

# **Chino Hills Adult Pickleball League**

## **Rules and Regulations**

Updated: September 11, 2025

The City of Chino Hills Pickleball League recognizes and adopts the rules and approved equipment list as stated by the United States Pickleball Association (USAP), except where the City of Chino Hills' rules modify or supersede those rules, as outlined in this document.

## **Objective:**

To provide a family-friendly, safe, and enjoyable environment for pickleball participants who wish to participate in an organized, recreational program emphasizing sportsmanship and fair play at levels 1.0-3.5.

## **Liability:**

The City of Chino Hills, employees and/or agents are not liable for injuries, losses, and/or damages to a person or property occurring from their participation in the Pickleball League.

#### **League Fees:**

League fees cover the cost of one (1) season.

Registration per player

o Resident: \$20

Non-resident: \$30

**NOTE**: Returned checks result in an additional insufficient funds fee. Players are not allowed to play until full payment is made to the City of Chino Hills.

#### **Refunds:**

A refund request form must be filled out and turned into the Grand Ave Park sports office by the conclusion of the third (3rd) match of the season. A processing fee per player will be deducted from all requested refunds and/or household credits.

#### **Rosters:**

- 1. Players must be 18 years of age or older.
- 2. Each team must select a team manager. This player will act as a liaison between City staff and their teammates.
- 3. League play consist of various mixed doubles, men's, and women's divisions. Teams must register a minimum of four (4) players to **secure a spot** in the league and may have a maximum of 6 players on their roster. Players may register for one (1) team per season, per division.

- 4. Teams not meeting the minimum roster count will not be placed on the league schedule.
- 5. Registered players will NOT be permitted to play without showing a **valid photo I.D.** at the check-in table prior to the start of each game.
- 6. Rosters will be final at the conclusion of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) match of the season.

## 7. Hardship rule:

**Men's or Women's Divisions:** Any team that has their official roster drops to three (3) players or less after the third played game may be allowed to add players to a maximum of five (5) on the roster.

**Mixed Doubles Divisions:** Any team that has their official roster drop to one (1) female or one (1) male after the third played game may be allowed to add an additional male or female player to a maximum of two (2) on the roster. Teams can only add players for representation that has dropped to one (1).

- All roster changes made under the Hardship Rule must be approved by the Recreation Specialist or Community Services Coordinator prior to the next game.
- Any players dropped under the Hardship Rule will receive a refund (minus the administrative processing fee). Player(s) added will be required to pay league fees in full. Players cannot transfer registration.
- Request to qualify for the Hardship Rule must be submitted to the Recreation Specialist and Community Services Coordinator three business days prior to the next scheduled game.
- Managers may exercise the Hardship Rule once per season and no Hardship Rules will be accepted after the sixth (6) game of the season.

## **Ineligible Players:**

If an opposing team suspects an illegal or ineligible player on the court, they must notify City staff immediately. Play and game clock do not stop during the questioning and/or removal of illegal or ineligible player.

• For verification, the player in question must be registered on their team's roster and show proof of identification with a valid photo I.D.

- In the event the player cannot prove their identity when requested, the player will be removed from the game and remain out until verification is provided. If the player is deemed ineligible, the game will be forfeited, and further disciplinary action will be taken against the player and team.
- First offense will result in a forfeit of that game. Second offense will lead to a team's dismissal from the league and refunds will not be issued.
- If staff verify the player in question is a legal player, play will resume.

#### **Game Play:**

1. **Mixed Doubles Divisions:** One female and one male player from each team must always be on the court during game play. Teams cannot play with two female or two male players and will be required to forfeit their match if they cannot field a team once the grace period has concluded.

**Men's and Women's Doubles Divisions:** Teams must have two guys or two girls on the court during play.

All teams are allowed one designated player above the suggested rating. Manager's duty to inform City Staff who the designated player is.

- 2. A match will consist of 3 games, each played to 11 points, win by 2. For each game won, teams will receive 1 point towards their league standings. Scores should be submitted to City staff immediately after each game.
- 3. Matches are non-officiated. Players will call all lines on their end of the court, including non-volley zone and service foot faults. Players may call non-volley zone and service foot faults on the opponent's end of the court. If there is any disagreement among players about the called foot fault, a replay shall occur.
- 4. If a team feels that one team or another is not calling balls fairly, please contact City Staff to mediate and watch over the game. City Staff will have final decision during any discrepancies.
- 5. Rally scoring NOT in effect.
- 6. Lights at Grand Avenue Park must be turned off no later than 10 p.m. Due to this time restriction, game delays are not allowed for any of the following reasons:
  - Substitutions
  - Timeouts

- Wasting time
- Injury to a player(s), unless granted by City staff
- Removal of injured player(s) from the court of play for treatment, including the use of EMS
- 7. Due to lighting time constraints, matches are limited to 55 minutes. If the last game of the match is not completed at 55 minutes, the game will end on the final play and the team with the most points will win. Any game called due to time will be counted if the leading score is six (6) or more. Any game less than six will not be counted as a played match and will not be rescheduled.
- 8. If a player needs to be subbed out of a game, that player is not eligible to play for the remainder of the night.

## **Equipment:**

- 1. All teams must provide their own paddles.
- 2. Game balls will be provided by the City. The official game ball to be used will be the Franklin X40 ball. Teams are required to return the ball after game use. Ball color will be yellow.

## **Forfeits:**

- 1. If either team is not on the court ready to start the match at the scheduled time, City staff will start their watch.
- 2. If a team does not have at least 2 players on the court ready to play at the scheduled game time, the *grace period* begins. Teams will be given a ten (10) minute grace period by City staff. If either or both teams are not ready to play after the grace period has expired, the game will be forfeited. Grace period time is kept by City staff.
- 3. The forfeiting team will lose the match with a score of 3-0. If both teams have less than 2 players at the end of the grace period and/or are not ready to play, then the game will be declared a double forfeit with a score 0-3. Neither team will receive points in the standings and both teams will split the forfeit fee.
- 4. If a team is unable to play, they must notify the Grand Ave Park sports office by **6:00 p.m.** the day before the scheduled game.

Teams who meet the deadline will receive a "NO CONTEST" bye and will not be charged a forfeit fee. A "**NO CONTEST**" is recorded as a loss, and the forfeiting team will lose the match with a score of 3-0.

- 7. Teams with two (2) or more forfeits in a season will be removed from playoff contention and ineligible for priority registration. Three (3) forfeits in a season will result in removal from league. No refunds will be issued.
- 8. Once games have concluded, we are asking teams to please leave the court 15 minutes before the next game to give courtesy to the next teams to warm up. Court 3 is always open for warmups.

#### **Forfeiture Fee:**

- 1. If a team does not inform City staff of their forfeit by 6:00 p.m. the day before their scheduled game, their team will be charged a \$15 forfeiture fee. Teams must pay the forfeit fee by the start of their next scheduled game, or they will not be able to start their game and will be charged an additional forfeit fee.
- 2. Teams with two (2) or more forfeits will be removed from the schedule until the fee is paid. Teams will lose priority registration for the following season and may be removed from the league indefinitely.

## **Played Game:**

1. Matches that completed two played games will be deemed a "played match." If a match is terminated by City staff after the second game concludes, the scores of the two played games will be reported as results. The third game will be scored as 0-0 and will not be rescheduled.

If a match is terminated before the conclusion of the second game by City staff, the match will not be considered played and any games completed will not count toward standings. The entire match will be rescheduled or if it cannot be rescheduled, players will be credited.

#### **Court Sideline Assignments:**

- 1. During regular season play, "home" teams will start their first match on the south side (left) and "away" will start on the north side (right). Teams will rotate sides in match two (2) and rotate back for match three (3). Home team must designate their players first and commit to those players for the game.
- 2. During playoffs, home team (highest seed) may elect to change sideline assignments. This must be declared to City staff and the opposing team prior to the start of the first match. Teams will rotate sides in match two (2) and rotate back for match three (3).

## **Standings:**

- 1. A match game is awarded one (1) point, a loss is awarded zero (0) points and a draw is worth one (.50) points.
- 2. In the event of a tie in the standings, the following ties breaker(s) will be used:
  - Head-to-head record between tied teams.
  - Lowest point differential between all matches played head-to-head between the tied teams
  - Lowest point differential between all matched played against the next-highest seeded team.
  - Lowest point differential between all matches played.
  - Coin toss.

## Playoffs (if applicable):

Playoff seeding is determined after the regular season and determined by league standings. Playoffs are not guaranteed, and eligibility is based on the number of teams registered for each level and/or scheduling availability. Please refer to the season schedule for more information about playoffs and seeding.

## **Team Relegation**

The City reserves the right to relegate teams between all divisions to ensure league competitiveness. Regelation may also occur during a season if City staff deem it necessary.

#### **Cheating:**

- If a team is caught cheating (checking in an unregistered player, swapping wrist bands, playing an off roster player, etc.), the team will forfeit the current game, and the following match will be subject to further disciplinary action to the discretion of the Community Services Coordinator and Recreation Specialist.
- Cheating may result in the forfeiture of future matches, loss of priority registration eligibility, or expulsion from the league.

#### **Profanity/Fighting:**

- The use of profanity at Grand Ave Park will **NOT** be tolerated.
- Fighting will result in the immediate removal of player from the league.

#### Alcohol/Smoking:

- Smoking and the consumption of alcohol is prohibited at Grand Avenue Park.
- Players or teams under the influence of any substance will be removed from the game.
  Non-compliance may result in forfeiture of the game. The first offense results in a

minimum two (2) game suspension. A second offense will result in suspension from the season and possible dismissal from the league.

## **Park Rule Infractions:**

Infractions for violating park rules will be reported by City staff. Disciplinary action will be taken by the Recreation Specialist and/or Community Services Coordinator which may result in:

- A one (1) game suspension for the entire team resulting in a loss of points for the next game scheduled. The suspended team must pay a forfeit fee.
- Teams scheduled to play a suspended team because of a park rule violation will be informed in advance.
- Suspended players will not be allowed on the Pickleball courts or Grand Ave. Park premises throughout the entirety of player suspension.

The Recreation Specialist or Community Services Coordinator will inform the team manager of any infractions reported by City staff. Refer to the Grand Ave Park Rules for more information.

**DISCLAIMER**: The City of Chino Hills reserves the right to terminate or alter a game, and discipline, suspend or remove a player, coach or team for any action against the league or its participants for the purpose of maintaining a safe and secure environment.