

Do you need more direction for starting your pickleball club? Here are some ideas that can help...

- It is helpful to have at least two adults to help with each club: One to coach and run practices, and the other to manage the team and be a contact person for UHSPA.
- Find a High School student who is interested in being in the club and would want to help set it up. They can talk to the Athletic Director and/or Principal to understand the steps needed. The Principal approves the club and the use of the school logo.
- Set up a Group Me that includes any interested students and at least one parent for each player. Use the Group Me for all club and team information.
- Anyone can join the High School pickleball clubs. They are open to students of any level, including beginners, and Jr High and homeschooled students living in the school boundaries should be welcome to participate as well.
- Decide on how fees should be handled. Things to keep in mind:
 - The average High School sport in Utah last year cost \$1,422 per student. UHSPA wants to see pickleball grow and be available to all youth in the state who want to play which is why we are keeping it so affordable.
 - We suggest charging students around \$200–\$300 each for a team of 10–20 students. This would give you enough funds to cover registration, end of season parties, additional practice time, and any additional team shirts or hoodies if desired.
 - If finances are tight for your students and you have a large team, you could charge less, not purchase additional items, or have students pay extra if they want those.
- Advertise the club. Make a flyer like [this one](#) and post around the school and community. (Or email chelsie@uhspa.org asking for our generic flyer) Share on personal and school social media sites. Consider creating a QR code that goes to a google form or spreadsheet where students enter their information (name, phone number, parents names and numbers, grade of school, DUPR ID if known etc)

- Have weekly practices for the Pickleball Club. These should be the same day and time each week and should be open to anyone wanting to play/learn. UHSPA can help with getting indoor court time at a local facility if needed.
- Hold tryouts for club members to compete on the School Pickleball Team. Some kids may not want to be competitive and may be happy just playing at the club on a recreational level. Advertise your tryouts in advance through social media, text, email, and any other means you can think of. The purpose of the tryouts is to find out which students want to compete in the UHSPA season. You will need a minimum of 4 males and 4 females. There is no maximum number of students that you submit for the team. If you have 30 kids who want to play, they can be added to the team roster and may have a chance to play during the season
- At your weekly club practices, you can focus on the rules of the game, drilling skills, and playing games. Since you will have already set up a digital DUPR club for your school, and since every student who joins the club should have created a DUPR account for themselves, coaches are able to log games from weekly practices into DUPR. This will enable them to see who the best players are and who plays well with each other, which will make the decision process of who competes each week much easier. Coaches should evaluate their digital DUPR club standings each week so that they can recognize students who are playing well and should earn a spot on the competitive team for the next meet.
- Please bear in mind that for UHSPA, anyone from the roster can play in the meets. If you add a new student to your club during the season, they can also be added on to the rosters, but they cannot compete for 1 week in order for staff to verify their information. Players are only allowed to play in the Championships (team or individual) if they have competed in at least two meets during the season.
- If you are able, you can make a webpage for the school pickleball club. Canva is free and is a great tool to use. Use your school's colors and add photos of kids playing pickleball (we can help with that if needed) Add the QR code that links to your google spreadsheets for interested students to sign up. Add the coach and advisors contact information as well.
- Consider reaching out to a local company to see if they will sponsor your pickleball club. You can promote them throughout the season on your social media posts. This will alleviate the personal cost for students.

*** The ideas listed above are suggestions based on experiences from coaches last season.***