



COLGAMLP State of the League — Fall 2026

To the Columbus and Phenix City pickleball community,

Here's where things stand on the Fall League.

This league has grown a lot since I started it in my garage with a folder of waivers. That growth is a good problem to have, but it's still a problem. Running this alone, plus two volunteers who carried more weight last spring than two people should have to carry, isn't something that scales to the number of players we have now, not if I want every one of you to still get a great experience out of it. I've been close enough to that breaking point to know I need to change how this gets run, not just push through on the same setup that worked when this was smaller.

So I'm breaking the job up. Fall 2026 is going to run on a five-person committee: a Finance and Administration lead, a Registration and Communications coordinator, a Logistics manager, a Competition and Format director, and a Social Events coordinator. Each of them will report to me, I'm still the one with final say, but the way I see it, the wins this season belong to the committee. If something goes wrong, that's on me to own, not them. None of them will be doing this alone, and neither will I anymore. This is how the league keeps up with how much it's grown.

Here's the thing, that committee doesn't exist yet. I don't have five people lined up, I have a structure and a plan. So this is me asking directly. If you have administrative skills, some real time to give, and you want a hand in keeping this league running, I want to hear from you. This isn't a small ask, it's a real role with real responsibility, but it's also how COLGAMLP makes it to another season.

On the money: registration is \$75 this fall, up from \$50 in the spring. We're continuing the discounts. Military, veterans, teachers, and first responders pay \$65. Youth coach volunteers and league committee members pay \$40, because asking people to volunteer their time and then charge them full price never sat right with me. With around 90 players expected between full and discounted registration, the budget comes out to roughly \$6,045 in income against \$5,950 in expenses. That's a small surplus, not a windfall, but it's the first season ever where we're not starting from zero or worse.

Insurance is happening. We're going with a policy through O2 Sports, which works out to under nine dollars a player once it's folded into the budget. I wasn't comfortable running on waivers alone anymore, not with the number of new faces we've added and not after watching someone get hurt last season with real bills attached. This fixes that.

Courts are still the piece I can't hand you a clean answer on. I don't yet know if we have enough space in Columbus and Phenix City to run a full Monday night schedule to keep it fair with the increasing number of rec players. So we'll spread matches out over the week instead of stacking them all on one night, with captains handling the scheduling for their own teams. That's exactly the kind of thing a Logistics Manager on the new committee should be chasing down, which is more attention than I've been able to give it solo.

Format will be three skill divisions again: Intermediate, Advanced, and Elite. All three divisions have grown significantly, so the competition within each one will be fair and fun. If I hear from you all that a couple more DUPR Calibration Events would be helpful in your skill assessment, I'll schedule some.

Thank you for sticking with this community and for everyone who's just shown up to play, and growing it into something big enough that it needs this kind of structure. If you want to help build the committee that keeps this thing running, reach out.

See you on the courts,

Doug