



CALIFORNIA TEAM PICKLEBALL

Desert Division

Affiliated with the American Team Pickleball League

Meet Our Team



Jon & Dana Graham

Co-Founders & League Coordinators

Jon and Dana founded California Team Pickleball to grow team-format pickleball across the state, starting with the Desert Division. Under their leadership, the league gives players of every skill level a structured path from weekly local matches all the way to the American Team Pickleball National Championships.

jon@desertatpl.com

Qualify for American Team Pickleball Nationals



- **California Team Pickleball's Desert Division champions qualify for the American Team Pickleball National Championships.**
- Date and location of the National Championships to be determined.

Contact Information



Jon Graham

Founder & League Coordinator

jon@desertatpl.com

951-858-6070

Player Registration Fee



- All players register and pay online on the league website using a credit card, and must accept the league waiver release of liability to participate.
- Players may play on multiple teams — one in each division they qualify to play.
- **Registration fee for 1st team: \$60 per player**
- **Registration fee for 2nd team: player is charged \$50 upon registering**
- There may also be a site fee paid directly to the site the league takes place at.
- **NO REFUNDS will be issued after a player has played, or after 3 weeks into the season.**

WHERE & WHEN WE PLAY

Locations & Schedule



Palm Desert Resort (PDR)

77333 Country Club Dr.
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Weekly Schedule

Monday Women's Doubles

Tuesday Men's Doubles

Wednesday Mixed Doubles

Evenings 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Monterey Country Club

41500 Monterey Ave.
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Weekly Schedule

Wednesday Mixed Doubles

Thursday Gender Doubles

Mornings 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Roster Requirements



- **Men's, Women's, and Mixed teams: minimum of 6 players on the team roster; a roster of 8–10 players is recommended.**
- There is NO MAXIMUM number of players on a team. Captains may add players throughout the season to avoid defaults of play.
- Players must have played in two league matches to qualify for playing in the league playoffs.

General Information



- The following rules apply to all league divisions within California Team Pickleball's Desert Division, unless otherwise specified by the League Coordinator or Rules Committee.
- All Desert Division leagues follow current International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) rules, other than those noted in these Desert Division rules and guidelines.

Divisions of Play



The Desert Division Championships will have the following divisions of play:

GENDER DOUBLES

Men's & Women's

- A) 18+ 4.0
- B) 18+ 4.5 / Open
- C) 50+ 3.0
- D) 50+ 3.5
- E) 50+ 4.0

MIXED DOUBLES

- A) 18+ 3.5
- B) 18+ 4.0 / 4.5
- C) 50+ 3.5
- D) 50+ 4.0

ROUND ROBIN STRUCTURE

Match Play — Mixed & Gender Format



All team matches are three (3) rounds of three (3) lines, two (2) games each to 11, win by 2. Three courts required for two hours. A team is assigned HOME and AWAY for each match.

Round 1

Home #1 vs Away #1
Home #2 vs Away #2
Home #3 vs Away #3

Round 2

Home #1 vs Away #2
Home #2 vs Away #3
Home #3 vs Away #1

Round 3

Home #1 vs Away #3
Home #2 vs Away #1
Home #3 vs Away #2

Home teams STAY on the same courts for each round. Away teams SWITCH courts after each round.

6 PLAYERS, 3 TEAMS

Match Day Line-Ups — Mixed & Gender Doubles



- Each captain brings 6 players to play 3 doubles teams.
- **Line-ups identifying the doubles teams on the scoresheet are exchanged before the match begins and may NOT be changed after.**
- The 3 doubles-team partnerships are fixed for the entire team match (all 3 round-robin matchups) unless an injury requires a substitution.
- Captains or their designees are required to be on-site at each match.
- **The HOME team supplies the California Team Pickleball–approved balls for the match.**

Substitutions During a Match Due to Injury



- If an injury occurs during warm-up before the 1st round of play, a new player may be substituted with no penalty.
- **Once play begins, if an injury occurs mid-round, that game is recorded as 11-"x," x being the injured team's score at the time. A substitute may NOT enter a round in progress.**
- The team with the injured player MAY substitute a new player into the next round of play.
- Substitutions are permanent for the remainder of the match — injured players may not return.
- Substitutions may only be made with players on the team roster at the time the match begins.

WHEN A TEAM CAN'T FIELD THREE

Short Line-Ups



- If a captain cannot field 3 doubles teams, they bring 2 doubles teams to play lines 1 and 2, and default all line-3 games.
- The opposing team still brings all 6 players — each of its pairs plays against the opponent's line 1 and line 2 teams.
- The scoresheet reflects an 11–0 score for each defaulted game, and the opposing team is awarded 2 team points per defaulted game (4 points per round).
- **Teams forfeiting a full team match (all 3 lines) without League Coordinator approval will be suspended from the league without refund.**

Match Play Guidelines



- **Balls:** HOME teams provide 3 approved match balls of the same type for each home match. Approved balls: Franklin X-40, Dura Fast 40, Vulcan VPRO Flight, Core, Lifetime.
- The Franklin X-40 is used exclusively at the American Team Pickleball National Championships.
- Coaching: per IFP rules, coaching by anyone is allowed only after completion of each game, between rounds, and during timeouts.
- Timeouts: one (1) timeout is allowed per game per team. Bathroom breaks should be taken between rounds.
- Breaks: 1 minute between games; 5 minutes after each round of 2 games, starting when the last 2 opposing doubles teams in the round finish.

Match Scoring



- To begin a match, the AWAY team chooses serve, receive, side, or defer.
- Each doubles team plays 2 games to 11, win by 2.
- Teams switch sides after the first game.
- At the end of each round, AWAY teams switch courts to play the HOME doubles team noted on the scoresheet.
- Each doubles team plays 6 games across 3 rounds.
- **Team Match Scoring — 2 points: won the game | 1 point: lost but scored 6+ points | 0 points: lost and scored 5 or fewer points**
- **After all three rounds, team points across all 18 games are totaled to determine the winning team.**

KEY DEFINITIONS

Scoring Terms



- **TEAM POINTS:** after each game to 11 (win by 2), each doubles team is awarded 2, 1, or 0 team points based on its result.
- **TOTAL TEAM POINTS:** the sum of all team-point scores across all matches played.
- **TOTAL OPPONENT POINTS:** the sum of all opponent team points scored against your team.
- **TEAM MATCH WIN:** after 18 games, the team with the most team points earns a "Team Match Win."

Division Standings



- Standings seed the top 4 teams for each division's playoffs. The playoff winner qualifies for the California Team Pickleball Desert Division Championships.
- Division Standings are determined by total Team Match Wins; the team with the most Team Match Wins claims the top spot.
- Tie-Breaker: a 2-way tie is broken by head-to-head result, then highest Total Team Points, then lowest Total Opponent Points.
- If more than two teams are tied, teams with lower Total Team Points are eliminated until two remain — then the 2-way tie process applies.

Division Playoffs



1st Place vs 4th Place

Winner advances to the Division Final. Loser plays for 3rd Place.

2nd Place vs 3rd Place

Winner advances to the Division Final. Loser plays for 3rd Place.

Participant Requirements



- All participants are bound by California Team Pickleball's Desert Division rules as well as those of the IFP.
- Not every possible situation is covered in these rules — participants in unusual or undocumented situations abide by the decision of the League Coordinator and Rules Committee.
- **If there is a conflict in interpretation of any rule, Desert Division Rules supersede. These rules apply to all players unless revised, amended, or otherwise changed by the Rules Committee.**

Participant Requirements



- All leagues are open to male and female players; players must be 18 years of age or older, determined by age at the first match of the local qualifying events.
- **Players may play "down" in age, but not up. Example: a 51-year-old may compete in the 18+ division, but an 18-year-old may NOT compete in the 50+ division.**
- Players may compete in more than one division of play in their local league, but not 2 teams in the same division. Example: a player may compete in 3.5 Men's 18+ AND 50+, but not two teams within 3.5 18+.

Participant Requirements



- A player who registers for a team may not switch teams within the same skill group once the season has started, unless approved by the League Coordinator.
- **National Championships: players competing in two different divisions at Nationals will NOT be given scheduling considerations. Both teams could play at the same time, and players must navigate that with their captains.**

Sportsmanship



- Good sportsmanship is absolutely required within California Team Pickleball. There is no room for belittling yourself, teammates, or opponents — passion and energy are encouraged, but never at the expense of others.
- Degrading comments directed at specific players are not allowed. Captains fill out the Sportsmanship Complaint Form from the league website and submit it to the League Coordinator.
- **The Rules Committee reviews complaints and passes judgment and sanctions based on severity. A serious infraction can lead to league suspension without refund.**

Player Eligibility Based on Ratings



- Team rosters must consist of players with skills consistent with their flight's skill level. Captains oversee maintaining the "Skill Integrity" of their team.
- **Players competing in each division must have a MAXIMUM rating of:**
- **3.0 Division → 3.49 | 3.5 Division → 3.99 | 4.0 Division → 4.49 | 4.5 Division → 4.99**

Approved Ratings Systems for Play



- Multiple ratings systems exist in the pickleball world:
- Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating (DUPR)
- USA Pickleball Sanctioned Rating (UTR-P)
- World Pickleball Rating (WPR)
- **Pickleball Scores Rating (PBSR) — used by California Team Pickleball's Desert Division**
- **IMPORTANT: players must have a rating from an approved system above. If a player has multiple ratings from DUPR, UTR-P, and WPR, the AVERAGE determines their level of play for local and Championship competition.**

HOW RATINGS ARE APPLIED

Desert Division Ratings System



- California Team Pickleball's Desert Division uses the Pickleball Scores Rating System (PBSR), based on league results and approved by the ATPL. DUPR is also an option — team captains within each division determine whether DUPR is used.
- In divisions that use DUPR, the Home Captains are required to input DUPR results after each match.
- **The League Coordinator determines whether to use PBSR exclusively for player ratings, or an averaged rating for local play, and has discretion on which rating a player competes under for league and National Championship play.**

STARTING RATINGS

Self-Rated Players



- If a player has no DUPR, UTR-P, WPR, or PBSR rating, the league — based on Captains' evaluation — assigns a starting rating for each division:
- 3.0 Division → 3.2 | 3.5 Division → 3.7 | 4.0 Division → 4.2 | 4.5 Division → 4.7
- **Improper Classification:** if a self-rated player's PBSR after 3 matches exceeds the range for their division, it may be challenged — two captains from two different teams must file a protest. The Rules Committee reviews results and may remove the player without refund and forfeit their team's wins.

LOCKING RATINGS FOR THE SEASON

Rating Changes



- As ratings change weekly, a player's rating "locks" for the season on the day they are rostered for local area competition.
- Players whose rating changes during the calendar year and moves them out of range for their division will NOT be required to play at their new higher rating through the end of the Championship season.

Team Names



- Captains submit an initial team name during registration; identical submissions are first come, first served. Team names may be changed after registration provided no other team in the same flight uses the same name.
- Teams are urged to wear a team uniform for league matches.

Advancement Requirements to Nationals



- All players competing in the American Team Pickleball National Championships must have played a minimum of 2 matches in the Desert Division schedule.
- **The Desert Division must have a minimum of 4 teams per division for that division's champion to be eligible to advance to Nationals.**

Advancement Requirements for Nationals



- Team Wildcards: the League Coordinator has authority to send an alternate team to the ATPL Championship if the #1 team is unable to go — choosing 2nd place, then 3rd, then 4th place as needed.
- Wildcards at Nationals: the National Tournament Committee has discretion to add wildcard teams to fill draws from participating leagues across the country.

Substitutions for National Championships



- If a qualifying Desert Division team cannot send enough original players to roster at the ATPL Championship, they need four (4) original players from their team, and may add up to two (2) substitute players.
- **These substitutes must have played in the same division, in the same league, with a minimum of two league games.**

Captains' Responsibilities



- Score Reporting: the HOME team captain reports scores after each team match on the league website, by 12:00 PM the following day.
- Conduct: captains and players monitor behavior in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Only captains report Sportsmanship Complaints to the League Coordinator.
- Rules: captains and players are to read and understand the California Team Pickleball Desert Division and USA Pickleball rules.
- **Disputes: players alert captains before continuing play; captains follow Desert Division Conflict Resolution protocols. Non-compliant players are defaulted for the remainder of that round.**

Inclement Weather



- **Match Canceled Prior to Start:** if both captains agree a match cannot be played, it is rescheduled — captains set the new date & time and inform the League Coordinator.
- Match Canceled After Start:
 - • Discontinued before Round 1 completes → rescheduled and replayed in its entirety.
 - • Round 1 complete, discontinued before Round 2 completes → rescheduled and replayed starting at Round 2.
 - • Rounds 1 & 2 complete, discontinued before Round 3 completes → rescheduled and replayed starting at Round 3.

Inclement Weather — Line-Up Rules



- If a match is replayed in its entirety, the captain is not required to field the same team.
- If at least one round was completed, the captain may bring 1 different permanent player to replace someone unavailable for the rescheduled match, plus 1 different player to serve as the injury/illness substitute.
- Substitution rules for injury or illness still apply.



Thank You

We can't wait to see you on the courts.

California Team Pickleball • Desert Division
Founded by Jon Graham