Pickleball Doubles Rules

REFEREES
At least one referee/monitor will be provided for all matches. Officials are responsible for checking eligibility, attendance, controlling the game and keeping score. If an official fails to show, the teams will be responsible for scoring and calling their own games. Officials must be treated with respect. Each match is controlled by an official who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he/she has been appointed to. The decisions of the officials concerning the play are final there will be NO NEGOTIATIONS made between teams.

EQUIPMENT/ATTIRE
It is the responsibility of all intramural participants to ascertain whether their own health conditions make it advisable to participate in a particular sport. Appropriate gym shoes and apparel must be worn at all times. Players must provide their own racquets. Racquets may be rented from Client Services. All other equipment for play will be provided. NO JEWELRY IS PERMITTED FOR ANY INTRAMURAL SPORT. Racquets are not provided.

TEAM REQUIREMENTS
Each doubles team must have two players present for the match to be official. If less than two players are present for doubles, or if a singles player is not present for a singles match, the match will be defaulted.

DEFAULTS/FORFEITS
A 10 minute default rule will apply. If the player(s) is not present 5 minutes after the beginning of the first game the team will forfeit their game 11-0. If the team is still not present at the 10 minute mark the game will be officially a default and the official score will be 22-0, with the game being won at 2 sets to 0.
*No Added Time Will Be Given*

THE GAME
General Play & Scoring
Matches consist of 2 games to 11 points in a 30 minute time slot. Matches are win by two, with a cap at 13 points. If the team split sets, then the winner will be determined by score differential.

Start of play - Team to serve first is determined by spinning a racquet, rock paper scissors, coin toss, rally for serve, or any other fair method. Losing team then selects which side to start on.
**Boundaries**

A ball served or hit which lands outside the play area is considered out. Should the ball land on one of the bounding lines, the other team is awarded that rally.

**Serving**

The ball is served with an underhand stroke so that contact with the ball is made below waist level (waist is defined as the navel level) in an upward arc. The server hits from behind the baseline on one side of the center line and aims diagonally to the opponent’s service zone (as in the figure on the right).

Only the serving side may score a point. Play ends for a point when one side commits a *fault*. Faults include:

- not hitting the serve into the opponent's diagonal service zone
- not hitting the ball beyond the net
- hitting the ball or not hitting after the 2nd bounce on one side of the net
- hitting the ball out of bounds
- volleying the ball on the service return
- volleying the ball on the first return by the serving side
- stepping into the non-volley zone (the first seven feet from the net, also known as the 'kitchen') in the act of volleying the ball.

**Volley**

A player may enter the non-volley zone to play a ball that bounces and may stay there to play balls that bounce. The player must exit the non-volley zone before playing a volley. When the ball is outside the non-volley zone, the player must let the ball bounce before hitting the ball.

The server or server and partner usually stay at the baseline until the first return has been hit back and bounced once.

At the beginning of a doubles game before any serving, the score is 0-0. Then the side serving first gets only one fault before their side is *out*, meaning that their opponents serve next. After the first fault each side gets 2 faults (one for each team member serving) before their side is "out". Being out does not award a point.

**Playoffs**

Players must have played one-third of their team’s regular season league games to be eligible for playoffs.

All competitive teams are guaranteed at least one playoff match after the regular season. Playoff game format may vary, but will usually be best 2 out of 3 games to 11 points or something similar.