2025 ADULT PICKLEBALL WINTER LEAGUE RULES

LGS Recreation
19655 Allendale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070
(669) 208-3624-Direct Line
pickleball@lgsrecreation.org

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

* League Play will begin on January 11, 2025

* Sports Website- http://www.teamsideline.com/lgsrecreation

THIS RULEBOOK IS DESIGNED TO ACQUAINT PICKLEBALL CAPTAINS, PLAYERS WITH SPECIFIC LEAGUE RULES AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY SET FORTH BY LGS RECREATION FOR THE ADULT PICKLEBALL LEAGUES.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

IT IS THE INTENT OF LGS RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ADULTS TO TAKE PART IN AN ORGANIZED AND STRUCTURED ATHLETIC PROGRAM WHICH WILL ENABLE ITS PARTICIPANTS TO ACHIEVE A SENSE OF PERSONAL ENJOYMENT AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE VALUE OF SPORTSMANSHIP WHEN PLAYING IN RECREATIONAL SPORTS.

CONTACTS

For the quickest response time, please direct inquiries and comments to:
pickleball@lgsrecreation.org

League Coordinator - Savanna Kiene
Direct line: 669-208-3624
skiene@lgsrecreation.org

LEAGUES

FORMAT

The league format is a multi-week season with the top teams making the playoffs but could change depending on the number of teams in the league.

TEAM ROSTERS

Players must be 18 years of age to compete in all pickleball leagues offered by LGS Recreation.

A completed roster is due by the registration deadline. For our 4 player divisions a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 10 players must be on the roster. For our 2 player divisions a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 players must be on the roster . All information requested on the roster must be complete. A separate roster is available online for substitutes. A player may participate in the league only if they have officially registered online with the LGS Recreation registration portal and appear on an official roster that has been sent to you. **All players must be listed on the roster at the start of the game.** Any player playing on a team without being listed on their roster may result in suspensions and forfeits.

It is the team's responsibility to ensure their roster is up to date at all times.

At game time, a maximum of 6 players from the roster (3 for doubles divisions) are allowed to participate. This includes subs. This is to ensure we are not rotating out full teams each match to bring an unfair advantage to those with a smaller team.

Add/Drop Deadline: Teams may add/drop players before 2/5. No players may be added after that time without the League Administration authorization. No players or subs may be added during playoffs.

SUBSTITUTES

LGS Recreation has a lengthy list of players interested in subbing for our teams in our leagues. The link to see this interest list is on the top left-hand side of the official roster. Feel free to browse this list at any time to find someone willing to sub for your team. **Subs must be in the same skill level as the division they are playing for.** Subs can only be interchangeable if their skill level falls within the range of that division, for example a 2.5 beginner can play for a 2.5-3.5 intermediate league but a 3.0 intermediate player cannot sub in a 1.0-2.5 league.

To add a sub to your official team roster, you have two options:

(OPTION ONE) Substitute who is currently not playing in our leagues. If you find a friend or someone from the interest list who is available to sub, they must register online at the

registration portal that is listed on the roster. Anyone playing on a team without being registered and listed on the official roster may result in suspensions and forfeits.
(OPTION TWO) Substitute who is currently in one of our current leagues. Please email the League Director their name, and what division they are playing in. Once received, the League Administration will add their name to the official roster. Any player playing on a team without being listed on the official roster may result in suspensions and forfeits.

It is the team's responsibility to ensure their roster is up to date at all times.

PLAYOFFS
A minimum of two full-time players (one full-time player for doubles divisions) must be present and playing during all playoff games. You may not add subs to your roster during playoff season. There cannot be a full team of subs playing in the playoffs.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A player may participate in the league only if they have officially registered online with the LGS Recreation registration portal, and appear on an official roster.

Players must be able to show identification on the court if a question of eligibility arises. No I.D. will result in a forfeit. **Questions of eligibility must be raised upon entry into the game.** You must inform the league director through email of any protests. Please have all of your players bring ID's to your games.

A team will forfeit any protested games that an ineligible player participated in, and the player will be automatically suspended from their next scheduled game.

A player can only be on one LGS Recreation pickleball team per division.

If caught playing on two (2) teams in the same division, the player will be suspended for one game. It is the responsibility of all team members to know what other teams his/her players are participating in.

Players **must be within the skill level range of the division they registered for.** Any player or team caught bringing in "ringers" or winning at a disproportionate rate run the risk of being suspended from league play.

PRE-GAME GROUND RULES

The team must have at least 4 legal players (2 legal players for doubles division) and no more than 6 legal players (3 legal players for doubles division) to start and finish a match. If a team falls below 4 (2 for doubles division) players during the match, it will immediately be declared a forfeit. Teams should have 2 men, and 2 women available to play. You can have more women in a team, but never more men. For example, you can have 1 man, and 3 women or even 4 women. Men should be playing men, and women playing women. We do allow women to play in the men's doubles, but not men playing in women's doubles.

No smoking or alcohol is allowed on the court.

La Rinconada Parking-PLEASE ONLY PARK ON THE TENNIS COURT SIDE OF THE STREET. PLEASE DON"T PARK ON THE RESIDENTIAL SIDE OF THE STREET.

Court Hours close at 6pm. Please make sure you are off the court by that time.

La Rinconada Blowers may only be used on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Leaf blower use on Sundays and holidays is prohibited**. Using blowers outside of these hours is not permitted, according to the town ordinance. Violators may be subject to citations and/or removed from LGSR pickleball programs.

La Rinconada box code is for league use only. Non-LGSR PB Club participants who use the code outside of league hours will be removed from the league.

Only players, League administrators, and team scorekeepers whose names are on the roster are allowed on court.

LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Official rules as set forth by the USAPA will be used except where superseded by LGS Recreation rules and regulations.

LGS Recreation and League Director have the final authority to make decisions pertaining to all Adult Pickleball League Rules and Regulations.

COIN TOSS

1. At the start of each match, there will be a coin toss

2. The winner of the coin toss will choose the option of selecting serve/receive **to start all games** (Option ONE). OR the option of choosing which end to start all games at (Option TWO).

3. If you choose Option ONE you will be providing balls for all games of play. new or "like" new USAPA-approved pickleballs. Preferred brands are Franklin X-40. Please be consistent with the balls used during each match. If possible yellow balls would be great.

MATCH AND GAMES

1. A match is between 2 teams

2. Each team will play 8 games each week, unless a bye is scheduled. Doubles division will play 3 games each week, unless a bye is scheduled.

3. 2 games of women's doubles-1st/2nd game of the match
   2 games of men's doubles- 3rd/4th game of the match
   2 games of mixed doubles-5th/6th game of the match. Choose your mixed doubles partner. Each partnership plays their opponents. (AA vs BB and CC vs DD)
   2 games of mixed doubles-7th/8th game of the match. Stay with your same partner and play new opponent. (AA vs DD and CC vs BB)

4. Partners need to switch if they playing more than 4 games together.

5. Substitute players may sub in between games. Only injured players may leave in the middle of a game, and may not return to the game if needing to leave due to injury/sickness.

6. All games will be played to 11 points and you must win by 2 points or 1st team to reach to 15.

SCHEDULE

- Please note if you see EQ1 you are playing at EQ1 and EQ2
- Please note if you see LR1 you are playing at LR1 and LR2
- Please note if you see LR3 you are playing at LR3 and LR4

THE SERVE

1. The serve must be underhand. Paddle contact with the ball must be below the server's waist.

2. The serve is initiated with at least one foot behind the baseline; neither foot may contact the baseline or court until after the ball is struck.

3. The serve is made diagonally crosscourt and must land within the confines of the opposite diagonal court.

4. Only one serve attempt is allowed.

5. The first serve of each side-out is made from the right-hand court.

6. If a point is scored, the server switches sides and the server initiates the next serve from the left-hand court.

7. When the first server loses the serve the partner then serves from their correct side of the court (except for the first service sequence of the game*).

8. The second server continues serving until their team commits a fault and loses the serve to the opposing team.

FAULTS

1. A fault is any action that stops play because of a rule violation.

2. A fault by the receiving team results in a point for the serving team.

3. A fault by the serving team results in the server's loss of serve or side out.

NON-VOLLEY ZONE

1. The non-volley zone is the court area within 7 feet on both sides of the net.

2. Volleying is prohibited within the non-volley zone.

3. It is a fault if, when volleying a ball, the player steps on the non-volley zone, including the line.

4. A player may legally be in the non-volley zone any time other than when volleying a ball.

DOUBLE BOUNCE RULE

1. When the ball is served, the receiving team must let it bounce before returning, and then the serving team must let it bounce before returning, thus two bounces.

2. After the ball has bounced once in each team's court, both teams may either volley the ball (hit the ball before it bounces) or play it off a bounce (ground stroke).

LINE CALLS

1. A ball contacting any line, except the non-volley zone line on a serve, is considered "in."

2. Players will call the lines on their side of the court.

TIME LIMIT

1. Game time-15 minute time limit for each game for intermediate-advanced leagues. *Scores should be reported as-is if the time limit expires.*

2. Game time-20 minute time limit for each game for beginner leagues. *Scores should be reported as-is if the time limit expires.*

SCORE REPORTING

1. Scores are to be reported to the League Administration before the next scheduled game the following week. Scores not reported will be reported as forfeits. Last game of the season, and all playoff games should be reported within 24 hours. The winning team should report scores.

2. Scores should be submitted through Google scorekeeping link listed on the top left-hand side of the roster.

FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS AND SCHEDULES
Standings and schedules are posted at our sports website at
www.teamsideline.com/lgsrecreation

League winners will be the team that completes the schedule with the best win-loss record (2-point win, 1-point tie, 0-point loss). If teams are tied with the identical point total after completing the league schedule, the tiebreaker will be as follows (in order): Please note during playoffs if there is a 4-4 tie between teams playing their scheduled matches, there will be a tiebreaker game of doubles play. Each team will select two players of their choice to play in 1 game to determine the winner of the match.

1. Forfeits
2. Head-to-head record
3. Head-to-group record
4. Head-to-head point differential
5. Head-to-group point differential
6. Blind draw or coin flip.

AWARDS

PLAYOFF WINNER
Individual playoff Champion T-Shirts will be presented to the **playoff winners**

PLAYER MISCONDUCT

1. A player using profane and/or abusive language, or whose actions endanger the safety of others, may be ejected from a game without prior warning.

2. Players should stay in their own courts at all times, they should not enter opposing players' court space at any time. Players may be issued suspension if this occurs.

2. Since our league is not governed by staff or officials, we rely on participants to notify us in writing of any player that is not following the LGSR/SANCRA player code of conduct, or demonstrating unsportsmanlike behavior. Players found guilty will be issued suspensions/probation based on the reporting we receive.

3. Any player ejected from a game for any reason will **automatically** be suspended from their team's next game with the possibility of an extended suspension upon the League Director's review.

4. A player using profane and/or abusive language, or whose actions endanger the safety of others, may be ejected from a game without prior warning, and may be subject to S.A.N.C.R.A. Code of Conduct penalties as decided by the league director and LGS Recreation.

5. An individual ejected from a game must leave the court, stands and facility. If they refuse to leave, the official will stop the game. If he/she continues to refuse to leave, his/her team will forfeit their game.

6. LGS Recreation and the League Director have the final authority to make decisions on penalties imposed to players for violations of the S.A.N.C.R.A Player Code of Conduct.

TEAM CAPTAINS

1. The captain shall be the representative of his/her team unless he/she designates a player on his/her roster as the team captain prior to the start of the game. Only the team representative is permitted to raise a question concerning a rule interpretation.

2. The team captain is responsible for the conduct of his/her players and spectators at all times and may be held responsible for their actions. It is the captain's responsibility to make sure all players become familiar with the S.A.N.C.R.A "Player Code of Conduct."

BLOOD BORNE PATHOGEN PARTICIPANT COMPLIANCE

Any bleeding participant must stop bleeding before continuing play. No participant may continue play until all exposed blood on the body and clothing is removed and/or properly bandaged.

FORFEITS

1. Forfeit time is game time. If a team cannot field a team of **four (Two for doubles division)** players at game time, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team.

2. An official or scorekeeper may forfeit a game in the event there is excessive game disturbance problems with players or spectators. League Director will review on a situational basis.

3. In the event of a double forfeit, both teams receive a loss.

4. Courts may be used for a practice game in the event a game is forfeited due to lack of players. The game area must be vacated 10 minutes prior to the next scheduled game

3. If a team forfeits a game, the other team is credited with the win, and gets a 11-0 win for points. This is used for standings purposes.

PROTESTS

Protests that will be received and considered, concern matters of the following type:

GAMESCORE

GAME RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

PROTEST PROCEDURES

1. All protests must be filed with an email to the league director. Protests will only be considered 24 hours after the protested event.

PROTEST LETTER MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

1. Names of teams involved

2. Date, and time of incident

3. Rule and section of the official rules or local rules under which the protest is made

4. The decision and condition surrounding the making of the decision

5. All details involved in the matter protested

Failure to follow the protest procedures outlined above will void protest. On upheld protests, the League Director will decide the outcome or whether the game will be continued or replayed.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

1. Games that have to be made up due to unforeseen conflict, power failure or other circumstances will be rescheduled in the order that they occur immediately following the completion of all scheduled games. If the games cannot be played, the win-loss record will be computed on games actually played.

2. Check www.teamsideline.com/lgsrecreation if you are in doubt as to the status of the game. LGSR will make every attempt to notify in case of cancellation. Check 2 hours before gametime. If the games are not canceled by that time, teams must report to the courts to see if the games can be played. At gametime it will be the teams choice on whether they wish to play or schedule another time to make-up the game.

3. No schedule changes are allowed. Teams must play when scheduled.

4. League standings, some individual player stats, and general information can be found at www.teamsideline.com/lgsrecreation

INSURANCE

Persons or players participating in activities sponsored by LGS Recreation are not covered in any way for personal liability or property damage. There is a liability waiver that is signed by all participants. All participate at their own risk.

SOUTH BAY SANCRA EST. 1977
SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RECREATION AGENCIES

SANCRA CODE OF CONDUCT

1. ***NO PARTICIPANT OR SPECTATOR SHALL*** be guilty of a physical attack, lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike or kick an official, participant, coach, agency representative, manager, or another spectator. Officials are required to immediately suspend participant from further play and report participant to League Director. The participant shall remain suspended until his/her case is considered by the League Director.

   MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from one (1) league game and placed on probation for the remainder of season.

   MAXIMUM PENALTY: Lifetime suspension and/or felonious assault charges filed. (CA Penal Code Sec. 243.8)

2. ***NO PARTICIPANT SHALL*** be guilty of leaving his or her offensive, defensive position or respective dugout areas to further incite any verbal or physical confrontation between players on the field or court.

   MINIMUM PENALTY: Immediate ejection with possible further sanctions dispensed by league office.

   NOTE: In the event said player(s) cannot be identified, the first, second, third, etc. Player(s) in the line-up are subject to being removed from the game.

   MAXIMUM PENALTY: Forfeiture and/or double forfeiture of game and player suspensions as determined by league office up to life and/or felonious assault charges filed.

3. ***NO PARTICIPANT OR SPECTATOR SHALL*** be guilty of damaging or defacing agency, school district or sanctioned facilities. Officials or agency representative are required to immediately suspend individual and report incident to League Director.

   MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from further play until financial responsibility is met by individual and/or team AND probation for remainder of the season.

   MAXIMUM PENALTY: Lifetime suspension**.**

4. ***NO PARTICIPANT SHALL*** be guilty of an abusive verbal attack**,** including "trash talking" or taunting any participant, official, agency representative, or spectator. Officials are required to immediately suspend the participant from further play. The infraction will be reported to the League Director. **This violation additionally includes "after the incident" communication or correspondence in follow up discussions*.***

   MINIMUM PENALTY: One (1) game suspension.

   MAXIMUM PENALTY: Four (4) game suspension and/or one year from time of incident.

5. ***NO PARTICIPANT SHALL*** use deliberately rough tactics during a game against the body and person of an opposing participant. Officials are required to immediately suspend participant from further play and report incident to League Director.

   MINIMUM PENALTY: Removal from the game.

   MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for one year from time of incident.

6. ***NO PARTICIPANT SHALL*** refuse to abide by an official's decision or be guilty of verbal or forceful demonstrations of dissent to an official's decision. The degree of infraction shall, in the official's judgment, draw:

   MINIMUM PENALTY: Removal from the game.

   MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for one year from time of incident.

7. ***NO PARTICIPANT SHALL*** be guilty of intentionally throwing a bat or item of playing equipment. Officials are required to immediately suspend the participant from further play and report such player to the League Director**.**

   MINIMUM PENALTY: One (1) game suspension.

   MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for one year from time of incident.

8. ***NO PARTICIPANT SHALL*** appear in, on or around a facility at any time under the influence or in possession of a controlled substance, or in an intoxicated condition. Officials are required to suspend participant from further play and report such player to the League Director.

   MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from two (2) league games and placed on probation for the remainder of season.

   MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for one year from time of incident.

9. ***NO TEAM OR TEAMS SHALL*** engage in physical aggression upon each other, officials, agency representatives, field supervisors, or spectators. Officials shall immediately suspend play and report, in writing, the incident to the League Director. Decision by League Director shall involve:

   MINIMUM PENALTY: Forfeiture of game by one or both teams involved with suspension of one additional game and probation of one year from time of incident.

   MAXIMUM PENALTY: Dropping of one or both teams from SANCRA member leagues for life.

10. ***NO MANAGER, PARTICIPANT, CAPTAIN, OR TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SHALL***, at any time be guilty of utilizing a non-roster or ineligible participant; or falsify the identification or age of any participant or person on an official league or tournament sports roster. Such falsification, intentional or otherwise, and with or without that participant or person's knowledge, shall be just cause for disciplinary action. The infraction will be reported to the League Director**.**

    MINIMUM PENALTY: One year probation from time of incident.

    MAXIMUM PENALTY: One year suspension from time of incident.

11. ***NO MANAGER, TEAM REPRESENTATIVE OR PARTICIPANT SHALL*****,** at any time use illegal equipment (i.e altered, ASA banned or illegal bat; metal cleats; exposed, dangerous jewelry).

    MINIMUM PENALTY: Immediate ejection from the game AND one (1) game suspension.

    MAXIMUM PENALTY: Lifetime suspension.

12. ***NO MANAGER, TEAM REPRESENTATIVE OR PARTICIPANT SHALL***, at any time, commit a fraudulent act

(Including gambling upon any play or outcome of any game) concerning any organized SANCRA event, function or sports tournament. Such act shall be cause for disciplinary action.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Probation for the remainder of the season.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for one year from time of incident.

13. ***EACH TEAM MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE*** to insure that payments made to SANCRA, ASA, or member cities (i.e.
Entry fees, tournament fees, facility costs, etc.), are valid and any costs incurred due to insufficient funds are the entire team's responsibility.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension of further play until financial responsibility is met.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Lifetime suspension.

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. ***THE LEAGUE DIRECTORS SHALL*** have the power and full discretion of imposing penalties on any and all violations of the Players Code of Conduct. In any violation not included in said Code, the penalty shall be at the discretion of the League Director.

2. Any participant removed from a game must leave the park or school facility immediately. Failure to do so will carry a maximum penalty of one year suspension.
3. Any participant having been once penalized by enforcement of the "Code of Conduct" and reported again for violating the "Code of Conduct" will be subject to additional penalties open to the determination of the SANCRA Board.

4. Managers are responsible for actions of their participants and spectators at all times during a SANCRA activity or event and will be disciplined accordingly.

5. The term participant shall include players, coaches and fans where appropriate. Managers are responsible for the actions of their fans.

4. Any individual or team who is placed on probation or suspension for violation of items aforementioned in this Code of Conduct is automatically on probation or suspension for ALL ACTIVITIES sponsored by member cities/organizations during the effected period.

SANCRA CODE OF CONDUCT IS ENFORCED AND HONORED BY ALL S.A.N.C.R.A. AGENCIES, LEAGUES AND TOURNAMENTS. PARTICIPANTS ATTEMPTING TO PLAY IN S.A.N.C.R.A. -- SANCTIONED EVENTS AFTER BEING SUSPENDED WILL BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.

SANCRA MEMBER CITIES/ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

- City of Campbell	- City of Milpitas	- City of Salinas
- Capitola/Soquel	- City of Mountain View	- City of Santa Cruz
- City of Cupertino	- North Monterey County	- City of Saratoga
- City of Gilroy	- City of Pacific Grove	- City of Scotts Valley
- City of Hollister	- City of Palo Alto	- City of Sunnyvale

- City of Los Altos
- LGS Recreation
- City of San Jose
- City of Santa Clara
- Vintage Softball of Santa Clara County
- City of Watsonville