

## El Segundo Pickleball League Rules – Updated 4/07/25

Welcome to the El Segundo Pickleball League. The league is here to provide fun, friendly competition for those that love the game. Please share the rules with your players and remind everyone it's just a game and good sportsmanship is essential at all times to keep the spirit of the game intact.

### **League Fees:**

The league fees are based on the number of weeks played, division format and may vary between divisions. The fee is due in full at registration or the established deadline that is provided.

### **League Format:**

- Round robin, doubles format
- MXD and WD will play on 2 courts at the same time for a total of 12 games (6 sets)
- Premier, MXD-GN and MD will play 3 games against 2 different teams weekly
- Weekly results/standings will be sent weekly to the captains
- Teams will play all scheduled games within the allotted 2 hour time frame.
- Every game counts towards standings

### **Divisions:**

- 3.0 Skill level = Beginning Intermediate
- 3.5 Skill Level = Intermediate
- 3.5+ Skill Level = High Intermediate
- 4.0 Skill Level = Advanced
- 4.5 Skill Level = Upper Advanced
- Premier Level = Expert 5.0 and above

The skill level options per division may include multiple offerings within the range. This was established to create a pathway of advancement as teams skill up.

### **Roster Requirements:**

- Players must be at least 18 years of age. A copy of a valid photo ID and waiver signature must be on file for all rostered players.
- There are 4 leagues in the El Segundo program defined as - Women's Doubles (WD), Men's Doubles (MD), Mixed Doubles (MXD), Gender neutral (MGN which is 4.5 and above levels)
- A player may only roster on one team per league.
- Captains may only captain one team per league.
- Teams have a minimum and maximum number of rostered players established per league
  - WD & MXD = 4 minimum / 10 maximum (recommend 8-10)
  - MXD-GN = 2 minimum / 4 maximum (recommend 3-4)
  - MD = 2 minimum / 4 maximum (recommend 3-4)

\* We highly recommend each team rosters above the minimum requirement to cover illness, injury, personal, etc in order to eliminate any forfeits.

### **Team Paperwork:**

- Captains must submit the official roster form every season
- Each player must acknowledge the liability waiver statement on the roster form with their signature
- The roster form on file must be updated whenever a player change occurs. (add/deletes)
- Roster changes are allowed until the day prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week's game of the season.
- A valid photo ID must be submitted for any player who did not play on any team in either the Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall 2024 league.

ROSTER AND PAPERWORK must be submitted prior to any player stepping on a court.

\*Players and teams may NOT play in a lower level skill level than they're rated without consent of the league coordinator

### **Rules & Regulations:**

- Games to 11, win by 1, switch sides at 6 points
- Home, Away, Serve, Side and Court numbers will be listed on the schedule & scorecards
- Captains must bring a **legible** HARD COPY LINEUP weekly and **legibly** transfer the players name onto the scorecards. The hard copy lineup must be attached to the clipboard with the scorecard. We must be able to read the names on the scorecards to verify players
- Scorecards must be completed at least 15 minutes prior to the game start time.
- NO changes to the scorecard may be made after completed unless an error was discovered and the league coordinator and/or the opposing captain are in agreement.
- WD and MXD teams may only play with the same teammate one time per round.
- If a player does not arrive in time for their first scheduled game, the game will be considered a forfeit. (exceptions will be managed by league coordinator)
- NO official timeouts except medical. This includes delay of game when 2 players stop to discuss strategy.
- If a player is injured during play, a medical time out may be used. If the player cannot continue, a player who is on the line up, but not participating in a game, may be substituted in to complete that game. If the injured player subs out and cannot return to play, other players not currently playing will be subbed in – reworking the scorecard. If the player injury requires they sub out in round 1 and then determine they can return for play, they must wait until round 2 to return. If injured in round 2, and has to sub out, they cannot return for play. If no additional players are available to sub into games, the games with the injured players will be a forfeit.
- Captains are responsible for the actions of their teams and spectators
- Spectators are NOT members of the team and should sit separately and not be involved in team functions.
- Teams are responsible for keeping score, calling court and player assignments for games.
- Loud cheering interfering with play is not acceptable.
- Captains have the option of playing or not playing anyone on their roster
- MXD and WD captains must play a minimum of 2 games per week when in attendance. Exceptions must be approved by the league coordinator.
- If a non-rostered player participates in a game, that game will be considered a forfeit.
- Additional team penalties may be assessed if a team is playing an illegal player without advising league coordinator.

- Team forfeits due to lack of enough rostered players will impact future season participation.
- Any team that qualifies for playoffs, and is unable to participate, will relinquish their playoff position. The next team in line will move into playoffs.
- MODIFIED RULE CHANGE (this league only)- INCORRECT SERVER
  - If the correct server or receiver is NOT in the correct position when the score is called, players may stop the rally, place the players in the correct position and replay the rally. If the correct server or receiver is NOT in the correct position and the rally is completed, place the players in the correct position and replay the rally.
- MODIFIED RULE CHANGE ( this league only) – FOOT FAULTS
  - Servers toe touches the line during the serve – DO NOT CALL
  - Servers entire foot crosses the line - CALL
  - If this is a consistent issue with a player, advise league coordinator who will observe/advise AFTER the games are completed. DO NOT CALL
  - Kitchen faults – do NOT call toes on the line / DO call flagrant foot faults
  - Anyone in the game can call a fault – the player, the partner, the other teammate
  - If the “offender” and/or teammate does not believe a foot fault occurred, it’s a replay – DO NOT ARGUE
  - There are no limits on replays.
  - If the player agrees with the call then it’s a fault
  - SERVES – players DO NOT CALL what your team considers an illegal serve – contact league coordinator who will observe and determine

This is not a sanctioned league or tournament and is non-officiated play. We are under a time restraint per division and do not want to consistently delay the games due to numerous replay’s which aren’t necessary. If ongoing issues are occurring during games, text the league coordinator your court number for assistance and/or observation.

### **Playoffs**

- In order to play in finals, a player must have played a minimum of two weeks during the regular season
- Playoff seeding/ranking will be determined by games won during the season,
- Tie Breakers between teams seeding into playoffs is Head to Head first, points second.
- EVERY GAME COUNTS – all games on the scorecard must be played
- If a tie occurs during playoffs (games won & points) a sudden death match will be conducted to determine the winner.
  - Teams select 2 player to compete.
  - A time is established based on time remaining – 5 minute minimum.
  - The first team to 7 points for a 5 minute game.
  - First to 11, win by one if time allows for a complete game

### **Division Movement and Player Eligibility:**

- Any player and/or team observed to be playing in the wrong skill division will be notified and moved for the next season
- Captains must abide by the ratings established for each division for each player

- Players with official DUPR or UTR-P ratings who are above the max allowed skill level for the division will not be approved
- Relegation & qualifiers, along with the league coordinator assessments will determine team movements up or down in skill level divisions for each season

### **Officiating:**

- The USA Pickleball Official Rulebook will be used to guide league play
- The ES league is a non-sanctioned event and the non-officiated play rules will be practiced
- The league has the option to modify rules to better align with the program – those modifications are outlined in the Rules & Regulations section above.
- Games are self-regulated
- Players are responsible for ethically calling line calls on their end of the court
- The USAP rules are used when determining in/out balls – NOT RULES USED FOR PPA/MLP
- Questionable calls must be resolved in the favor of the opponent.
- If player asks for the opponents opinion the opponents call will stand
- If one player calls the ball out and the partner calls it in, doubt exists and the call is in
- The opposing team may respectfully challenge a line call and respectfully accept the final call
- Players on the sidelines may NOT make calls, verbally coach during play, or make any coaching signals to their teammates. You are spectators when you aren't playing.
- Team huddles between games may not delay games
- Delays such as repeated partner discussion at the baseline are not allowed
- Spectators may NOT make any calls such as line in/out calls, coach during play, make any coaching signals to the players, huddle teams and delay games or function as a member of the team. Teams are responsible for managing the scorecards and getting players on the right courts for games.

### **Equipment & Clothing:**

- Players provide their own paddles
- League provides Game balls which must be returned at the conclusion of the games
- League does NOT provide warm up balls
- The Franklin X-40 ball is the official league ball – Optic color
- Clothing – players may not wear clothing that closely matches the color of the ball. Exceptions exist for grandfathered teams. Any new team must select a different color and any current teams changing their team uniform must select a different color

### **Court Rules:**

- Players are expected to leave the courts promptly at the end of their blocked court times.
- Courts have been reserved for the league
- Any player NOT on the roster and spectators should NOT sit with the players
- Space is very limited on Pickleball courts 1 & 2 and request teams limit the number of people on the sideline
- Only water is allowed on the courts and lids are required.

### **Etiquette:**

- Good sportsmanship is required at all times

- Ethical and respectful play is a foundational requirement
- Teams should advise league coordinator if repetitive rule violations, questionable calls, rules questions are occurring during play. The league coordinator will observe and correct.
- Swearing, negative taunting/comments, unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. If disrespect is occurring between teams, the offenders will be penalized and subject to forfeit games. If severe enough or physical in nature the individual and/or teams will be removed from league.