



## LOWCOUNTRY PICKLEBALL LEAGUES BY-LAWS

### I. NAME

This organization shall be known as the Lowcountry Pickleball Leagues, also referred to interchangeably as the LCPB Leagues. LCPB Leagues shall be hereinafter referred to as “the league”.

### II. PURPOSE

1. The league is organized exclusively to provide adult recreational pickleball for participants ages 18 and older residing in the Lowcountry region of South Carolina.
2. The leagues mission is to promote fair and competitive pickleball while encouraging good sportsmanship and competitive “fair play” for the registered participants
3. LCPB Leagues and/or its members will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or ability. Nonetheless, participation in divisions of league play and other events may be restricted and apportioned on the basis of sex and/or age.
4. LCPB Leagues shall organize charitable tournament events with all profits to be donated per the Board of Directors and the league Commissioner. Upon dissolution, all remaining charitable assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501-(c) 3 on the Internal Revenue Services.

### III. AFFILIATION

The league has no specific affiliation and is an independent 501-c3 corporation founded to provide the above stated Purpose. The league shall utilize and abide by the USA Pickleball Rules, modified league rules and the DUPR Player Rating System

### III. GOVERNING AUTHORITY

The league shall be governed by a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, League Operations Board and Board of Directors.

The Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Treasurer, League Operations Board and Board of Directors may also be referred to as “league management”.

1. The league Commissioners responsibilities shall include but not limited to;

Management of the league as follows;

- a. Conducting and coordinating the leagues daily operations in a professional manner, promoting transparency, fairness and enjoyment for all league participants.



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- b. Recruitment of Committee members for the Grievance and Disciplinary Committees. All Committees shall seat in odd numbers. The Commissioner shall oversee all Committees.
  - c. Ensure Captains correctly place players by skill Order of Strength (OoS) ratings by Division with assistance from the Assistant Commissioner and each player DUPR Player Rating.
  - d. The league commissioner may be a member on all Committees. Exception: the Commissioner shall be excluded from any committees in which the team they are rostered is involved in the Grievances or Discipline.
  - e. The Commissioner shall assemble/create seasonal league schedules working in conjunction with all Community Representatives. The leagues seasonal schedules shall be made available to league Captain's approximately two weeks before the start of each new season's commencement of play. The league seasons will consist of Fall, Winter and Spring seasons. There may be a summer season.
  - f. Because the league Commissioner may participate in league play, the Commissioner shall not make a ruling or overrule a judgement call made by an opponent while participating in match play unless requested by the opponent. The Commissioner may intervene to resolve team/league issues while not participating in a league match.
  - g. The Commissioner, in conjunction with the Assistant Commissioner and the Captain's Committee may amend league documents. All league rules shall be amended via majority vote by the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and the Captain's Committee. The league Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner shall carry any rules amendment recommendation by one vote each. All Committee Members shall carry one vote by member.
  - h. The Commissioner may accept volunteers or employ assistance for league operations.
  - i. The league Commissioner shall be fully reimbursed for all league business expense.
2. The Assistant Commissioners responsibilities (when chaired) shall include but not limited to;
- a. The leagues Assistant Commissioner shall assist the league Commissioner in all league duties and activities.
  - b. The leagues Assistant Commissioner shall be responsible for data collection and data entry relating to;
    - 1. Player registration.
    - 2. Player/Team waiver collection dissemination.
    - 3. Weekly League/Team results data entry.
    - 4. Player Skill Rating Tracking on DUPR
    - 5. League web postings with Commissioner review and approval.
  - c. Oversee player rating by Division and Team (in conjunction with the league Commissioner).



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- d. The Assistant Commissioner may be a member of any/all Committees. Exception: the Assistant Commissioner shall be excluded from any committee in which the team they are rostered is involved in the Grievances or Discipline.
- e. The Assistant Commissioner may participate in league play. Exception: the Assistant Commissioner shall not make a ruling or overrule a judgement call made by an opponent while participating in match play unless requested by the opponent. The Assistant Commissioner may intervene to resolve team/league issues while not participating in a league match play.
- f. The league Assistant Commissioner shall be fully reimbursed for all league business.

### 2. The Treasurers responsibilities shall include but not limited to;

The league Treasurer shall assist the league Commissioner.

- a. The Treasurer will collect seasonal team registration fees and deposit.
- b. The league Commissioner/Assistant Commissioner may hold the league Treasurer position.
- c. The Treasurer shall maintain a balanced ledger to be reviewed with the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner.
- d. The league Treasurer shall be fully reimbursed for all league business.

## IV. THE LEAGUE

1. The League shall be comprised of League Management, League Committees, Player Divisions, Team Captains and Players.

- a. The league Divisions will be predicated and commensurate upon player population by community, DUPR player skill ratings and volunteer Captains.

### 1. League Divisions and Players

- a. League Divisions shall be comprised of a Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles and/or MLP style formatted specific disciplines.
- b. The Divisions shall consist of the above Doubles categories and "skill" rated numerical Divisions of 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and/or 4.5+ (when available).
- c. Every rostered player shall register in their correct skill Divisions - 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5+.
- d. Team totals shall consist of no more than three (3) teams per Numerical Division, Doubles specific disciplines and per community. (ex; Community A may enter three (3) Men's



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- e. Doubles 2.5, three (3) Women's Doubles 2.5 and/or three (3) Mixed Doubles 2.5 teams). Exception – where communities may support more than 3 teams per division, they may enter what they deem acceptable or when the MLP style formatted play is used in a season.
- f. Player registration is limited to two (2) teams per numerical Division and per community. (ex; a player may register for a 2.5 Men's or Women's Doubles and a 2.5 Mixed Doubles team). Not all applicants are guaranteed a roster slot. Players may not participate on more than 1 team per season in the same or differing divisions.
- g. Player rosters are solely managed by each team's Captain.
- h. "Non-rostered" players may not appeal to the Grievance/Discipline Committee.
- i. Communities may manage their participants per community association rules and in accordance with fairness for their respective communities.
- j. Player and league Divisions shall be governed by league management and DUPR Player Ratings
- k. All players shall be placed in a division reflective of their DUPR Player Rating 2 weeks prior to each new season (once they meet the 50% reliability DUPR rating).
- l. League management shall make every effort, when requested, to assist Captains properly vet all registered participants for placement in the correct Division. Team Captains will hold final responsibility for correctly vetting their rostered players skill levels.
- m. Players may play up from their respective skill rating. However, players may NOT play down from their respective skill Division.  
(Ex: a player rated at a 2.5 skill may play on a 3.0 team. A 3.0 rated player shall not play for a 2.5 team). No player may play down from their DUPR rated skill level once they have reached the 50% reliability DUPR Player Rating threshold!
  - Note: There may be extenuating circumstances where a player may play down a division with the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and the Captains Committee approval only. This is not limited to a players DUPR player rating and includes age, ability, injury or any other physical disability.
- n. If a player's DUPR rating exceeds the limit for their current division and their DUPR reliability rating exceeds the 50% threshold, they may remain on the team for the remainder of the season. However, that player must play exclusively on Court 1 for all remaining matches. If the player's DUPR rating lowers to reflect the requirements of their current division, they may then play on either Court 1 or Court 2.
- o. Should a player whose DUPR Player Rating exceeds the division they are participating in during a season, reach or exceed the 50% reliability threshold, play any other court except court 1, that match MUST be replayed. Should any captain refuse to replay the match, their team will be charged with a forfeit.
- p. Captains may enlist certified pickleball coaches/instructors to "unofficially" rate skill levels of players who do not have an official DUPR Player Rating, nor participated in a USAPA Pickleball, "sanctioned" or DUPR event and have not participated in league play long enough to establish a reliable 50% DUPR Player Rating threshold.



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- q. Any player accused/discovered of playing down their DUPR Player Rating (at the 50% reliability rating or higher) may request a Grievance/Disciplinary Committee hearing to present their evidentiary information. Should said player be found guilty, they shall be considered a player in “Poor Standing”. Said player will be excused from further league play for the remaining season.
- r. All matches won utilizing a higher DUPR rated player who has reached/exceeded the 50% reliability threshold, shall be charged a match forfeit for that match.
- s. Players found to be in “Poor Standing” may be eligible to participate the following season subject to approval by the league Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and the Captains Committee.
- t. Should any player be found guilty of “playing down” their DUPR Player Rating in more than one instance, that player shall be banned from all future league play.

### **1. Captains;**

- a. Team Captains are volunteers and may be approved by the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner Returning Captains will take priority provided they remain in “good standing” and per community rules.
- b. Captains must agree, sign and abide by the Captains Code of Conduct.
- c. Captains shall be responsible to recruit players for specified Doubles teams in specified DUPR Skill Rated divisions, making certain all recruited players are properly rated, verified and participating in the proper Skill division per their DUPR Player Rating. Players may play up from their skill rating. Captains may use their discretion with player placement and OoS until they have achieved the 50% DUPR Player Rating threshold (refer to section I below).
- d. Any player with a 50% or higher DUPR reliability player rating MUST play in the division (or may play higher) reflective of their DUPR player rating.
- e. NO player shall play “down” from their DUPR skill rated Division once they reach their 50% reliability DUPR player rating (exception clause 1. Leagues Divisions and Players, o.)
- f. Team Captain’s shall be responsible to manage their teams promoting fair play and sportsmanship by following the Captains and Players Codes of Conduct.
- g. Team Captains are encouraged to equitably schedule their rostered players.
- h. Team captains must provide a roster of minimum 12 players 1 week after the Captains Interest closes.
- i. Team Captains must schedule/play their players in Order of Strength (OoS). All players must be rated by the Captain as OoS 1 or 3 on a roster based upon reaching their 50% reliability DUPR Player Rating. All OoS 1 players may play court 1 or 2. All OoS 3 players may play courts 2 or 3. Captains may NOT skip a court at any time.



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- j. Each division's Order of Strength shall be predicated upon a player's DUPR 50% reliability Player Rating threshold. Order of Strength 1 in each division will be assigned as follows;
- k.
  - 2.50 Division – 2.56 – 2.99
  - 3.00 Division – 3.26 – 3.49
  - 3.50 Division – 3.56 – 3.99
  - 4.00 Division – 4.26 – 4.49
  - 4.50+ Division – 4.56 -5.99

Order of Strength 3 in each division will be assigned as follows;

- 2.50 Division – 2.50 – 2.55
  - 3.00 Division – 3.00 – 3.25
  - 3.50 Division – 3.50 – 3.25
  - 4.00 Division – 3.99 – 4.25
  - 4.5+ Division – 4.50 – 4.55
- l. If a Captain incorrectly assigned a player's OoS, they may appeal to the Commissioner for a correction. Considerations shall be predicated on a player current DUPR Player Rating and any possible physical disabilities.
- m. Player stacking is a violation of the league rules.
- n. A Captain accused/discovered to have played any player rated at a higher DUPR skill rating, once they have achieved the 50% reliability threshold, than the Division they are captaining, will have their players data presented to the Captains Committee. Should said Captain be found guilty, the first offence shall be a "firm warning" to cease and desist, they may be considered a Captain in "Poor Standing". Should said Captain be guilty of continued player "stacking" the captain shall be excused from further league participation for the remainder of the season. All matches won utilizing an improperly skill rated rostered player shall be charged a match forfeit for that/those match(s).
- o. Any Captain in "Poor-Standing" shall receive further scrutiny/consideration, from the league Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and the Captains Committee, for the next season's league participation as a Captain.
- p. Team Captains (or proxy) must attend mandatory league Captains' meetings as scheduled prior to all new seasons start.
- q. Team Captains shall be responsible for all rostered players to submit a signed "waiver" form and for collecting each players registration fee and submitting the team's registration fee.
- r. No player shall be eligible to participate in league match play until their signed "player liability waiver" form has been submitted to and received by the league



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- management. Players must sign a new player liability waiver form every new season.
- s. Team registration fee must be submitted to the league Commissioner or league Treasurer one (1) month prior to league play or at the league captains meeting.
  - t. Team rosters shall be a minimum of 12 to maximum of Captain's choice, selecting players from the team roster for each week's match play. In certain instances, with approval from the League Commissioner, teams may roster fewer than 12 players.
  - u. All team rosters must reach the minimum of 12 players prior to anyone submitting a Captains Interest form. Exceptions may be considered and authorized by the Commissioner.
  - v. Captains are permitted to add to their rosters up until 2 weeks after the beginning of each season. All newly rostered players must sign a player liability waiver form prior to any/all league participation.
  - w. Should a player drop from a roster during a season, they may be replaced. Any player replacement may not be placed in a lineup until their player liability waiver end registration fee has been submitted. Captains must alert the Commissioner of all roster changes.
  - x. Captains must make every effort to field teams for their scheduled matches.
  - y. Matches may be split, if necessary, to ensure completion. **However, if there are 6 players available in the correct OoS, the match MUST be played.** For example, if Team "A" is unable to field six players as scheduled, one match may be played on the original date with the agreement of Team "B", and the remaining two matches may be completed on a separate date. This provision may be used in circumstances where players are employed, injured, or otherwise unavailable. The League Commissioner must be notified of all split matches. Additionally, all split match lineups must be submitted to the Commissioner at least 48 hours prior to playing.
  - z. Captains are expressly forbidden from playing any person(s) who is **not** rostered and has **not** completed a liability waiver. This may result in immediate dismissal as captain and forfeit of the matches played by the illegal player.
  - aa. Once the final league schedule has been released, all weather, injury, or short rostered canceled matches shall be the captains' responsibility to resolve or reschedule. All scheduling discrepancies or rescheduling must be brought to the Commissioner's attention.
  - bb. Team Captains shall always exemplify good sportsmanship, encouraging their players to play by the USAPA rules modified league rules and in conjunction with the Players and Captains Codes of Conduct.
  - cc. Captains should always encourage their players to give line calls "in doubt" to the benefit of their opponents. Per USA Pickleball rules.
  - dd. Captains and co-captains shall follow the leagues weather safety policy.



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### VI. League Committees

The league may utilize the following boards/committees as needed;

- a. Captains Committee
- b. League Operations Board
- c. Grievance and Disciplinary Committee
- d. Data Team
- e. Ad-Hoc Committee

#### **Captains Committee**

The Captains Committee shall be chaired by the leagues Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner in odd numbers for voting purposes. The Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and all committee members votes shall be count as 1 vote each.

- a. Shall be comprised of Captains/co-captains in good standing whose team and personal demeanor exemplify good sportsmanship and are current or former league captains/co-captains.
- b. The Captains Committee shall participate in league documents modifications, sit on other committees and may approve amended By- Laws written by the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner (when chaired) and other league members suggested amendments governing documents and related decisions.
- c. The Captains Committee shall assist the Commissioner with enforcement of all league governing documents.

#### **League Operations Board**

The League Operations Board shall be chaired by the Commissioner in an odd number including the league Commissioner for voting purposes. All votes shall count as 1 vote per committee member. The Commissioner shall only cast a vote in the event of a tie.

- a. League Operations Board shall be selected by the league Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner (when chaired) and the Board of Directors.
- b. The League Operations Board shall assist the Commissioner with fundraising, marketing, volunteer coordination and ensuring mission alignment and resource translate a strategic vision into actionable plans and oversee leagues performance.



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### Grievance and Disciplinary Committee

- a. The Grievance and Disciplinary Committee shall be assembled as needed, to assess possible league or rule violations, unsporting behavior concerns and in accordance with the league By-Laws, USA Pickleball rules and League Modified Rules.
- b. Shall be comprised of one (1) player, two (2) Captains, one (1) Community Representative, the league Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner (when chaired) and any related certified pickleball persons.
- c. The Grievance and Disciplinary Committee shall hear, and address league concerns and complaints presented by the Commissioner, league registered Captains and/or players.
- d. Post defendant's rebuttal, the Grievance Committee shall make rulings based upon said complaints, league rules and in the best interest of the league.

### Data Team

- a. Shall assist the Assistant Commissioner with DUPR Player Rating
- b. Monitor players scores
- c. Monitor Order of Strength of rostered players
- d. Provide reports to the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner

### Ad-Hoc Committee

An "Ad-Hoc" Committee may be assembled, as needed, in interest of league operations.

Ad-Hoc Committee and all committees shall consist of and votes shall be counted as follows;

- a. League Commissioner, one vote
- b. League Assistant Commissioner, when chaired, one vote
- c. Ad-Hoc Committee Members, one (1) vote per member

All league Committee members that are currently participating on a team must be in "good standing". Previous league members may be requested, by the Commissioner, to sit on a committee. These members must have been in "good standing" when they left league play.

Community Representatives and/or persons familiar with Pickleball (Ambassadors, Instructors, Referees, etc.) may be selected by the Commissioner, to sit on any Committee.



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### Committees

All committees are governed by the League Commissioner, provided the Commissioner is not the defendant of any league charge, in such case the Assistant Commissioner shall govern the Committee and vice versa. All Committees that are assembled shall decide based upon the facts presented, By-Laws, League rules, USA Pickleball rules, Captains Code of Conduct, Players Code of Conduct, fairness and for the good of the game of Pickleball.

No Committee member may be a defendant having League litigation/complaint being brought against them. Committee members may serve as required and at the discretion of the Commissioner to make a fair and just ruling, approve a league rule modification, any decisions not covered under USA Pickleball or local league modified rules and By-Laws for the good of the league, its management and participants”.

**Note:** All Committees shall consist of an odd number of members.