pickleball committee reserves the right to make changes to the match schedule.
37. No match reschedule request will be allowed by the participating teams.
38. If the court designated for the match(es) is/are not able to play in the opinion of the host team, the host team Captain must immediately notify the pickleball committee and the Away team(s) in writing of the unavailability. However, if the Away Team Captain contests this decision, a written complaint can be lodged within 2 days of the postponed match to the pickleball committee who shall then conduct an inquiry. After the inquiry, if the pickleball committee is of the opinion that the Host Team has misrepresented the reason(s) for postponement, the Host Team will then be deemed to be in breach of this postponement rule and a Walkover Match shall be awarded to the Away Team(s).
39. If the court provided by the host team is not able to play on the scheduled matchday due to force majeure, inclement weather or other valid reasons recognized by the LMC, the related matches of that venue will be postponed. The host team must, within 48 hours after the match postponed, offer at least 2 possible dates when home court is available while the Away team(s) must also, within 48 hours, respond to and confirm the Host Teams' offer(s).
40. The Host Team Captain should notify the pickleball committee immediately if he/she fails to agree to reschedule a postponed match with the Away Teams' Captain(s) within the pickleball committee stipulated postponement period. The pickleball committee shall then fix a date for this rescheduled match by giving to all related 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 Host 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.
41. All the postponed matches shall not be rescheduled later than one week after the last fixture match of their Division of the League (except for the postponement of the last fixture match can be rescheduled within two weeks of the last fixture match of their Division of the League).
42. In the event that the match is not played within one week after the last fixture match of their Division of the League (except for the postponement of the last fixture match can be rescheduled within two weeks of the last fixture match of their Division of the League), then the pickleball committee shall regard both teams to have forfeited the match and no point shall be awarded to either team.
43. Any postponed playoff match shall be played at a venue and on a date to be decided by the pickleball committee.

HKCTA Pickleball League 2026-27
Rules and Regulations

Champions/Placements

44. The Divisional Champions shall be decided as follows:
    a. The winner of the divisional playoff shall be declared the champion.

Club rules concerning mobile phones

45. 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

46. 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.
47. The authorized recording of the match shall not be used to determine or dispute any calls in relation to the match.

Final Provisions

48. Any participant commits a breach any articles of these Rules and Regulations shall be considered a violation, and the matter will be referred to the HKCTA for appropriate action as deem fit at their absolute discretion.
49. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English and Chinese version of these Rules and Regulations, the English version shall prevail.
50. Matters not provided for in these Rules and Regulations shall be decided by the HKCTA. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.
51. The HKCTA reserves the right to make amendments, additions, deletions and to interpret any articles in these Rules and Regulations.