**2025 PEP - PICKLEBALL TOURNEY LADDER RULES**

All official communication will be done through WhatsApp in the “PEP Tuesday Tournament Ladder 2025 2.0-3.0” chat group. If you are not yet in that group, you can click on the invite link here:

TO BE PROVIDED

1.0 General

- All participants and backups are expected to be a PEP club member. If you have not yet registered & paid, please see one of the PEP executives for help.

- All sessions will be played on Tuesday (level 2.0-3.0) or Thursday (level 3.1-4) at 6PM. In the case of rain outs - the week will simply be rained out and lost.

- All games will be played to a HARD 15, (win by 1).

- Scores are to be submitted via your phone to our score sheet document found here:

TO BE PROVIDED

- The backup list can be found in a tab in that same document.

2.0 Games

* It is expected that players show up 15 minutes early, so that we can get an accurate gauge of attendance and make any changes needed.
* Once games are completed, scores are totalled and the top 2 players move up a court for the following week and the bottom 2 players move down a court.
* Tie breaker will be based off position of the player in the group standing - i.e. your position INSIDE your group may matter for tie breakers.
* If any group is reduced to 4 players due to a no-show, they will instead play 3 games against each other to 11 (changing teammates each time), followed by 3 more games to 9 against each other (changing teammates each time).
* The no show will get zero points for that week, and a warning strike against them (see below).
* If there are more than 2 no-shows in any group, adjustments to the pools may need to happen, to create two 4-player groups. The bottom player of the upper group will move down, to create a 4 player group (which means they will have the highest tie-breaker).

3.0 Strikes

* Players are expected to attend each week. There are many players who want to join the ladder, so please treat your spot with respect.
* **Players who cannot attend a week are expected to find their own replacements.** We have a list of backups in the files linked above.(TO BE PROVIDED) These players must be selected as a priority over someone else not on the list.
* If a player has unsuccessfully attempted to get a substitution from the backup list, then they will be allowed to seek any other player to replace them, including non-PEP members. This is the only time this will be allowed, so as to preserve play.
* As mentioned above, if a member is a no-show AND did not get a substitution, they will receive one strike against them.
* Players with 2 strikes against them will be removed from the ladder, and replaced with the top player on the waitlist, who is listed as “wants in”.
* That player will enter the next week’s ladder at the bottom of their skill bracket, and will now have permanent status for the season.

4.0 Misconduct

I do not believe this will happen, but there will be zero tolerance for misconduct. Your volunteers are not assuming the role of babysitter. Misconduct will be met with 2 strikes against the player (see strikes).

* Misconduct includes (but is not limited to) physical contact, threatening acts and demeanor, harassment, racial, ageist, or sexist/gender remarks.
* The goal of this ladder is to have fun, so please keep it fun. There are no sponsorships or money prizes here, it’s all for the betterment of the club and the game.
* With that being said, these games are intended to be competitive. Take that as you will. I recommend still abiding by “fair play” rules, which means, to play the ball as it makes sense, which could mean hitting to better players. Nobody’s goal here should be “keep-away”. This also doesn’t mean that you should split all balls hit equally - as this IS competitive play. Just use your brains and if you didn’t hit a single ball to a player all game, consider why you need that tactic to win.
* Since this IS competitive play, the expectation is that you may have balls hit hard at you, and this is not misconduct if it happens - it is part of pickleball. However, please try to be respectful, and if you can put a ball away by not slamming it at someone, please do so. Body speed-ups will happen, and these things are not considered misconduct, unless they are blatant and repeated and someone is clearly making a statement. Please use common sense.
* We also have some older and some younger players in this ladder. They are to be treated as normal players, and do not get special treatment assigned to them. Do not feel like you need to hold back on them, however, if it behooves you to adjust pace or direction, according to general social intelligence/conduct, then I believe our PLAYERS are stronger for it.

*As an example, in my games, I will not lob excessively against an older opponent who could risk an injury chasing lobs. That doesn’t mean that I won’t EVER hit a lob or a kill-volley (sharp short dead shot) against that player, it just means I don’t use it incessantly and obnoxiously as a means of achieving victory in a friendly and fun ladder.*

* When in doubt, clarification can be found in rule 4.1

5.0 Substitutions

Prior to the week starting, I may shuffle around some of the substitutions/backup players. For example, if I have a red subbing in for a blue spot, and a blue player subbing into a red game, I may swap those two, in order to maximize competitiveness.

6.0 Rules calls

* Standard pickleball rules apply.
* Defensive team makes all out calls. No you don’t need to like their out call, you just need to respect it.
* Please try to make the honest call. Nobody cares if you win.
* If one teammate calls in, and the other calls out, the ball is in.
* If someone says “I think that was out”, then the ball is IN. A ball is IN unless it is CLEARLY SEEN OUT.
* If there is any dispute in the rules, please seek out the closest referee.
* Just kidding, there are no refs, sort it out like adults.