



## 2022 Summer Po'aono Major League Pickleball Playbook

ALOHA! Welcome to Po'aono (which means Saturday in Hawaiian) Major League Pickleball! Each member is expected to understand and agree to the rules and guidelines in this playbook.

### Location

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

### Schedule

7 weeks of competition and a playoff on the following Saturdays:

- August 6, 13, 20, 27, September 3, 10
- September 17 playoff with September 24 backup for rainout

### 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.

### COVID-19

All team members are required to report to the Team Captain if exposed or has tested positive for Covid-19. Team Captains will alert the League Coordinators, and will reschedule the match if necessary. Players must follow State of Hawai'i's and City and County of Honolulu's orders before returning to play.

### Match Start Time

2:30pm

### Format

All teams will play all other teams in round-robin play.

(4) Teams – two rounds where each team plays against the same team twice.

(8) Teams – one round where each team plays each team once.

### Events

Teams will play ALL the following events in this order:

- **1 Singles** match best 2 out of 3 games to 11 points only, with a mandatory switch of player after every 4 serves in total (4 rally rotations).
- **1 Men's** doubles match best 2 out of 3 games to 11 points only

- 1 **Women's** doubles match best 2 out of 3 games to 11 points only
- 1 **Mixed** doubles match best 2 out of 3 games to 11 points only

## Warmups

Players are expected to warm up and be ready to play when it is time for their team's matches.

## Match Play

1. **Serve, Receive, Side or Defer:** At the start of each match, a coin toss (or other similar random selection) will be conducted determining the home team and away/visiting team. The away/visiting team will have choice of serve, receive, side or defer.
2. **Exchange Lineups:** The home team will be given 1-minute to disclose the lineup for the match. At this point, the away team will be given 1-minute to disclose their lineup for the match. Play will resume 1-minute later after the teams are determined. Team Captains should draft lineup BEFORE match day with an idea on which player plays which event(s).

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 required order of play is Singles, Men's, Women's, then Mixed 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.

Forfeited games are automatically scored with 11 points to the team ready to play and 0 points to the team which forfeited.

3. **Singles** Players will serve from the side (left/right) of the court, based on their team score, as is typical in singles. Even score serve from the right and odd on the left.
4. **Serving & Switching Sides**  
Game 1: The Visiting Team makes ONE decision before the first game. They can choose to either serve or receive; pick a side of the court to start on; or defer the decision to the Home Team.

Game 2: Teams switch sides, serve starts with the team which did not start serving in Game 1.

Game 3: This is ONLY played as a tie-breaker if each team has won a game. Teams switch sides and serve begins with the team which started serving in Game 1. At 6 points (doubles) or 8 points (singles), players switch sides and take the correct position based on the last rally.

5. **Time Outs:**

- a. 1 minute time out for each team per game *called by the players themselves and NOT by the team captain*
  - b. 5 minute time out between games and events
6. **Substitute** If a player needs a substitute at any point during a team match, then they may not return for the duration of the team match. Teams must notify the League Coordinator if that player will be returning prior to the start of the next match.
7. **Match balls:** Each team brings 1 new match ball for a total of 2 balls used for all 4 events. The WINNING TEAM of the match gets to take home the match balls.

## Skill Level

4.0+ Refer to [USA Pickleball's Definition of Player Skill Rating](#).

## Teams

A minimum of 4-8 teams will compete. 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. A team must have a minimum of 2 men and 2 women. All team members must be registered by the deadline on Monday, April 18, 2022 midnight. Team members may be replaced by May 14 due to medical reasons and unforeseen circumstances. The new team member must register and pay the league fee. Teams will be assigned as Home or Visitor for each match that will be listed on the schedule.

By registering, players commit to playing for the entire season and responsible for making every effort to be available for as many matches as required of the team.

## Substitutes

We will allow teams to substitute for match play in the following order, where games and points played by the substitute is eligible and will count towards the team's match score.

1. First, at the discretion of the League Coordinators, a designated League Substitute may take the place of a player if a team is short a player due to medical reasons, and unforeseen circumstances.
2. Second, if a designated League Substitute is not available or already playing, a team may use a female player in place of male for singles and in men's doubles.
3. Lastly, a team may seek to draft another member from a team that has a player to spare, providing the team captain and player agrees to the substitute.

## Team Captain's Role

What are the responsibilities as a Team Captain? First and foremost, you're your team's most favorite fan and cheerleader. You're there to advocate for them, build bridges among team

members and other teams. Each and every player is on their own pickleball journey, and needs support. You're their coach, time keeper, and helper.

Other responsibilities include creating and exchanging match lineups; bringing match balls to the courts; submitting match scores; ensuring your team is ready to play; and serve as the main point of contact with the League Coordinator.

While we prefer Team Captains attend all matches, we understand that is not always possible. If the Team Captain is unable to attend a match, it is the Team Captain's responsibility to select a substitute.

Team Captains are required to attend the season's Team Captains Meeting and Draft usually scheduled on the Saturday prior to the start of the league.

## Player Code of Conduct: Play with Aloha

Players will follow the [USA Pickleball and IFP Official 2022 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/Line Calls

Coaching by non-playing team members is encouraged between points as long as it does not interfere with play. Non-playing team members are encouraged to sit/stand along the court with their team. Only the players playing the game can make line calls, let, challenge, and similar calls. If line calls become an issue, the captain from each team or a non-playing team member from each side may stand on the side lines closest to the net to call lines.

Once game play starts, Team Captains, teammates, and spectators should refrain from "coaching", that being talking any type of strategy. Teams 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.

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 \(honolulu.gov\)](https://www.honolulu.gov/proclamations-orders-and-rules-re-covid-19)

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 captain's 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 complete score sheets and sign both copies. The WINNING team must email score sheet to the League Coordinator. 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." Please write legibly team members names and scores.

## Team Standings

End of the season team standings will be calculated in the following order:

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

## Playoff

After all round-robin play is complete, the top 2 teams will advance to the Finals and the bottom 2 teams will play for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Placement is determined by total matches won, if there is a tie then a head-to-head/number of games won will break the tie, if none of the above resolve the tie, then the tie shall be resolved by point differential.

## Equipment

Portable nets and Franklin X-40 balls will be provided by OPA. Team Captains will receive 6 new balls at the beginning of the season.

**Each** Team Captain is responsible for bringing (1) match ball, and for the setup (Home teams) and breakdown (last playing teams) of nets as noted on the league schedule. Nets are located in the closet. Please take extra care with these community nets when setting up and breaking down. 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 unless for medical reasons or injury.

By signing below, I agree to follow the rules and guidelines set forth in this playbook by Oahu Pickleball Association's Po'aono Major League Pickleball. Please keep this signature page.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_