



PICKLEBALL ADULT & YOUTH REGISTRATION HANDBOOK & TEAM PACKET



Welcome to the ZSC Pickleball Tournament. This handbook outlines registration requirements, eligibility, match format, conduct expectations, and tournament authority.

Pickleball is being introduced as a new sport in the Z Games. This document serves as a preliminary guide. Inclusion of Pickleball is subject to participation levels, and infrastructure availability. All the rules and regulations of the game may be modified at any time by the host committee in collaboration with the ZSC sports coordinator, and without prior written notice.

All matches follow official USA Pickleball rules unless otherwise modified by the Host Committee.

SECTION 1: REGISTRATION INFORMATION

1.1 Age Divisions

- **Youth Doubles:** Under 15 years (any gender combination)
- **Adult Doubles:** 15+ years (any gender combination)

Age verification may be required.

1.2 Team Eligibility

- Each team must consist of **two (2) players**.
- Doubles teams may be any gender combination.
- Both players must complete registration requirements.
- A match may not begin with only one player.
- If a player cannot continue due to injury or other reason, the match will be forfeited.
- If a player cannot attend due to conflict with participation in a team event, the match will be forfeited.
- Forfeit score will be recorded as **7-0, to be finalized**
- Injury time allowed: **Maximum 5 minutes**.

1.3 Registration Requirements

Each team must submit:

- Completed Team Registration Form
- Player information for both team members

- Signed Code of Conduct Agreement (both players)
- Signed Liability Waiver (both players; parent/guardian if under 18)
- Emergency contact information

Incomplete registrations may not be accepted.

1.4 Check-In Requirements

- Teams must check in prior to their first match.
- Teams should arrive at least **15 minutes before scheduled match time**.
- Teams arriving more than **10 minutes late** may forfeit the match.

SECTION 2: MATCH FORMAT & SCORING

2.1 Match Structure

- Games are played to **11 points**, win by 2.
- Maximum cap per game: **15 points**.
- Only the serving team may score points.

2.2 Serving Rules

- Serve must be **underhand and below the waist**.
- Serve must land diagonally in the opponent's service court.
- Only **one serve attempt** per service turn.
- The **two-bounce rule** applies:
 - Receiving team must let the serve bounce.
 - Serving team must let the return bounce before striking.

2.3 Court & Equipment

- Court dimensions: **20' × 44'**
- Net height:
 - 36 inches at sidelines
 - 34 inches at center
- Official pickleballs will be provided.
- Paddles must be approved under USA Pickleball standards.
- Proper athletic shoes and attire required.
- Jewelry is discouraged for safety reasons.

SECTION 3: GAMEPLAY OVERVIEW

3.1 General Play

- Each side may hit the ball once per return.
- Ball may be struck with any part of the paddle hand below the wrist.
- Ball may not touch the net on serve.
- During rallies, net contact is permitted if the ball lands in bounds.

3.2 Non-Volley Zone (“Kitchen”)

- Players may not volley while:

- Standing inside the non-volley zone
- Touching the non-volley zone line
- Players may enter the zone to play a ball that has bounced.
- Players must not interfere with opponents during play.

3.3 Side Changes

- Teams switch sides after each game.
- In the final game, teams switch sides when the first team reaches **6 points**.

SECTION 4: FAULTS & PENALTIES

A fault results in loss of rally.

Common faults include:

- Illegal serve
- Volleying in the non-volley zone
- Ball landing out of bounds
- Ball failing to clear the net
- Net contact
- Stepping over the centerline under the net
- Interference with opponent's play

Referee decisions are final.

SECTION 5: CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

All participants must:

- Demonstrate sportsmanship.
- Respect opponents, officials, and volunteers.
- Follow tournament procedures.
- Call faults honestly during self-officiated matches.

Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in:

- Warning
- Point penalty
- Match forfeiture
- Disqualification

Provoke & Retaliation Rule

To ensure safety:

- Any player(s) provoking harmful conduct:
 - Immediate ejection
 - **Three (3) year ban**
- Any player(s) retaliating:
 - Immediate ejection
 - **Two (2) year ban**

Zero tolerance will be enforced.

SECTION 6: TOURNAMENT AUTHORITY

- The Host Committee and ZSC Sports Coordinator reserve the right to modify rules without prior written notice.
- Inclusion of Pickleball in the tournament is subject to final approval.
- All referee and tournament decisions are final.
- Participation constitutes agreement to these rules.

SECTION 7: TEAM ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By registering, both players confirm that they:

- Have read and understand this handbook.
- Agree to abide by USA Pickleball and ZSC rules.
- Accept all risks associated with participation.
- Accept tournament authority and officiating decisions.