# 🏓 Winthrop Pickleball Fall Tournament League

**Subject: Join Our Exciting New Pickleball Summer Tournament League – All Levels Welcome!**

## 🎉 Dear Pickleball Enthusiasts,

We are thrilled to invite you to join our upcoming **Winthrop Pickleball Tournament League!** Whether you’re a seasoned player or just starting, this is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the game, improve your skills, and meet new friends in our vibrant community.

## 👥 What You Need to Know

* **Who Can Join:** Only Winthrop Residents. All skill levels are welcome! Whether you’re a beginner, intermediate, or advanced player, there’s a place for you.
* **Teams:** We welcome both unisex and mixed teams, so feel free to sign up with friends, family, or colleagues.
* **Registration Deadline:** Please register by **July 1** to secure your spot.
* **Season Length:** The duration of the season will be determined based on the number of teams participating, ensuring everyone gets plenty of playtime and competition.

## 🙌 Why Join Our League?

* **Inclusive Environment:** Our league is designed to be fun and welcoming for players of all levels.
* **Skill Development:** You’ll have the chance to improve your game with regular play and friendly competition.
* **Community Building:** Meet new people and make lasting friendships through the sport we all love.
* **Flexible Team Options:** Create a team with anyone!

# 🚨 Winthrop Pickleball League – CODE OF CONDUCT

**Zero tolerance. No excuses. No exceptions.**

**This Code of Conduct applies to all participants in the Winthrop Pickleball Summer League, including players, team captains, spectators, and volunteers. By joining the league, you agree to abide by the following rules without debate.**

## 1. 🗣️ RESPECT & SPORTSMANSHIP

* **Respect all players and opponents at all times.**
* **No yelling, taunting, swearing, trash talk, or sarcastic remarks during matches.**
* **No physical aggression or threatening behavior of any kind—verbal or non-verbal.**
* **No slamming paddles, hitting balls in anger, or unsportsmanlike body language.**
* **Respect your opponent’s calls unless clearly incorrect—this is a self-regulated league.**

**🚫 Violation = Immediate warning. Repeated or severe offense = expulsion from the league.**

## 2. 📲 COMMUNICATION & COORDINATION

* **Team captains must respond to scheduling communication within 24 hours.**
* **Do not ghost or ignore messages about match scheduling.**
* **If you cannot play, communicate ASAP. No-shows without notice = automatic forfeit.**
* **If a rain delay or conflict arises, call your opponent. Do not rely on texting alone.**

**📌 Keep it clear. Keep it courteous. Keep it professional.**

## 3. ⏰ PUNCTUALITY

* **Be at the court on time for your scheduled match.**
* **Grace period is 10 minutes max—after that, the team that does not all show up, forfeits.**
* **Warmups are limited to 5 minutes. Do not delay the match start time.**

## 4. 🏟️ COURT USAGE

* **Matches must take place on properly booked Winthrop courts via the app or Rec Dept.**
* **No practicing or playing matches on unauthorized or private courts.**
* **The Home Team is responsible for booking and confirming the court in advance.**

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## 5. 🛠️ EQUIPMENT & SAFETY

* **Bring your own paddles, balls, water, and any necessary gear.**
* **Ensure all equipment is league-appropriate and safe.**
* **Play at your own risk. The Town of Winthrop is not liable for any injury, illness, damage, or accident.**
* **No drugs, alcohol, or smoking allowed on or near the courts during league play.**

## 6. ⚖️ MATCH RULES & INTEGRITY

* **A “match” is best 2 out of 3 games to 11, win by 2.**
* **No mulligans, no redo points, no practice games after starting.**
* **No altering the match outcome for any reason. Intentionally throwing games, point-fixing, or manipulating standings is strictly prohibited.**
* **Both teams must agree when the official match starts.**
* **Winning team must report the score within 24 hours or risk forfeiture.**

## 7. 🚫 CHEATING & MANIPULATION

* **Do not falsify scores.**
* **Do not report a fake win.**
* **Do not impersonate a player or allow a non-rostered player to substitute.**
* **Do not try to re-rank your team mid-season to move divisions.**

**These are grounds for immediate expulsion and possible ban from future leagues.**

## 8. 🧾 ROSTERS & SUBSTITUTES

* **Only registered players on the official team roster may participate in matches.**
* **No mid-season additions or substitutions, unless pre-approved by the Commissioner and agreed upon by the opposing team before the match begins.**
* **One person may not play for two different teams.**

## 9. 🧍‍♂️ SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

* **Spectators must abide by the same conduct standards as players.**
* **No heckling, coaching, interfering, or entering the court area.**
* **Captains are responsible for the behavior of their guests.**

## 10. ⚖️ DISPUTE RESOLUTION

* **Attempt to resolve disputes respectfully between teams.**
* **If unresolved, submit details in writing to the Commissioner within 12 hours of the match.**
* **The Commissioner’s ruling is final. No arguing, negotiating, or re-litigating.**

## 11. 🛑 VIOLATIONS & CONSEQUENCES

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Infraction** | **Consequence** |
| **Minor unsportsmanlike conduct** | **Verbal warning** |
| **Repeated or serious conduct issues** | **Suspension or expulsion** |
| **Playing with an ineligible player** | **Match forfeit & possible expulsion** |
| **Failing to book court** | **Match forfeit** |
| **Falsifying scores or cheating** | **Immediate expulsion** |
| **No-show without communication** | **Match forfeit** |
| **Physical aggression or threats** | **Immediate permanent ban** |

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## 12. ✅ BY PARTICIPATING, YOU AGREE:

* **To respect your opponents, teammates, and this community.**
* **To follow all match rules, scheduling procedures, and court policies.**
* **To play with integrity, honesty, and full commitment.**
* **To accept outcomes and rulings with maturity.**
* **To have fun—but never at the expense of fairness or respect.**

**📧 Commissioner Contact:  
 Felix Albano – captwinthrop@gmail.com  
 📱 Text: 917-445-5874**

## 📏 Our Pickleball League Rules

### 1. General League Rules

**League Structure:**

* Each team will play one match per week.
* The “week” starts on Monday and ends on Sunday.
* Teams are responsible for scheduling their matches each week with their opponent.
* The winning team must report the match score to the Commissioner within 24 hours of completion.

**Team Composition:**

* There will be a unisex League and a “co-ed” league.
* Each team must have at least 2 players.
* Teams in the League must join the co-ed or unisex divisions. (All male teams must play teams of men, and cannot play an all-woman or co-ed team etc.), and consist of players of any age and skill level.
* Substitutes are NOT allowed unless agreed upon by the opposing team.

**Match Scheduling:**

* Teams must coordinate with each other and agree on a match time each week.
* Matches should be scheduled at mutually convenient times and locations.
* If teams cannot agree on a time, the match must be rescheduled before the end of the week.

**Match Reporting:**

* The WINNING team is responsible for reporting the match score to the Commissioner.
* Scores must be reported within 24 hours of the match completion.
* Failure to report scores may result in a forfeit for the WINNING team.

**Standings:**

* Standings will be updated weekly and shared with all teams.
* Points will be awarded as follows: Win = 2 points, Loss = 0 points.
* Tiebreakers will be determined by head-to-head results, followed by total points scored.

### 2. Our Pickleball Game Rules: We will be following the Lead Body of Pickleball Rules.

**Scoring:**

* Games are played to 11 points, win by 2.
* Matches are best of three games.

**Serve:**

* The serve must be made underhand with the paddle contacting the ball below the server's waist.
* The serve is made diagonally crosscourt and must land within the confines of the opposite diagonal court.
* Only one serve attempt is allowed, except in the case of a let.

**Double Bounce Rule:**

* The ball must bounce once on each side before either team can volley the ball.

**Non-Volley Zone (Kitchen):**

* The non-volley zone is the 7-foot area adjacent to the net on both sides.
* Players cannot volley the ball while standing within the non-volley zone.
* Players may enter the non-volley zone to play a ball that has bounced but must exit before volleying.

**Faults:**

* The serve does not land within the confines of the receiving court.
* The ball is hit into the net on the serve or any return.
* The ball is volleyed before it has bounced once on each side.
* The ball is hit out of bounds.
* The ball is volleyed from within the non-volley zone.
* A player, player's clothing, or paddle touches the net or the net post when the ball is in play.
* The ball bounces twice before being struck by the receiver.

### 3. Sportsmanship and Conduct

**Respect and Fair Play:**

* All players must respect their opponents and display good sportsmanship at all times.
* Any unsportsmanlike behavior, including but not limited to yelling, swearing, or physical aggression, will result in penalties.

**Disputes:**

* Any disputes during a match should be resolved amicably between the teams.
* If a dispute cannot be resolved, it should be reported to the Commissioner for a final decision.

A “match” consists of the **best of three games**.  
 “One game to eleven does not make a match.”  
 The winner of the **match** is the Team that wins two out of three games first.  
 Yes, you may practice volleys, but there are **no “mulligan” matches**.  
 **Both teams must agree on when the “real” match begins.**

**Code of Conduct:**

* Players are expected to adhere to the league's code of conduct, promoting a positive and inclusive environment.
* Violations of the code of conduct may result in suspension or expulsion from the league.

## 📋 Team Form – Fill This Out

Please **copy and paste** this and return it to me.  
 You will need to:

* Initial that you received the rules.
* Initial that you will correctly and ON TIME report your scores.
* Initial that you will allow your information (phone, email) to be shared.
* Rank your team based on the criteria below.

### Team Information

* Team Name:
* Team Captain's Name:
* Team Captain's Email:
* Team Captain's Phone Number:

### Player Info

* Player 1 Name / Email / Phone:
* Player 2 Name / Email / Phone:
* Additional Players & Contact Info (if any):

### Availability

* Preferred Days for Matches:
* Preferred Times for Matches:

### Agreement

* \_\_\_ Acknowledgment of League Rules
* \_\_\_ Agreement to Report Scores
* \_\_\_ Consent to Share Contact Information with Other Teams for Scheduling

# 🏅 Winthrop Pickleball League – Player Ranking Guide

**Where does your team fit in?**

**Please review this ranking system carefully. Assign your team an average number (e.g., 2.5, 3.0, 4.0) based on your current level of skill and consistency. This system is used to place teams in the appropriate division for fair and competitive match play. I will use these responses to place you in the correct Division.**

Please **do not “sandbag”** your ability.

## 🔰 BEGINNER (1.0 – 2.0)

### 1.0 – Absolute Beginner

* **Has never played or only hit the ball a few times.**
* **Does not know the rules or scoring.**
* **Learning how to hold the paddle and make contact with the ball.**
* **Cannot sustain a rally or serve consistently.**

### 1.5 – Early Learner

* **Has played a few times; can hit the ball over the net occasionally.**
* **Struggles to keep score or rally consistently.**
* **Often stands in the wrong position or moves late to the ball.**
* **Developing paddle control and understanding of the game.**

### 2.0 – Learning the Basics

* **Can hit forehands and backhands, but lacks control and placement.**
* **Can keep short rallies going but inconsistent on serves or returns.**
* **Knows basic court positioning but has trouble moving efficiently.**
* **Has some grasp of rules like double bounce and non-volley zone.**

## 🟠 ADVANCED BEGINNER (2.5)

* **Starting to hit with more intent and less luck.**
* **Can serve and return fairly consistently (not powerful, but in).**
* **Understands where to stand and moves into position with more purpose.**
* **Beginning to try soft shots like dinks or lobs, but execution is inconsistent.**
* **Can keep score correctly and knows the basic flow of the game.**
* **Still makes frequent unforced errors but is improving quickly.**

## 🟡 INTERMEDIATE (3.0)

* **Reliable serve and return with direction and medium pace.**
* **Sustains rallies and understands doubles movement with a partner.**
* **Uses forehand/backhand intentionally but struggles with placement under pressure.**
* **Dinks occasionally and attempts drop shots, but may pop them up.**
* **Communicates with partner and adjusts to basic strategies.**
* **Makes fewer unforced errors but still struggles with consistency in faster exchanges.**

## 🟢 UPPER INTERMEDIATE (3.5)

* **Comfortable with all basic shots: serve, return, dink, volley, lob, overhead.**
* **Uses placement and control more than power; hits with intention.**
* **Dinks with purpose and can keep a soft game going.**
* **Executes drops into the kitchen, although not always perfectly.**
* **Reacts well to faster-paced rallies and defends effectively.**
* **Can switch strategies mid-match and recognizes opponents' weaknesses.**
* **Good partner communication and court coverage.**

## 🔵 ADVANCED (4.0)

* **Excellent shot selection, accuracy, and anticipation.**
* **Consistently hits serves and returns with depth and pace.**
* **Reliable third-shot drops and resets in transition zones.**
* **Controls tempo with strategic use of dinks, drives, and lobs.**
* **Rarely makes unforced errors; quick to adapt during matches.**
* **Demonstrates offensive volleys and aggressive net play without sacrificing control.**
* **Advanced understanding of partner positioning and rotation.**

## 🟣 ADVANCED COMPETITIVE (4.5)

* **Near-flawless mechanics, footwork, and anticipation.**
* **Can neutralize stronger opponents using a mix of power and precision.**
* **Strategic placement of serves, spin, pace, and off-speed shots.**
* **Routinely turns defense into offense and controls rallies with poise.**
* **Exceptional teamwork, communication, and poaching ability.**
* **Very low error rate, even under pressure.**
* **Likely competes or places well in regional amateur tournaments.**

## ⚫ EXPERT (5.0)

* **Professional-level execution in every shot type.**
* **Can adapt game plans based on opponents’ tendencies within a match.**
* **Uses deception, spin, and court vision to dominate.**
* **Forces errors rather than waiting for them.**
* **Makes split-second decisions that consistently produce results.**
* **Unshakable under pressure, with elite stamina and focus.**
* **Wins high-level amateur tournaments and may have pro aspirations.**

**I will use these responses to place you in the correct Division.** Please **do not “sandbag”** your ability.

## 📌 Important Info & Rules Summary

* **League Dates:** July 1 – August 12 (or thereabouts)
* **Weekly Match:** One match/week
* **Reporting Scores:** Winning team reports to **captwinthrop@gmail.com** within 24 hrs
* **Matches must be played on courts BOOKED THROUGH THE APP or Dept of Recreation**
* **Only Winthrop Residents may participate**
* **No one can play on two teams**
* **Home Team MUST book the court**
* **Playing without a booked court = FORFEIT**, even if you won
* **No liability:** Town is NOT responsible for injuries, illness, etc.
* **THE ENTIRE SCHEDULE COMES OUT AT ONCE SO YOU CAN PLAN YOUR MATCHES!**
* IF YOU DON’T THINK YOU CAN COMMIT TO THE LEAGUE, **PLEASE LET ME KNOW NOW** BECAUSE ONCE THE SCHEDULE IS MADE AND SOMEONE OR A TEAM DROPS OUT, IT AFFECTS OTHER TEAMS. It’s ok if you can’t play after you sign up, but **please do the right thing and let me know BEFORE the schedule is made** that you will no longer be participating.

## 🏆 Trophies

* **Yes, there is a Trophy.**
* **No, there are NO 2nd place or participation trophies.**
* **Winner takes all.**
* Most of us are Gen X or Boomers… I think we get it.

## ☔ Rain & Communication

* If it rains or the courts are wet:  
  + **Call your opponent.**
  + **Text each other the result of your conversation.**
  + Avoid relying solely on texts.

## 🔁 Pre-Play

* Yes, you can **pre-play** your match.
* Just make sure the **Winning Team sends in the score**.

## 📱 Final Word

Text or call me **privately** with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.  
 We’re all going to make some mistakes—myself included—but it’s all good.  
 There’s enough wisdom in this group to figure it out.  
 Let’s enjoy the competition and have fun.

📞 **Felix – 917-445-5874** 📧 **captwinthrop@gmail.com**

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