



Northampton Padel League – Season 3 Rules

1. General Rules

- 1 Padel is played in doubles (two players per team) on a court enclosed by glass and mesh walls.
- 2 The game follows a scoring system similar to tennis: 15, 30, 40, and game. The golden point rule applies – at deuce, a single deciding point is played. The receiving team chooses the return side.
- 3 Matches are best of three sets. A set is won by the first team to reach six games with a two-game lead. At 6–6, a tiebreak (first to 7 points, win by 2) is played.
- 4 A match is only considered complete if at least two full sets have been played. If fewer than two sets are completed (e.g., stopped after one set or mid-set), the match must be rebooked and continued from the last completed set. If exactly two sets are completed and the score is 1–1: - If the third set has not started, the winner is decided based on the total number of games won across both completed sets. - If the third set has started but is incomplete (including if it reaches a tiebreak that is not finished), the winner is awarded to the team that has won the most total games across all three sets. - If total games are equal, the team leading in the third set or tiebreak at the time play stopped is declared the winner. Draws are not permitted.
- 5 Both teams are jointly responsible for booking their fixture within the league schedule. Failure to secure a booking is not grounds for postponement — unplayed matches will be handled under Rule 5 (Forfeits & Unplayed Matches).
- 6 Each team must play a minimum of three (3) league matches per month to ensure steady progress through the season. Exceptions require approval from the League President (Joe Barron).
- 7 Substitutes may only be used in cases of injury or extended holiday, and must be from a lower division or outside the league, with a Playtomic rating equal to or lower than the replaced player. Substitutes require prior approval from the League President.

2. Serving Rules

- 1 The serve must be underhand, struck at or below waist height.
- 2 The serve must land diagonally in the opponent's service box.
- 3 A fault occurs if the serve lands outside the service box or hits the net incorrectly. A second serve is allowed.
- 4 A let is replayed if the ball hits the net and still lands in the service box.

3. In-Play Rules

- 1 During rallies, the ball must bounce once on the ground before hitting the walls.
- 2 On serves, the ball must first land in the correct service box — it may then rebound off the glass wall but not the fence.
- 3 Two bounces result in loss of point.
- 4 The ball may rebound off walls but must not hit the fence before crossing the net.

- 5 Volleys are permitted (except on serve).
- 6 A player cannot hit the ball twice in succession.
- 7 The ball must fully cross the net into your side of the court before it can be played. Hitting the ball before it has crossed is a fault and results in loss of point.

4. Faults and Violations

- 1 Two bounces = point lost.
- 2 Touching the net with racket or body = point lost.
- 3 A shot is invalid if it lands outside the court or hits walls before bouncing.

5. Forfeits, Cancellations & Unplayed Matches

- 1 A team that fails to arrive within 10 minutes forfeits the match.
- 2 Same-day cancellations count as a forfeit, and the opposing team is awarded the win.
- 3 Injuries during play result in a forfeit.
- 4 Any fixture not completed by the season deadline will normally be void (no points awarded).
- 5 If one team demonstrates genuine attempts to schedule the match, points may be awarded in their favour.
- 6 'Genuine attempts' must include: offering multiple reasonable slots (at least one evening & one weekend), responding promptly, sharing booking options, and keeping evidence (screenshots, messages, booking confirmations).
- 7 Evidence must be submitted before the season deadline (21:00 on the final Sunday).

6. Fines & Fees

- 1 No-show or same-day cancellation fines: £10 per person.
- 2 The responsible party must cover the full court booking fee in addition to any fines.

7. Removal from the League

- 1 The committee reserves the right to remove players at its discretion.
- 2 Grounds include repeated no-shows, failure to pay fines, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any action deemed detrimental to the league.
- 3 Committee decisions are final.

8. Contacts

League President: Joe Barron – 07595 250 776