

2021 Westfield Pickleball Fall League Rules

1. Please follow State of Massachusetts and City of Westfield guidelines for safe play and social distancing.

See: <https://www.cityofwestfield.org/covid19> and <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

2. Each week teams will play another team in their tier. If there are an odd number of teams in any tier, one team will get a "BYE" each week.

3. One player from each team must play each match for it to count. One substitute per team per match may be used if a player is unavailable. You may use a sub, but only from your tier or from the sub list. If you have three players on your team, you can play in any combination that you like for each of the three games. However the two that start the game, should play the entire game.

The sub list will be coming soon.

4. Ideally matches are to be played at the times scheduled and on the court specified – unless all four players agree to play at a different time. There are some teams who may have trouble playing 5:30 matches due to work schedules. It would be appropriate to coordinate with the other team in advance and play at 7:30 if possible. Players should arrive a few minutes early to get organized and warmed-up.

5. In case of bad weather or other conditions that may affect play, matches should be rescheduled at a time that is agreeable to all players. There is no official weather forecaster on the Pickleball Board, and no weather alerts will be issued by the league committee. Use your own judgement. All matches must be played by the Friday of the last week on the schedule.

6. Each match shall be three games to 11 win by 2. One point is awarded for each game won. The first team listed on the score card shall serve first the first game. Their opponent shall serve first the second game. The team with the most points combined for first two games shall be given the option of serving first or second in the third game. The first serving team for each game shall take the side of the court closest to Franklin Street. Any player may ask to switch sides in the third game once a team reaches a score of 6.

7. If a player is not ready to play at the start time, and the match is delayed by more than 10 minutes, the team shall forfeit the first game.

8. Forfeiting teams will receive 0 points, and their opponent will receive 3 points.

9. Immediately following the match, the winning team will record the points earned by each team on the schedule posted in the shed. One point per game is awarded to the winning team. The total points awarded per match between the two teams is three.

10. All matches shall be played with the official game balls provided by Westfield Pickleball League.

11. USAPA rules will be followed. You can review them online at <https://usapickleball.org/what-is-pickleball/ifp-official-rules/>

12. According to USAPA Pickleball Rules, all balls are presumed to be “in” unless they are clearly “out” and called “out” immediately. Players shall not call a ball “out” unless they can clearly see a space between the line and the ball as it hits the ground. NOTE: according to Rule 6.D.11, calling “out” or “let it go” or other phrases before the ball bounces is considered “player communication” and does not stop play.

13. When serving, all lines are “in” except for the “kitchen line”. See this nice video for clarification:

<https://bit.ly/PickleLines>

14. When a ball, player, duck, or other such object enters your court space (including space around court) during a rally, the play should be stopped and replayed. Any player may call “stop” to ensure the safety of all players.

15. The courts for the matches are listed on the schedule. All courts are numbered on the posts.

16. The League Committee does not want to receive complaints about rules or specific calls. The four players on the court have to figure things out. There is no “playing under protest” or other such accommodation that would change the results of a match after it is completed. This is not the World Championships. We are all here to have fun and get some exercise.