

**Mount Hebron Viking Backers Spring 2023 Pickleball Program League Rules**  
**Revised 03/08/2023**

- A. The USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) rulebook will be used to govern all pickleball play unless otherwise stated by the Mount Hebron Viking Backers Pickleball Program Team (VBPP). Please refer to both the rules summary and detailed rules provided on the Viking Backers website.
- B. Pickleball is played on a court sized: 20' x 44.' Up to 8 courts will be lined and numbered within the space of the Mt. Hebron tennis courts. Lines will be evident and laid out as perfectly as possible. Court assignments for each match will be defined by the league schedule and cannot be changed.
- C. Players can determine who will serve first by coin toss or full consensus. Teams should decide BEFORE PLAY whether or not to switch sides halfway through the game. Due to the number of concurrent games being played during league night, this detail must be managed between the teams without intervention by VBPP staff.
- D. The VBPP league will be split into two or more divisions depending on enrollment: Beginner and Intermediate / Advanced. Teams from each division will not normally play each other but may be asked to do so to accommodate schedules, at the discretion of VBPP.
- E. Each game will be played to 15 points, or for a maximum of 13 minutes, whichever comes first. Time permitting, the game will be win-by-two, but at the 13 minute mark, game play will end regardless of score. The next game on the court will start as soon as possible when both teams are available and the court is open. It is understood that at some point in the night an opponent may still be playing another game. A team awaiting their opponent may choose to practice on the court by themselves or invite another team to practice with them. As a courtesy, each team will be allowed no more than 2 minutes of rest time between games to allow for hydration and rest ahead of the next game.
- F. A whistle will be blown to indicate the beginning and end of timed play. If teams are in the middle of a point when the whistle is blown, the teams should complete the point and then record the score. If no team has reached 15 points when the 13 minutes has expired, teams will record the score as-is. Ties will be allowed in this league, no tie breaker point will be played. One player from each team must sign the scoresheet to confirm the score.
- G. Substitutes. Teams may use an infinite number of substitutes across the season. Two players, however, must be defined and play an entire game. A team of three can rotate play during a single night of play but cannot rotate play within a single game. Substitutes are allowed to substitute for more than one team, but may only play on one team per division per week.
- H. Forfeits. In the event a team does not provide at least 2 players, each game not attended will be counted as a forfeit; a win for the team present and a loss for the team absent. If neither team attends, the game will be scored as a double forfeit, and neither team will be awarded points.
- I. Weekly Schedules and Standings will be posted online. In the standings, for each game, a win is awarded five (5) points, a draw is awarded two (2) points, and a loss is awarded zero points.

J. Each court will be self-regulated by the players. Please do your best to ensure that you are calling balls in and out of bounds fairly. Each team calls their own balls in or out on their own side of the court. If your team is unsure or did not see the ball, then the opponent gets the benefit of the doubt on the line calls made. All disputes must be settled within the two teams competing and if no agreement can be made, a replay is allowed. Keep in mind, time in dispute counts towards the time limit.

K. Teams are subject to disqualification for inappropriate behavior. The purpose of this league is to provide fun, friendly competition and to promote enjoyment of the sport! Please report any concerns to the VBPP Adult Supervisor immediately.

L. The VBPP takes the health and safety of its players very seriously. The VBPP Adult Supervisor has full authority to ask a player to remove themselves from competition if exhibiting symptoms of a concussion, heat related illness, or any other health risk to the player or those around them. As a player, and a teammate, and a member of our community, all players share responsibility to report any health concerns immediately and to act accordingly, as agreed to when signing the playing waiver, and to abstain from attendance if they are not able to participate as outlined in the various waivers including that related to COVID.

M. Weather and Cancellations. The VBPP has sole discretion in the decisions to postpone or cancel play due to weather. The VBPP plans to communicate via email no later than 30 minutes ahead of the planned start time when a weather related cancellation is able to be reasonably predicted. Canceled Tuesday night games will be postponed. Opportunities to make-up canceled Tuesday night games will be offered on Monday (6/12), Wednesday (6/14), and/or Thursday (6/15), and games may also be made up on mutually agreed upon dates and times. For any make-up games, the winning team must report the score to the VBPP, so it can be included in the standings.

During play, the on-site Adult Supervisor will act on behalf of the VBPP to make any similar decision. Note:

- Play will not be allowed when the Accuweather "Real Feel" is 95 degrees or higher
- Play will not be allowed when the courts are wet from a prior or currently occurring rain
- Play will not be allowed when there is thunder or lightning – any observance of this will result in game play stoppage of 30 minutes; participants must seek shelter indoors or in a car and a decision will be made by the VBPP whether and how to proceed

The VBPP will be acting in good faith and consistent with HCPSS policies that govern outdoor play for the other athletic programs taking place at the same time.