

## 2018 GRPA Pickleball – Format and Rules of Play

### Tournament Format

The 2018 Georgia State Games Pickleball Tournament format will be **Round Robin**, and brackets will be formed based on ages and skill level. Each team will compete against every other team in their bracket as follows:

- For brackets of **2 teams**, each team will play every other team in the bracket **three games**. The first team to reach **21 points** wins the game (win by 1 point).
- For brackets of **3 teams**, each team will play every other team in the bracket **three games**. The first team to reach **11 points** wins the game (win by 1 point).
- For brackets of **4 teams**, each team will play every other team in the bracket **two games**. The first team to reach **11 points** wins the game (win by 1 point).
- For brackets of **5 teams**, each team will play every other team in the bracket **one game**. The first team to reach **15 points** wins the game (win by 1 point).
- For brackets of **6 or more teams**, each team will play every other team in the bracket **one game**. The first team to reach **11 points** wins the game (win by 1 point).

### Practice

The courts will be available for practice but please abide by the following:

- The Spalding County Pickleball Complex is located in a public park, so the courts will be available for practice on Friday, September 14th.
- All courts will be open for practice and warm-up at **7:00 am** each morning of the tournament.
- Please do not practice on any of the courts during tournament play, unless approved by the Tournament Director. If certain courts become available for practice the Tournament Director will make an announcement.
- The courts will remain open after tournament play each day.

### Rules of Play

To keep the competition moving and on schedule, the following will apply:

- When your bracket is called, proceed immediately to your assigned court(s).
- Each bracket will be managed by a Court Monitor, who will meet you at your courts and make sure all players in that bracket are present.
- **NOTE: all players must report within ten minutes** of the announcement for their match, or their games will be forfeited to their opponents. **If a team reports, but is late for the start of competition, the forfeit will apply only to those games missed and the team may join in and complete the competition. For point accumulation, forfeited games will be recorded as 11-0, 15-0, or 21-0, depending on the bracket's format.**
- The Court Monitor will review the format, scoring, and rules; and hand out balls (2 per court for warm up) and wrist bands (1 per team) to each team.  
**NOTE: The only items players are allowed to take onto the courts are their paddle, a towel, and a drink container. Chairs, bags, roller bags, etc. are not permitted on the courts.** Storage racks for paddle bags and backpacks are conveniently located at each court entrance gate.
- The Court Monitor will announce the first round of games and court assignments.

- The first team announced for each game will have the choice of serve, receive or side. The other team will pick from the remaining two choices.
- The players will immediately go to their assigned court and will have a 5-minute warm-up period, after which the matches must begin. After the first set of games, the warm-up period will be limited to 2 minutes.
- The first server for each team must wear the wrist band given to them by the Court Monitor.
- These instructions will apply for all matches:
  - The USAPA/IFP 2018 Official Tournament Rulebook will apply, unless noted.
  - This is an unsanctioned tournament and there will be no Referees. **Exception: a few games may be officiated by a referee. In that case, the referee will keep track of the score and help with rules.**
  - One player from the serving team must call out the score before each serve.
  - Players make all line calls; calls are made by the player/team nearest where the ball landed, and **the opposing team is not allowed to make a call** unless asked; players must be civil and abide by this rule.
  - Changing Sides (optional, but only if **both** teams agree not to change)
    - Games played to 11 points will change sides when one team reaches 6 points.
    - Games played to 15 points will change sides when one team reaches 8 points.
    - Games played to 21 points will change sides when one team reaches 11 points.
  - Unresolved disputes or any issue affecting play will be brought to the attention of the Court Monitor.
  - If the Court Monitor is not able to resolve a dispute, play for that game will be suspended while the rule is clarified by the Tournament Director or his designee.
- After the game is over, a member of each team will report the final score to the Court Monitor, who will record the score; **a member of each team must initial the final score.**
- Subsequent games and court assignments within a bracket will be announced by the Court Monitor; play will begin immediately or following a 2-minute warm-up if both teams agree.
- After all games have been completed, the Court Monitor will take the score sheets to the Scorer's Table where they will be recorded and results announced.
- Although these games are not officiated, the Court Monitors and Event Staff will have the same authority as a referee in the case of unacceptable conduct by any player. **Players that have been warned but who persist in behaving in an unruly manner will be penalized up to and including expulsion from the tournament.**

## Awards

Medals will be awarded as follows:

- Medals will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners, respectively, in each bracket. Winners will be determined by the first and second and third most games won..
- In case two or more teams have the same number of wins, the following will apply for all awards:
  - First tie-breaker: the award winner is the team with the most head-to-head wins against the other team(s) with whom they are tied for total wins.
  - Second tie-breaker: The award winner is the team with the most number of points among the teams tied with the same number of wins.