



2021 Lāpule Pickleball League Playbook

Aloha! We're excited that you joined our LĀPULE (pronounced LAY-PU-LAY which means Sunday in Hawaiian) Pickleball League!!! We can't wait to get you on the court for some fun and friendly competition. Please review the following with your team members. Each participant is expected to understand and agree to the rules and guidelines set forth in this playbook.

Location

Diamond Head Tennis Center, Court #8 & 9
3908 Paki Ave, Honolulu, HI 96815

Schedule

Season starts October 3 with 7 weeks of competition on the following Sundays:

- October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- November 7, 14
- November 21 & 28 – to be determined for possible playoff

Rainouts/Cancellations:

In the event of a rainout/cancellation, teams have 2 weeks to makeup matches before a match is considered forfeited. Team Captains will schedule on their own makeup matches.

Match Start Time & Warmup

2:30-3:45pm: 3.0 Beginners

3:45-5:00pm: 3.5 Advance Beginners

5:00-6:15pm: 4.0 Intermediate

Format

A match is defined by two teams playing Men's, Mixed, and Women's doubles. Team Captains are required to enforce the maximum court time of 1 hour 15 minutes to complete a match. A game is complete when a team wins 11 points. If the time expires before a match is complete, the ending score for the third game gets recorded.

In the event a team arrives with only two players, one game may be played, but the later games will be forfeited, but still can be played for fun! If there is remaining time, a "friendly" game may be played, which does not count towards a match.

Starting the Match

1. **Exchange Lineups:** Home and Visitor Team Captains or team member exchange lineups at least 10-15 minutes prior to the designated start time for each level. Once lineups are exchanged, no changes to the lineups may be made.

Games are forfeited when players are not ready to play after 5 minutes from the start time or 5 minutes of the last game played. The suggested order of play for each match is Men's, Mixed, then Women's doubles). However, so long as Team Captains agree, the order of play can change due to tardiness, the need to leave early and/or general availability.

2. **Serve, Receive, Side or Defer:** The Home Team gets to make ONE decision before every game. They can choose to either serve or receive; pick a side of the court to start on; or defer the decision to the Visitor Team. Once a team wins 6 points, both teams switch to the other side of the court. Each doubles team can take a one minute time out per game.
3. **Match balls:** Each team brings 1 new match ball for a total of 2 balls used for all 3 games. The WINNING TEAM of the match gets to take home the match balls, however many are remaining.

Lineups

- One Men's doubles team
- One Mixed doubles team
- One Women's doubles team

Teams

Team members must be 18+ years old by the beginning of the season. A team must have between 4-6 members, including a team captain (team captain does not need to be a team member.) A team must have a minimum of 2 men and 2 women. All team members must be registered by the deadline, midnight September 29, 2021, to play in the league. Team members may be replaced mid-season due to medical reasons and unforeseen circumstances. A maximum of 8 teams per skill level will be allowed to register. Team Captains are required to attend Team Captains Meeting before the start of the season. Teams will be assigned as Home or Visitor for each match, and will be listed on the schedule.

Skill Levels

Teams skill levels: Beginners (3.0), Advanced Beginners (3.5), and Intermediate (4.0).

Please see [USA Pickleball's Definition of Player Skill Rating](#) . Your team rating will be based on the highest rated player on your team at the time of registration. We reserve the right to adjust the ratings of a player and their team.

Player Code of Conduct: Play with Aloha

Players will follow the [USA Pickleball and IFP Official 2021 Rulebook](#). "Play with Aloha" is expected from every player. Team captains will settle disagreements immediately on match days. Unresolved disagreements shall be immediately brought to the attention of the League Coordinator. The League Coordinator may remove any player from the league if a player is not conducting him/herself according to the rulebook. Subsequently, no refund for league fee will be granted.

Coaching

Team Captains, teammates, and spectators should refrain from "coaching", that being talking any type of strategy once gameplay starts. As there are no timeouts in our league, the only ones that can talk strategy are the teammates on the court as they move to their service/receive positions, during a "dead ball." And even in this manner, they should not cause a delay of game by talking strategy. *Teams are to do their best to abide by the 10 second service rule, even without a referee or overseer present. This is good practice for actual tournament situations.

Note: Breaks between games should be no longer than 5 minutes, during this time teams may talk strategy going into the next game or warm up. Keep in mind that this is a timed match of 1 hour 15 minutes. Any time delay will affect the last doubles playing. Once game play starts, captains and teammates may simply cheer along with other spectators.

Checkout this excellent resource by USA Pickleball on basic rules, strategies, and other great tips like judging a ball "in" or "out" at [How to Play Pickleball | Pickleball Rules and Strategies | USA Pickleball](#)

Spectators

Visiting and Home teams will each have a designated side. When looking at the courts from the court entrance (parking lot), HOME (right) and VISITOR (left).

If there is not enough space on your side of the court for all spectators, Team Captain (or designated team lead for that week) will need to ask certain spectators to go outside the court area for their respective teams. In the very least, spectators must follow City and County of Honolulu rules regarding spectators due to COVID-19. Refer to the latest Mayor's orders at [Proclamations, Orders, and Rules re:COVID-19 \(honolulu.gov\)](#)

Spectators and teams should be quiet during play as much as possible (we recognize sometimes people get excited during a good play, don't we all) with the bulk of applause and cheering coming after the play is finished. Shouts of OUT, WIDE, LONG, etc, should come from the players on the court. If an opposing player complains of distraction, they may bring it to the opposing captains attention, and the captain will assess a warning (no replay of point, unless the opposing captain deems that the distraction affected the point/play in their favor). If there is a second complaint, the captain will be notified and the individual will be asked to leave the court for the remainder of the game. It does not need to be the same individual, but once a warning is assessed all following complaints will lead to dismissals for the remainder of the game. Maximum of four warnings before all spectators for both sides are asked to leave (by both captains/team leads for that week) for the remainder of the game.

We are all out there to have fun and enjoy the atmosphere of solid competition. “Play with Aloha” both on and off the courts.

Reporting of Scores

Before leaving the court, Team Captains completes score sheets and signs both copies. The WINNING team must email score sheet to the League Coordinator, info@oahupickleballassociation.org OR text the score sheet as an attachment to 808-351-1567. Score sheets will only be accepted if both captains sign. Report scores electronically within 48 hours from match day. Forfeited games are recorded as “0.”

Team standings will be calculated in the following order:

1. Total TEAM wins
2. Total GAMES won
3. Total POINTS won

Equipment

Portable nets and Franklin X-40 balls will be provided by OPA. Team Captains will receive 7 new balls at the beginning of the season.

Each Home Team Captain is responsible for bringing (1) match ball, and for the setup (Beginner teams) and breakdown (Intermediate teams) of nets as noted on the league schedule. Nets are located in the closet. Team Captains are required to keep lock combinations confidential and to properly store all nets prior to leaving DHTC.

Cancelation/Withdrawals

A full refund will be granted for cancelations/withdrawals prior to the start of the season. We apologize, but no refunds once the season is underway.

By signing below, I agree to follow the rules and guidelines set forth in this playbook by Oahu Pickleball Association’s Lāpule Pickleball League.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Team Name: _____