

Frequently Asked Questions – ALTA Pickleball League

1. What level should I play?

A Skills Guide is provided in the Roster Registration Information Packet to help in this decision. In the first season, the roster/team creator will rate the team based on their knowledge of the team's abilities and request the level/flight.

2. How can I start a pickleball team?

- Recruit at least ten players, five men and five women.
- All players must purchase an ALTA pickleball membership.
- You must be able to reserve a minimum of 2 Pickleball courts for the seven-week season at an ALTA approved pickleball facility.
- If the facility has not been approved by ALTA for pickleball play, go to the ALTA website, and complete a Facility Request Application.
- Check the ALTA website for the Roster Registration Information Packet with complete instructions and important dates.

3. How can I join an existing team?

Check the ALTA website for Teams Looking for Players ([Find Players and Teams](#)) or search by the facility in which you would like to play.

4. How can I find more players for my team?

Check the ALTA website for Players Looking for Teams ([Find Players and Teams](#)). Also check Pickleball Facebook pages in the Atlanta metro area.

5. What is the minimum and maximum number of players for a team?

The minimum number of players needed to register a team is ten—five men and five women. There is no maximum number.

6. Are teams allowed to add players after the rosters have been submitted? If so, how many?

Yes, you may add—and delete—players throughout the registration period and the corrections period. Once the deadline for corrections is passed, your roster is closed so league officials can place teams in their level/flight and create divisions. After that process is complete, schedules will be released, and the “add-on” period begins. You may add up to six players from that moment and throughout the season. These dates and deadlines are provided in the Pickleball League calendar.

7. What is the match format?

Currently, the only Pickleball League is a mixed doubles league. Matches consist of four lines of play: Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and two lines of Mixed Doubles.

8. How many points do you play in a game, and how many games per match?

Each line will play three games to 15, win by two.

9. What is the maximum number of points that a team can win for a match?

What if the score is tied?

Each game won is scored as one team point. Total possible team points per dual meet is 12. There is no tiebreaker during the regular season.

When a post-season dual meet is tied (6-6), the winning team will be decided accordingly: each team will select a pair and they will play a final game to 11 points by a margin of at least two points.

10. Can a player play more than one line in a match?

Players may play only one match per scheduled dual meet.

11. Can a player join more than one team?

Players may only be a member of one pickleball team per season. Players may participate in any summer tennis league if the player meets league requirements and has paid for an ALTA tennis membership.

12. Which team is responsible for providing balls and paying court fees?

The home team is responsible for providing approved balls and pays all court fees.

13. Who can call a foot fault on the server or on a player illegally in the No Volley Zone (NVZ) or kitchen.

Any player may call a foot fault.

14. In pickleball, is a ball landing on a line in or out?

All lines are considered "in" while the point is in play. On serve, however, the NVZ line is "out". The NVZ line is part of the NVZ.

15. How is the score to be called in a pickleball match?

The server must call the complete three-digit score 10 seconds before serving (or before beginning the service motion). The first number is the serving team's score. The second number is the receiving team's score. The third number is the serving position always 1 or 2, e.g., 2-3-2.

16. Can I use any color or type of balls, any type of paddle, wear any color of shirt?

All balls and paddles must be USA Pickleball approved. Outdoor balls must be used for outdoor courts or rough surfaces. Indoor balls must be used for indoor courts or smooth surfaces. Players may wear any color of clothing.

17. Can pickleball courts be indoor or outdoor and any type of surface?

ALTA approved courts may be indoor or outdoor hard surface (clay is not approved). They may use painted or taped lines on tennis courts or dedicated courts. Facilities must have a minimum of two lighted courts, and restrooms located no more than 300 feet from the court.

18. What is the default time if players are running late? What about the other lines?

The default time is 20 minutes after the scheduled start time. Only the players who fail to arrive within 20 minutes of the scheduled start time will be in default. Each of the three games for that line only are scored zero and the team points will be awarded to the non-defaulting team.

19. Can matches be played earlier or later than the scheduled date?

Captains may agree to play a match or matches early. Matches may not be played later than scheduled match time. In the case of inclement weather, refer to the ALTA General Rules Pickleball League. Deadlines for make-up matches are published in the league rules.

20. Is there a minimum age for this pickleball league?

The minimum age for ALTA Pickleball league is 18.

21. Is there a senior league for pickleball?

Currently, there is only an adult league.

22. Who can call an illegal serve and what is the penalty?

An "illegal serve" is a serve using an illegal service motion. This does not pertain to a service ball that does not land in the service area or a foot fault;

those two errors are considered a fault. If the receiving team determines that the service motion was clearly illegal, the receiving team may call for a replay before the return of serve. Server will have two attempts to correct the serve motion. If the third service attempt is called illegal, it will result in a fault.

23. What is the home team captain's responsibility other than filling out the scorecard and reporting the scores?

The home team captain is responsible for contacting the captain at least four days prior to the match. The home team will provide the following information:

- the number of courts available (minimum is two),
- indoor or outdoor,
- type and color of balls being used. (The visiting team may wear any colors regardless of the ball color.)

24. How can I find the official rules for pickleball?

The official USA Pickleball Rulebook (2023 edition) can be found at:
USA Pickleball official Rulebook and Rules Summary.