



Spring Lake Park - Fridley Pickleball Group Adult Ladder League

The Spring Lake Park - Fridley Pickleball Group Ladder League will be modeled after [Official USA Pickleball rules](#), with the following additions and/or exceptions. These rules may be modified and/or added to at any time at the discretion of the League Coordinators.

Sporting Integrity

Our cities are striving to provide a worthwhile adult athletic program for all participants involved. Although the element of competition plays a major role in athletics, the match should always maintain its recreational and social values. Therefore, it is necessary for each participant to be responsible for the promotion of good sporting integrity and fair play.

The Spring Lake Park - Fridley Pickleball Group have instituted and will enforce the following policies for player conduct:

- No player shall physically touch or verbally abuse another player in any manner. The use of profanity and personal baiting by player[s] or spectator[s] will not be tolerated and is sufficient grounds for ejection from the league. Players will be held responsible for the behavior of their spectators.
- Players are held responsible for their actions on park property before, during, and after their match.
- Any player[s] reported to have broken any of these rules will be suspended from participation in at least their next two scheduled matches. If the ejection occurs in the first match of a double-header, the player is suspended for the second match and the next league match. A second offense will result in an indefinite suspension - League Coordinator's Discretion - from all Spring Lake Park - Fridley Pickleball Group sponsored programs.
- Alcohol and Tobacco use is PROHIBITED on all park property, including in the playing or bench area.

Any team that continually exhibits poor sportsmanship may be removed from the league with no refund given.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Weather-Related Match Cancellations

- **Weather-Related Match Cancellations will be made if conditions outside are unfit to play, and include rainouts, heat advisory, and/or air quality alerts.** Check with either the Spring Lake Park or Fridley Recreation departments by **3:30pm of game day** for a ruling on a weather-related cancellation. After 4:30pm, the decision for a cancellation will be made by the players at the courts. Notification to the Recreation Department of a decision is required as soon as possible. Please contact one of the League Coordinators:
 - Wesley Goldberg - wgoldberg@slpmn.org or 763-792-7233.
 - Brice Richter - brice.richter@fridleyymn.gov or 763-572-3539
- Matches will **not** be rescheduled due to non-weather-related conflicts.

Absences

- You are expected to play every week unless you contact both the League Coordinators that you will be absent. We encourage players to make every effort to attend each match as a courtesy towards their opponents.
- **Can't Play - BEFORE Schedule is Published**
 - A player unable to play on the specified day should contact a League Coordinator no later than 3 days prior to the ladder play day. The groupings will then be made without that player. The player's most recent 'score' will stand until the player resumes play.
- **Can't Play - AFTER Schedule is Published**
 - After the players schedule is published (within 48 hrs of play) and prior to the actual match: NOTIFY a League Coordinator Immediately.
- **No Shows on Day of Ladder**
 - Any player that has multiple unannounced no shows may be removed from the league for the remainder of the season with no refund given.
- Please be respectful of your opponent's time and notify the League Coordinators well in advance if you will be absent.

Substitutes

- Substitute players **will not** be allowed in this league.

Equipment

- **TEAMS MUST SUPPLY THEIR OWN PICKLEBALL PADDLES.**
- The league will supply ONE game ball to each player for the duration of the season.

Infectious Disease Control Rule

A player is bleeding or who has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the match until appropriate treatment has been administered.

Appropriate treatment is:

1. Bleeding has stopped
2. Injury area is completely covered
3. Competition area/equipment disinfected with acceptable disinfectant.

Acceptable Disinfectants are:

1. A solution of 1/4 cup of sodium hypochlorite and one gallon of water.
2. A solution of 1/4 cup of 70% isopropyl alcohol and one gallon of water.
3. A commercially produced infectious disease spray.

League Rules

League Format

- The format of play is designed so that players play mostly with others of similar skill levels.
- A player's ranking is based upon their winning percentage (the ratio of games won and total number of games played).
 - Players will move up or down the ladder based on their winning percentage.
- Each week, players will be placed in groups in the order of their ranking on the ladder for match play.
 - The size of the groups and total number of games played each week will be determined by the overall number of players in the league.

- The court placement for week one will be based on the ranking players give themselves when they register.
 - Rankings will be 1 - 5, 1 being a beginner and 5 being an expert
- All players will play doubles games in a round robin fashion with each of the other players in their group.
- Total # of games played based on group size:
 - With 4 players: 3 games to 17, win by 1
 - With 5 players: 5 games to 11, win by 1
- At the start of the game, players will decide who starts serving first and choice of side.
 - Players change ends of the court when the first team has 8 points to minimize the effects of the sun and wind or other factors that may affect play.
- After your match each week, report your score to recinfo@slpmn.org or call 763-792-7201 within 24 hours.
- Players will be notified who they'll be playing and on which court by **4:30pm the day prior to play.**
- Seeding for playoffs will be decided based on each team's ranking at the end of the regular season.

Scoring

- Points are scored only by the serving team.
- When the serving team's score is even (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10) the player who was the first server in the set for that team will be in the right/even court when serving or receiving; when odd (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) that player will be in the left/odd court when serving or receiving.

Choice of Side or Service

- Any fair method can be used to determine which team has first choice of side, service, or receive. (Example: rock, paper, scissors). Rotate playing areas after each set.

Serving

- The server's arm must be moving in an upward arc when the ball is struck.
- Paddle contact with the ball must not be made above the waist level.
- The head of the paddle must not be above the highest part of the wrist at contact.
- A 'drop serve' is also permitted in which case none of the elements above apply.
- At the time the ball is struck, the server's feet may not touch the court or outside the imaginary extension of the sideline or centerline and at least one foot must be behind the baseline on the playing surface or the ground behind the baseline.
- The serve is made diagonally crosscourt and must land within the confines of the opposite diagonal court.
- Only one serve attempt is allowed per server.

Serving Sequence

- Both players on the serving doubles team have the opportunity to serve and score points until they commit a fault *(except for the first service sequence of each new set).
- The first serve of each side-out is made from the right/even court.
- If a point is scored, the server switches sides and the server initiates the next serve from the left/odd court.
- As subsequent points are scored, the server continues switching back and forth until a fault is committed and the first server loses the serve.
- When the first server loses the serve the partner then serves from their correct side of the court (except for the first service sequence of the set*).

- The second server continues serving until his team commits a fault and loses the serve to the opposing team.
- Once the service goes to the opposition (at side out), the first serve is from the right/even court and both players on that team have the opportunity to serve and score points until their team commits two faults.

*At the beginning of each new set, only one partner on the serving team has the opportunity to serve before faulting, after which the service passes to the receiving team.

Two-Bounce Rule

- When the ball is served, the receiving team must let it bounce before returning, and then the serving team must let it bounce before returning, thus two bounces.
- After the ball has bounced once in each team's court, both teams may either volley the ball (hit the ball before it bounces) or play it off a bounce (ground stroke).
- The two-bounce rule eliminates the serve and volley advantage and extends rallies.

Non-Volley Zone

- The non-volley zone is the court area within 7 feet on both sides of the net.
- Volleying is prohibited within the non-volley zone. This rule prevents players from executing smashes from a position within the zone.
- It is a fault if, when volleying a ball, the player steps on the non-volley zone, including the line and/or when the player's momentum causes them or anything they are wearing or carrying to touch the non-volley zone including the associated lines.
- It is a fault if, after volleying, a player is carried by momentum into or touches the non-volley zone, even if the volleyed ball is declared dead before this happens.
- A player may legally be in the non-volley zone any time other than when volleying a ball.
- The non-volley zone is commonly referred to as "the kitchen."

Line Calls

- A ball contacting any part of any line, except the non-volley zone line on a serve, is considered "in."
- A serve contacting the non-volley zone line is short and a fault.

Faults

- A fault is any action that stops play because of a rule violation.
- A fault by the receiving team results in a point for the serving team.
- A fault by the serving team results in the server's loss of serve or side out.

Protests

- As this is an unofficiated league, protests will not be allowed.
- Any complaints concerning the league should contact one of the League Directors as soon as possible.

Questions or Concerns

For questions and concerns regarding match/playoff schedules, equipment, rule interpretations, and court conditions, please contact one of the League Coordinators.

League Coordinators

Spring Lake Park - Parks & Recreation
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Fridley Parks & Recreation
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