Pickleball Scotland League Rules 2026-2027

1. Title and Management

1.1. Pickleball Scotland (PS) organise the National Leagues each season.

1.2. These Rules of National Competition are ratified by the PS Board and are the rules, unless otherwise stated, which govern all matters arising from the organisation, running, and management of each National & Regional League

1.3. With respect to all the following Rules, contact with the Competition organiser and Competitions Group should be made in the first instance by e- mailing competitions@pickleballscotland.org.

1.4. Any uncertainty arising from the Rules shall be arbitrated by the Competitions Group.

2. Competition Entry

2.1. Clubs are entitled to enter teams into the National Leagues and must signify their wish to do so by completing their registration with competitions@pickleballscotland.org.

2.2. Player fees, £70 per team, will be invoiced to teams once entry has been accepted into the leagues.

2.3. Late entries may only be accepted at the discretion of the Competitions Group, which reserves the right to allocate a late entrant into the highest possible division which has spaces, regardless of the team's league status in the previous season

2.4. Team Administrators must be contactable each season, which will be defined by the Competitions Group. If this person is not contactable, they must inform the Competitions Organiser with a suitable replacement. The Team Administrator will be invited to a WhatsApp community along with all other team administrators for the organization of fixtures.

2.5. All teams entering the Pickleball Scotland League must ensure that they have enough registered players for their level of play for any given fixture throughout the course of the season.

2.6. By entering a team into a National League, clubs agree to abide by the rules of the competitions and to abide by the decisions taken by the Competition Group.

2.7. When entering any competition, each club and its members agree to abide by the anti-doping rules adopted by Pickleball Scotland in accordance with the anti-doping policy.

2.8. All players registered are required to be a full member of Pickleball Scotland - PS Membership. PS reserves the right to refuse entry to any non-registered member or member with the wrong membership type. Full memberships can be completed at https://www.pickleballscotland.org/join-here

2.9. All players registered are required to be signed up to Pickleball Scotland DUPR club - PS DUPR. PS reserves the right to refuse entry to any non-registered member. Joining can be completed at https://dashboard.dupr.com/dashboard/browse/clubs/6853309955

2.10. Players can not represent more than one club per season, and PS reserves the right to refuse entry to any player who registers for multiple teams.

2.11. Each team is required to consist of a minimum of 3 Male and 3 Female players.

2.12. Each team is allowed to register up to 14 players for a team. Any of the 14 players can be used across the season's fixtures but only 6, 3 Male and 3 Female, can fulfil a fixture at any one time. The makeup of the registered team could consist of 6 Female and 4 Male players for example as this fulfils the minimum requirement.

2.13. If a team has space within their 14-slot allocation, they are able to bring in a new player providing they complete all the necessary steps to play within the league. Also note they cannot have represented any other club within the current season.

2.14. Teams are not allowed to use substitutions from other affiliated club teams within the current season.

3. League / Match Format

3.1. All leagues shall consist of a maximum of 10 teams and a minimum of 5 teams.

3.2. The Competition Organiser, with the agreement of Pickleball Scotland Board, has the right to restructure the leagues if deemed necessary.

3.3. All matches will be played to the latest USA Pickleball Rules unless stated otherwise within these rules. The rules can be found at https://usapickleball.org/rules/

3.3.1. Please note the new serve rule as an example of changes applied

3.3.2. It is the responsibility of the receiving team to call faults on serves or foot faults etc within the spirit of the game with the absence of referees for fixtures as an example.

3.4. Each fixture will consist of 6 of the registered players, 3 Male and 3 Female, which are required to be declared a minimum of 24 hours before the first service of the arranged fixture.

3.5. Teams must identify each of the players to a specific number by email to competitions@pickleballscotland.org before the fixture takes place. Both sides must register their team for each match at least 24 hours before the first service of the day.

3.6. An example of this is:

Player Number	Player Name
Female 1	Susan Volleys
Female 2	Victoria Lobs
Female 3	Audrey Drives
Male 1	Bob Pickles
Male 2	Frank Smashes
Male 3	Robert Dinks

3.7. The following divisions will be ordered at registration

3.7.1. Premier League
3.7.2. Premier League (B)
3.7.3. Division 1 – North
3.7.4. Division 1 – East
3.7.5. Division 1 – West
3.7.6. Division 2 – East
3.7.7. Division 2 – West
3.7.8. Division 3 – East
3.7.9. Division 3 – East (B)
3.7.10. Division 3 – West
3.7.11. Division 3 – West (B)

3.8. The competition group has the right to amend the geographical divides to ensure the required number of teams are in each league.

3.9. The Premier League and Premier League (B) will have a play off at the end of the season and also Division 3 and Division 3B teams will have a play off at the end of the season in their respective region to see who the overall winner of the division is.

3.10. Each fixture will have 9 team games consisting of 3 Men's doubles, 3 Females doubles and 3 Mixed doubles matches.

3.11. The fixture structure is:

Match Number	Type	Home Player 1	Home Player 2	VS	Away Player 1	Away Player 2
1	Women's Doubles	Female 1	Female 3	VS	Female 1	Female 3
2	Men's Doubles	Male 1	Male 3	VS	Male 1	Male 3
3	Mixed Doubles	Female 2	Male 2	VS	Female 2	Male 2
4	Women's Doubles	Female 1	Female 2	VS	Female 1	Female 2
5	Men's Doubles	Male 1	Male 2	VS	Male 1	Male 2
6	Mixed Doubles	Female 3	Male 3	VS	Female 3	Male 3
7	Women's Doubles	Female 2	Female 3	VS	Female 2	Female 3
8	Men's Doubles	Male 2	Male 3	VS	Male 2	Male 3
9	Mixed Doubles	Female 1	Male 1	VS	Female 1	Male 1

3.12. It is the recommendation that clubs assign 2 hours and a minimum of 2 courts for a fixture which allows some time for a warmup and rest in between games.

3.13. If a fixture runs out of time, then the rest of the games un-played within a fixture will be awarded to the away team

3.13.1. This is of the understanding that timewasting is not done to be unsporting and playing for a timeout, for example, taking 10 minutes between each game is not reasonable.

3.13.2. It is recommended that there is a warmup period of between 1-2 minutes between the games in the fixture on court before the first ball is served.

3.14. Teams are allowed to create mini-festival style days for fixtures which allows multiple teams to play on the same day on the provision that enough time is booked for each fixture.

3.15. Teams are allowed to play home/away fixtures on the same day at an agreed upon venue if this suits both teams' requirements.

3.15.1. Note this is not to be forced onto any teams due to distance or travel time as every team has the right to play at their home venue.

3.16. Each team will be awarded 3 points for a match win and 1 point for a loss.

3.17. Each match will be played to 15 points with 1 (one) timeout permitted per team.

3.17.1. Teams will switch sides at 8 points.

3.17.2. This is Standard Point Scoring system and either won by 2 clear points or hitting a maximum of 21 points.

3.17.3. Examples could be won with 15-10 scoreline, 16-14 scoreline or 21-20 scoreline.

3.18. Medical timeouts are permitted for 5 minutes per game. If a player is unable to continue then the game is forfeit along with any others this player is lined up to participate in.

3.19. In the event of two teams being on the same number of points in the league, the overall position will be decided on the number of games won, followed by the number of points won/lost differential across the fixtures played.

4. Fixtures

4.1. Fixture results should be submitted to competitions@pickleballscotland.org within 72 hours of a fixture being completed with both captains in the email confirmation as a sign of agreement of the result.

4.2. Results of the fixtures will be applied to each player who has participated in the fixture in DUPR.

4.3. Results of fixtures will be published in the leagues on League Republic and shown on Pickleball Scotland's League Page. This will be viewable at https://www.pickleballscotland.org/leagues

4.4. If a player has removed themselves from the Pickleball Scotland Club DUPR this runs the risk of the match being awarded to the opposition team affecting the overall outcome of the fixture.

4.5. Fixtures are to be provisionally agreed between teams by 16th December 2026.

4.6. Cancellation of a fixture is to be communicated to the opposition team at least 72 hours before the starting time of the agreed date/time. If this isn't done, then the team will forfeit the fixture, and each game will be recorded as a 15-0 loss.

4.7. Fixtures which cannot be mutually agreed between two clubs across the season will result in both clubs receiving zero points and the fixture being incomplete which will affect the overall position of each team in the league

4.8. Home teams are required to offer suitable times and venues to the opposition i.e. not organising 7am on Wednesday morning as the only option available.

4.8.1. Venue surfaces must be of a suitable standard for pickleball which includes clear lines on the court of play.

4.8.2. If a surface is potentially in question at a venue, please contact competitions@pickleballscotland.org and this will be confirmed if there are any issues with the surface

4.8.2.1. Noting venues could be acrylic, wooden floors, carpeted, this doesn't mean it is unviable to play pickleball but each surface will play slightly differently from the other.

4.9. If there is an impasse on the suitability of the times/venues and there have been multiple attempts by the home team to arrange a fixture the competitions team will arbitrate.

4.10. In the event of illness/injury of a player within the 24-hour timeline for a fixture to be fulfilled. Teams are allowed to use one of their alternative players in the team but MUST communicate this to both the opposing team and competitions@pickleballscotland.org before the fixture commences. The Pickleball Competitions team will monitor any abuse of this rule and decide if any action is required to avoid repeat offences.

4.11. If a provisionally agreed fixture is required to be moved, due to the original venue being fully booked due to an official event, due to the short lead time for official booking venues have in place, then this must be communicated to the opposition team and also competitions@pickleballscotland.org including proof that there was a valid attempt to book the venue for the agreed fixture.

4.11.1. If no proof is provided of this, it is likely that the fixture will be awarded to the opposition team.

4.11.2. If there is proof provided, then teams are expected to be reasonable to try and rearrange the fixture.

4.12. Teams from the same club and competing in the same Division/League must complete their matches against each other before the end of March 2027.

5. Result Submission

5.1. All results should be submitted to competitions@pickleballscotland.org with both captains in a copy of the email.

5.2. Results should be submitted no later than 72 hours after the fixture has been completed.

5.3. If any team has misplaced or cannot find a copy of the fixture submission form, please contact competitions@pickleballscotland.org and this will be resent across as soon as possible

5.4. If there are any errors made with the submission of the fixture result teams must contact competitions@pickleballscotland.org as soon as possible. In cases where this has been left too long to adjust/update the competitions team reserves the right to advise no update is possible and the submission of this is set in stone.

6. Equipment

6.1. Fixtures should use USPA approved Pickleball nets.

6.2. Fixture venues must use Kitchen Lines, permanent or temporary, in order to fulfil the court regulations for each fixture.

6.3. All paddles used in the league must be USPA approved Paddles. Examples like the Joola Gen 3 are banned at the time of writing. This can be reviewed at https://equipment.usapickleball.org/paddle-list/

6.4. The official balls for the leagues are Head pickleballs

6.4.1. In the event a team cannot agree which head ball to use within the fixture then both teams must use the Head Championship 26 Indoor ball

6.4.2. Teams playing in the Premier League(s) will use the Head Tour 40 ball.

6.5. Alternative balls for the fixtures can be used with advance notice to the opposition team whilst also being mutually agreed to be used by the opposition with this also notified to competitions@pickleballscotland.org

6.5.1. Communication of this must be done at least 21 days in advance of a fixture

6.5.2. Balls approved need to be indoor and approved by USPA. The extensive list of approved balls can be viewed at https://equipment.usapickleball.org/ball-list/

6.5.3. If alternative balls are not mutually agreed then the fixture is to be completed with the official league ball which is the Head 26 Indoor model

6.5.4. If alternative balls are not mutually agreed for the Premier Division(s) then the fixture is to be completed with the official league ball which is the Head Tour 40 model

6.6. Teams must print off a physical copy of the scoresheet and both team captains on the day of the fixture must sign this after the match is completed.

7. Team Sponsorship

7.1. Individual team sponsorship is allowable to help towards any costs of a team within a league i.e. if Team A struck a partnership with Sketcher's as a team sponsor this would be permissible.

7.2. Sponsorship should not be from any individual or entity which promotes illegal activities or products. Pickleball reserves the right to refuse the use of a sponsor if it deems it unfit to be used.

7.3. If there is any uncertainty about a sponsor being permissible, please contact competitions@pickleballscotland.org and this will be confirmed as being valid or invalid. Please note the value of the sponsor does not need to be included in the check.

7.4. Pickleball Scotland are not liable for any unpaid sponsorships for any team playing within the leagues and are unable to be an arbitrator in these cases.