



GMAA Pickleball Handbook

Section 1: Sports Committee

The Pickleball Sports Committee shall consist of the chairperson of the above sport and all the coaches for that season of the above sport.

Section 2: Team Entry and Classification

2.1) All official team entries must be submitted on S1 by the deadline

2.2) Classification: A team consists of six (6) students: 2 Singles Players (2 players) & 2 Doubles Teams (4 players)

Boys or Girls

Bantam, Cadet, or Juvenile

2.3) Schools must enter a complete team in a category. A team is defined as 2 singles players and 2 doubles teams. Provided scheduling and facilities can accommodate, a school will be permitted to enter a second team in an age category. It is understood that all schools will be guaranteed one team before any second is accepted.

Section 3: Player Registration & Eligibility

3.1) Player Registration is due on S1 prior to the deadline.

3.2) A player may compete in only one age category and either as a singles player or as a doubles player, not both.

Section 4: Uniform (also refer to Governing Rules – Rule VI, Section 5)

Participants must wear crested school shirts and appropriate athletic bottoms. If possible, the shorts or pants should have pockets. The tournament director can refuse participation to any student inappropriately dressed.

Section 5: Starting Time

The start time and coaches meeting information will be sent out prior to the tournaments.

Section 6: Governing Rules & Rule Modifications

6.1) Pickleball Canada Rulebook shall be used.

6.2) No team or competitor shall be permitted to compete in any tournament unless accompanied by a staff member from that school. Penalty is disqualification from tournament. (see Rule VI, Section 4 of General Governing Rules for clarification)

6.3) Scoring:

For Round Robin Games: Game will be played with rally scoring up to 15 points. A game must be won by 2 points up to a maximum of 21 points. (Example, game is tied 20-20 next point wins).

For Playoff Games: Traditional Pickleball scoring will be used. Only the serving team will score points. Games will be up to 11 points. A game must be won by 2 points up to a maximum of 15 points. (Example, game is tied 14-14 next point wins).

6.4) A school coming to the tournament without a complete team at a level shall default the games and incur the appropriate fines. Furthermore, the remaining members of the team shall be required to play their games in the preliminaries but will not be eligible for the playoff rounds.

Section 7: Round Robin

7.1) The GMAA will schedule the round robin portion of the tournament.

7.2) Substitution: Substitutions are permitted during the round robin segment of the tournaments. A player may substitute into only one position (singles 1, singles 2, doubles 1 or doubles 2). No substitution will be permitted during the medal round.

Section 8: Playoffs & Awards

8.1) Seeding for Playoff Round: The tournament coordinators will determine the seeding positions for the playoff rounds.

8.2) Breaking of ties to advance: The following criteria will be used to break ties:

- a) 2-way ties: will be broken based on the head-to-head results
- b) 3-way ties:
 - i. Total games lost during the entire round robin.
 - ii. Total games won during the entire round robin.
 - iii. Total games won vs. the top team in the section
 - iv. Total games lost vs. the low team in the section

Once someone has been removed (being declared 1st or 3rd), the remaining 2-way tie will be broken based on their head-to-head results.

8.3) The draw will be set by the coordinator ensuring that players from the same section or the same school do not meet in the first round. It is possible that players from the same school or section could meet in the second round.

8.4) Team Point accumulation: Players/Doubles teams will receive 2 points for making it to the playoff round. Players/Doubles teams will then receive 1 point for every subsequent win in the playoffs (.5 for the bronze medal game). The team in each category accumulating the greatest number of points in the Playoff rounds will be awarded the championship banner.

8.5) Individual Awards:

Medals (1st, 2nd, and 3rd)

8.6) Team Awards:

Banners will be awarded to the team in each category accumulating the greatest number of points in the playoff rounds. Gold medals will be presented to all members of the championship teams.

Section 9: Discipline

9.1) Coaches are responsible for teaching the rules and proper pickleball etiquette to their players. Players are expected to abide by these rules during the Tournaments. Failure to do so could result in the player or team being disqualified from the Tournament. In the case of an infraction, the player shall be given one warning, should the infraction continue, the player shall be disqualified.

9.2) The coaching of players during matches is strictly prohibited. Except for the players, no one is permitted on the courts at any time during the match for any reason other than injury. Photos may not be taken during the matches.