

LEAGUE MISSION

The Detroit Pickleball League (DPL) is a pickleball opportunity for players of all areas in Michigan that desire a more competitive level of play in a team format where they play against other teams. The teams within the DPL are owned for one season (December through May) by an individual, group of individuals, or business that enjoy the sport of pickleball and promote the game for all levels of players. Said team ownerships draft the teams (from a pool of players that registered for the pickleball league) at an in-person draft held one month prior to the first session beginning in January. The teams will compete each session in a minimum of seven weeks and not exceeding eight weeks for the league championship. The DPL Championship for each session will be determined by a “playoff” of the teams finishing in the top four after five “regular season” matches. The “championship playoff” will be two weeks in length with the winners of the first playoff matches (in week six) playing for the DPL Championship while the teams of the first playoff matches will compete for third place in week seven. The teams finishing in 5th through 8th place after the five regular season matches will compete in a consolation playoff during the two weeks following (ie weeks six and seven). Team camaraderie is promoted during the Detroit Pickleball League where teammates encourage one another during weekly games and match-ups in addition to assisting in player development and growth within the game of pickleball. All participants subscribe to the pickleball philosophy of positive sportsmanship and etiquette within the game and that they are not only important, but essential for the growth of the game. The second session draft will occur one week prior to the first matches in session 2 and be held for those teams that need to fill the team roster due to players in session 1 not returning.

PRIZE MONEY & LEAGUE AWARDS

The team winning the DPL Championship, taking second place, and or finishing in third place in that DPL session will earn prize money via ownership money paid to the DPL for that season. Team ownerships of said teams (above) will also earn prize money for that session. All DPL sponsorship money that is not from the “Team Ownership Fees” for that specific season will go towards the daily operations of the entire DPL for the benefit of the players, ownerships, and those involved in the pickleball league. 10% of each “ownership fee” will be invested into “player awards” for the benefit of the league and players. All remaining “ownership fees” are placed into prize money and will be determined by the number of sessions played in the DPL Season. In addition, the winnings are paid out to those earning said winnings within three weeks of the completion of that specific session. The DPL will award the winning ownership with an owners cup known as the “Bainbridge Cup” in addition to medals to the championship team members. Ownerships will vote after week six match-ups are completed to determine the “DPL Outstanding Performer” of the session and an “All DPL Team” for that session. Those receiving DPL honors will be awarded prizes by the DPL Commissioner the last week of play for that session. Players must participate in a minimum of 50% of league dates to be considered for any DPL “award” in that session.

PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE

Players participating in the Detroit Pickleball League are registered to play by a facility (like the Sports Club of West Bloomfield) that operates the courts secured for the sessions. The pickleball facility requires a “liability waiver” to be signed by all DPL participants for that specific session and season. All players must register to participate in the league to be an official member of a team within the DPL. The “registration fee” to play in the DPL is 100% paid to the facility and covers the court time each week for all league teams. Persons participating in league play that are not “official members” (such as substitute players) must also sign a “liability

waiver” as well. The facility hosting the DPL for play each season does determine the “registration fee” each session for all players to play while the DPL Commissioner will always strive to keep the cost at a minimum to benefit all players and the league.

TEAM MEMBER & SUBSTITUTE PLAYER PLAY

All DPL teams (based upon five member rosters) must participate in a minimum of four games each night and cannot participate in more than 4 games within each week’s match-up. It is strongly recommended that all team ownerships and/or team captains work “in the spirit of the game of pickleball” to ensure that all team members are active and engaged players each night within the match-up. Any team member that misses a specific date of play can be replaced by a substitute player secured by that specific team ownership. Substitute players are “available to all teams” within the DPL and should not participate on a specific team for more than three (3) of the specific team weeks (ie match-ups). Doing so would reduce the integrity of the league and opportunity for the teams to have an equal chance to field a competitive roster for a specific competitive date. Substitute players are contacted by the team ownerships and/or team captains to seek availability to participate on a team for a specific date. Substitute players are not eligible to receive any prize money for a team’s final position at the end of the DPL session. All substitute players secured by teams for a specific date (and player) need to be communicated to the DPL Commissioner a minimum of one hour prior to that specific night’s match-up beginning (at 7:00 p.m.) for appropriate Detroit Pickleball League notation. All substitutes for DPL play must be on the official “DPL Substitute List” for that session and confirmed by the DPL Commissioner (Keith Verellen). Substitute players can be added to the “DPL Substitute List” at any time with the appropriate communication with the DPL Commissioner (and should be prior to the match that said substitute player is participating in).

LEAGUE SCORING

The DPL “league format” will consist of “rally scoring” where every serve will result in one point for a team playing on that court. Rally scoring will result in a team’s player on that specific side to serve when their score is even or odd. Each player remains on that specific side during that one game in that team match-up. For the purpose of clarification, Player A on the team will always serve on the even side (if starting on that side) for that specific game while Player B on the team will serve from the odd (score) side (if beginning on that side) for that specific game. No sides will be switched by the players during that specific game. Rally scoring games in the DPL will be played to 21 while the teams reaching 20 will “freeze” their score, can only score future points on their serve (like in traditional pickleball scoring), and can only win the game (by two points) on their serve. Each game is a “win by two” game format. ***All games during DPL weekly match-ups are played to 21 and a win by 2 scoring format.*** Both teams will switch “ends” once the first team reaches 11 points. *With rally scoring utilized, players do not switch serving sides after winning a point, but may switch sides of the court AFTER the first team reaches 11 points (and the “end switch” is reached).* **This said “switch of sides” of the court by players needs to be mentioned by the players to their opponent BEFORE game play continues. Players on a team can also “switch sides” during the game after a time out is taken by any team.**

LEAGUE MATCH-UP FORMAT

Each week a specific match-up will be scheduled for the teams with a specific court assigned as well (which is stated per the session schedule provided). The match-up format is as follows..

1) Women's Doubles; 2) Men's Doubles; 3) Women's Doubles; 4) Men's Doubles; 5) Mixed Doubles; 6) Men's Doubles; 7) Mixed Doubles; 8) Mixed Doubles; and 9) Team "DreamBreak" Doubles. All games are played to 21 with "rally scoring" and teams will switch "ends" (ie opposite sides of the court) at the point of the first team to reach 11 points scored. Team "DreamBreak" Doubles, the ninth game of the match-up, is where a team provides a minimum of four players (men, women, or mixed) to participate in a game where they will rotate off the court after their team scores 4 points. Only four team members of a team are eligible to participate in the Team "DreamBreak" Doubles game between the two teams in the match-up. Each team is allowed one (1) one minute timeout per game during the weekly match-up. Switching "ends" is one (1) minute in length. **The "men's doubles" format should not consist of the same pairings of the previous two games of the same format (with three men playing on the team that night). The "mixed doubles" format cannot have the same pairings for more than two of the games in that format.**

HOME TEAM DETERMINATION & LINE-UP

The team listed first on the schedule for that night's match is deemed the "home team" for the match. The "home team" will choose either "serve or end" for the night's games (for the entire match). The opponent will then have the remaining option for the duration of the match. The team having the "end" option can switch the game's starting "end" from game to game if they so wish and must inform their opponent before the game begins. All "team line-ups" should be emailed to the DPL Commissioner (Keith Verellen) at kverellen1346@gmail.com a minimum of 6 hours prior to the match that night (i.e. by 3:00 p.m.). Substitute players also must be noted to the DPL Commissioner when the line-up is being provided. *The Team "DreamBreak" Doubles game participants can be decided upon after the final Mixed Doubles game is completed (aka "Game 8" of the Match-up) allowing the team captain and/or owner to decide participants based upon the prior game results.* **The team with "AWAY" designation for the match-up that night gets to decide their "Team DreamBreak Doubles" line-up second (and record it on the DPL scoresheet) AFTER the team with "HOME" designation places their line-up on the scoresheet for the ninth and final game of the match that night.**

MATCH-UP SCHEDULE

The DPL gets the courts at 6:45 p.m. each night. Warm-up times begin "officially" at 6:50 each night while the courts are available for players once the courts are set-up with nets. The warm-ups take place on all six courts that the DPL has each night and are for all the players to utilize during this time. The players for "Women's Doubles" should be provided first opportunity to warm-up for their team on their specific assigned court as they are playing first each night. All other players are provided warm-up time as well during this time and during any time on the "warm-up" courts while DPL games are being played each night. First games (ie Women's Doubles) each night **MUST** begin no later than 7:10 p.m. All games must begin within 4 minutes after the completion of the previous game's finish. Players for the next game have 3 minutes of afforded warm-up time prior to their upcoming game. All game scores must be recorded by the teams and should be confirmed at that time by two players from opposing teams participating in that specific game (just completed). At the end of the final game for that weekly match-up, team captains should confirm the results and initial the DPL scoresheet (at the top) before returning it to the DPL Commissioner or individual overseeing that night's DPL operations. All games must be finished by 9:50 p.m. while all players must leave the facility by 10:00 p.m. Any games (like the Team DreamBreak Doubles) still being played at 9:50 are considered "complete" and the score of that

game will be noted and deemed a final score regardless of the score (or any “win by two” format that is followed by the league).

TEAM REQUIREMENTS

Each team MUST have a minimum of four players each night to compete in the match-up. Two players of each gender are required to participate in the necessary games. Not having the required amount of necessary players will result in an automatic forfeit of that specific game impacted. Hence, not having two women will result in an automatic forfeit of the women’s doubles game although a team with one woman that night can compete in all three mixed doubles events that night with different male playing partners. ***No player on a team roster is allowed to play more than six games in one night regardless of reason (and only occurs with four players participating that night). All players must participate in a minimum of four games regardless of the reason (unless injury, illness, or an unexpected emergency occurs).*** Any team with five players present that night that has a player participating in more than four games in one night will automatically forfeit that “fifth game” (the specific player is playing in) although the game must be played regardless of the game forfeit determination and result. ***Any team that “loses a player to an injury, illness, or other reason” that night during the match-up is allowed to locate a substitute player (on site or via phone communication) to fulfill the minimum requirement for that game.*** Match-ups will not be delayed for more than 10 minutes regardless of the situation and any delays and game scores (during the injury or illness) will be noted on the DPL scoresheet for necessary record keeping. If a minor injury happens, but the player cannot be removed from that area, the match between the two teams will be moved to one of the two “warm-up courts” to finish that game and/or the remaining games for that match-up. Regarding that match-up’s unique situation, that team’s specific situation (in that case) can be brought to the DPL Commissioner (or individual overseeing play that night) before the match continues and will be agreed upon by team captains and/or owners prior to the current game continuing and/or the match-up’s next game scheduled that night. ***Team captains and/or owners can agree to discontinue a game (and record the score at that moment of the game on the DPL scoresheet) and may skip a game for the benefit of the match-up and “in the spirit of the game” (due to an injury or illness) for the benefit of both teams and all involved.*** Any game forfeited will be indicated by a score of 21-19 on the scoresheet (in favor of the winning team for that specific game) and noted with a “FF” next to the specific game impacted).

PLAYER OBLIGATIONS

All Detroit Pickleball League and substitute players are required to sign a “video and photograph waiver” that allows official posting of games on social media and the DPL website (www.detroitpickleballleague.org) to promote the league and all involved. Players participating in the DPL should strive to promote the league to all pickleball players on all levels while encouraging them to not only follow the weekly play, but to attend the DPL match-ups as spectators to experience the team play and atmosphere. All players on the rosters are encouraged to wear their “team shirts” for DPL play or at a minimum, wear a top (shirt or tank) in that team’s specific color chosen for the Detroit Pickleball League to promote the “team environment” for all games. Players should always be positive about the newest venture and should promote the league to others for the benefit of the game of pickleball. Any matters needing to be addressed should be brought to the DPL Commissioner by a player at a time while official DPL play isn’t happening (ie NOT FRIDAY) and know that it will be heard and documented in addition to any possible decision made for the benefit of the player and entire DPL.

TEAM OWNERSHIPS & RESPONSIBILITIES

All team ownerships will last the duration of time from December through May in that DPL season. In addition, the specific team names are the property of the team ownerships and will not be replicated in precise nature at any time or in any session by other team ownerships. The 2024 season of Detroit Pickleball League brings about eight team ownerships that will have the first right of refusal to continue their ownerships in the following seasons of the DPL regardless of where the league matches are hosted at any time. Expansion of teams (and levels offered) for the DPL are envisioned in 2025 where additional ownerships will be sought and secured to provide an exciting and competitive experience for all involved to grow the game of pickleball and team play. Team ownerships should always strive to promote the game of pickleball and the “spirit of the game” while ensuring that all on their team roster not only participate, but also feel as an essential member of the team each week and during the session. Team ownerships earning a session championship will be granted “free” entry into the following year’s season.

LEAGUE BALL

The Detroit Pickleball League will use the Franklin X-40 Outdoor “Optic” as their official pickleball for match play. It is deemed to be the most favorable ball for players of all skill levels while still providing great play for team members regardless of shots attempted by players and rallies experienced by teams. **All game balls for the Detroit Pickleball League match-ups are provided and will be supplied each night.** *All league pickleballs should be returned to the bag hanging on the tennis net between the two practice courts (i.e. tennis court #8).* Any cracked ball should be discarded and a new ball should be taken from the “DPL ball bag” for the remainder of the match.