



MATCH POINT
SPORTS GROUP

OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULEBOOK

Premier and Select Divisions

Season 1 – Version 1.0

Bash Pickleball Club

April – June 2026

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COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT

Match Point Sports Group exists to provide a structured, competitive environment for players who value preparation, accountability, and high-level team competition. While the sport of pickleball continues to grow rapidly, the goal of Match Point is not simply to organize matches, but to build a league environment where competitive integrity and professional standards are consistently upheld.

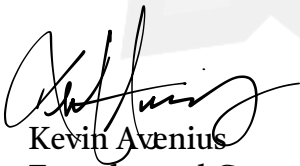
This rulebook exists to establish a clear framework for how competition operates within Match Point leagues. The policies outlined here are designed to promote fairness, protect competitive balance, and ensure that all participants understand the expectations associated with league play. From lineup procedures and eligibility standards to match operations and dispute resolution, these rules provide the structure that allows the league to function smoothly and consistently.

Season 1 represents the foundation of what Match Point will become. The way players compete, how captains lead their teams, and how participants respect the structure of the league will shape the identity of Match Point moving forward. The long-term goal is to build a competitive environment that serious players want to return to season after season.

Competition will bring close matches, difficult moments, and decisions that test composure. In those moments, professionalism and respect for the structure of play matter. Every participant shares responsibility for maintaining the standards that make a competitive league possible.

Match Point leagues are built on the belief that strong competition requires both skill and integrity. When those elements are present together, the result is a league environment where players can challenge themselves, teams can grow, and the game itself continues to improve.

Master the moment, win the point. Win Match Point.



Kevin Avenius
Founder and Commissioner | Match Point Sports Group

Season 1 – Official Competition Rulebook

SECTION I — LEAGUE GOVERNANCE

Match Point Sports Group leagues operate under a structured competitive framework designed to promote fairness, maintain competitive balance, and ensure consistent league operations. The governance provisions outlined in this section establish how rules are applied, interpreted, and enforced across all Match Point divisions.

Commissioner Authority

The Commissioner is responsible for administering Match Point leagues and ensuring that competition is conducted in accordance with the rules and standards established within this rulebook.

The Commissioner retains final authority regarding rule interpretation, player eligibility determinations, match rulings, substitution approvals, and any other operational matters necessary to preserve competitive balance and league integrity.

The Commissioner may issue rulings, clarifications, or operational decisions during the season when circumstances arise that are not explicitly addressed within this rulebook.

All rulings issued by the Commissioner are final.

Rule Applicability

Unless otherwise specified within a division-specific section of this rulebook, all rules and policies contained herein apply equally to all Match Point league divisions.

Where a rule applies only to a specific division, it will be clearly identified within the applicable section of the rulebook.

Rule Interpretation

This rulebook is intended to provide a clear and consistent framework for league operations; however, no rulebook can anticipate every possible situation that may arise during the course of a season.

In cases where rule interpretation is required, the Commissioner will interpret and apply the rules in a manner that best preserves competitive integrity, fairness of play, and the orderly operation of the league.

SECTION II — LEAGUE STRUCTURE & GENERAL MATCH FORMAT

League Structure

Match Point operates two competitive divisions:

- Premier Division — open competition with pre-formed teams
- Select Division — draft-based teams with a player maximum DUPR rating

Each team of MLP-style leagues will be composed of 4 rostered players, 2 men and 2 women.

Based on final team counts per division, the season intends to include a double round-robin regular season. Irrespective of actual regular season match up structure, it will be followed by a single elimination playoff bracket.

Match Format and Order of Games

Each team match follows the official Match Point MLP-style format and order of games:

- Women's Doubles
- Men's Doubles
- Mixed Doubles #1
- Mixed Doubles #2

If the teams are tied 2-2 following the doubles games, a final Dreambreaker game will determine the match winner.

Matches are typically played in sequence unless otherwise directed by league staff.

The Commissioner may adjust court assignments or match order if necessary to maintain scheduling efficiency.

SECTION III — SELECT DIVISION RULES

Eligibility

Player maximum DUPR rating: 4.500

Official Ball

Franklin X-40

If the designated official ball becomes unavailable for any reason, the League Commissioner will determine an appropriate interim ball to be used until the official ball is again obtainable.

Game Format

- Games played to 11 points
- Win by 2
- Sideout scoring
- Teams switch ends at 6 points
- Two, one-minute timeouts per team

Dreambreaker

If the team match is tied after the four doubles games, a Dreambreaker will determine the winner.

Dreambreaker Format

- Rally scoring to 21 points
- Win by 2
- Team must win on serve at 20+
- Teams switch ends at 11 points
- Players rotate every 4 rallies, per the disclosed player order submitted by the Captain
- No timeouts

Team Formation

- Player Evaluation
- Captain Draft
- Optional: Commissioner Placement

SECTION IV — PREMIER DIVISION RULES

Eligibility

Open division with pre-formed teams.

Official Ball

LT Pro 48

If the designated official ball becomes unavailable for any reason, the League Commissioner will determine an appropriate interim ball to be used until the official ball is again obtainable.

Game Format

- Games played to 15 points
- Win by 2
- Sideout scoring
- Teams switch ends at 8 points
- Two, one-minute timeouts per team

Dreambreaker

If the team match is tied after the four doubles games, a Dreambreaker determines the match winner.

Dreambreaker Format

- Rally scoring to 21 points
- Win by 2
- Team must win on serve at 20+
- Teams switch ends at 11 points
- Players rotate every 4 rallies, per the disclosed player order submitted by the Captain
- No timeouts

Team Formation

- Captain secures full roster (4 players)
- Optional: Commissioner-created teams

SECTION V — SCORING & STANDINGS

- Teams earn 1 point for each Doubles game won.
- Teams earn 1 bonus point for winning *at least* 3 of the 4 doubles games.
- Dreambreaker, if played, counts as one game win.
- Standings are determined by total points accumulated during the regular season.

Tie Breakers

- Head-to-head match wins
- Total doubles games won
- Overall point differential

Playoff Format

At the conclusion of the regular season, all teams advance to the Match Point Division playoffs.

Substitution eligibility during playoff matches is governed by the policies outlined in **Section VII**.

Playoff seeding is determined by the final regular season standings as calculated under the scoring and tie-breaker procedures outlined in this section.

The playoff bracket will follow a **single-elimination format**, with the highest-seeded teams receiving bracket placement advantages based on their regular season finish.

All playoff matches follow the same match structure and rules used during the regular season, including the standard sequence of doubles matches and Dreambreaker procedures when necessary.

The winner of the championship match will be declared the **Match Point Division Champion** for that season.

SECTION VI — LINEUPS & SUBSTITUTIONS

Team Lineups

- **Home team captain** enters full Lineups into official League scoring platform **by Noon, Friday**, before each match
- Away team captain enters respective lineups in official League scoring platform **by Noon, Sunday**, before each match
 - Dreambreaker lineups (if needed) will be discussed amongst opposing captains on-court after the 4th doubles match, supplied by the Away team captain first, and responded to by the Home team captain. There is no need to enter the Dreambreaker lineups into the League scoring platform.

Failure to meet lineup deadlines may result in commissioner rulings regarding match eligibility.

Substitute Player Policy

- Substitutes must not exceed the division maximum player DUPR rating, if one exists.
- A substitute may not exceed the replaced player's DUPR by more than 0.25.
- All substitutes must be registered with Match Point and DUPR.

DUPR Reliability Requirement:

- Substitute players **must be registered** with **DUPR** and **Match Point** to be considered for substitute play.
- Substitute players who have not previously participated in a Match Point league or a Bash Pickleball Club-hosted or sanctioned league must have a **minimum 60% DUPR Reliability Rating** at the time the substitution request is submitted.
- Substitute players who have previously participated in a Match Point league or Bash-hosted/sanctioned league, either as a rostered player or an approved substitute, are **exempt** from the 60% Reliability Rating requirement.
- **All substitute players require Commissioner approval** prior to participating in a match.
- The Commissioner reserves the right to deny any substitute player whose participation would materially impact competitive balance or does not meet the eligibility requirements of the division.

If an emergency circumstance substitute exceeds the 0.25 DUPR threshold or fails to meet the Reliability Requirement, opposing captain approval and commissioner approval are both required.

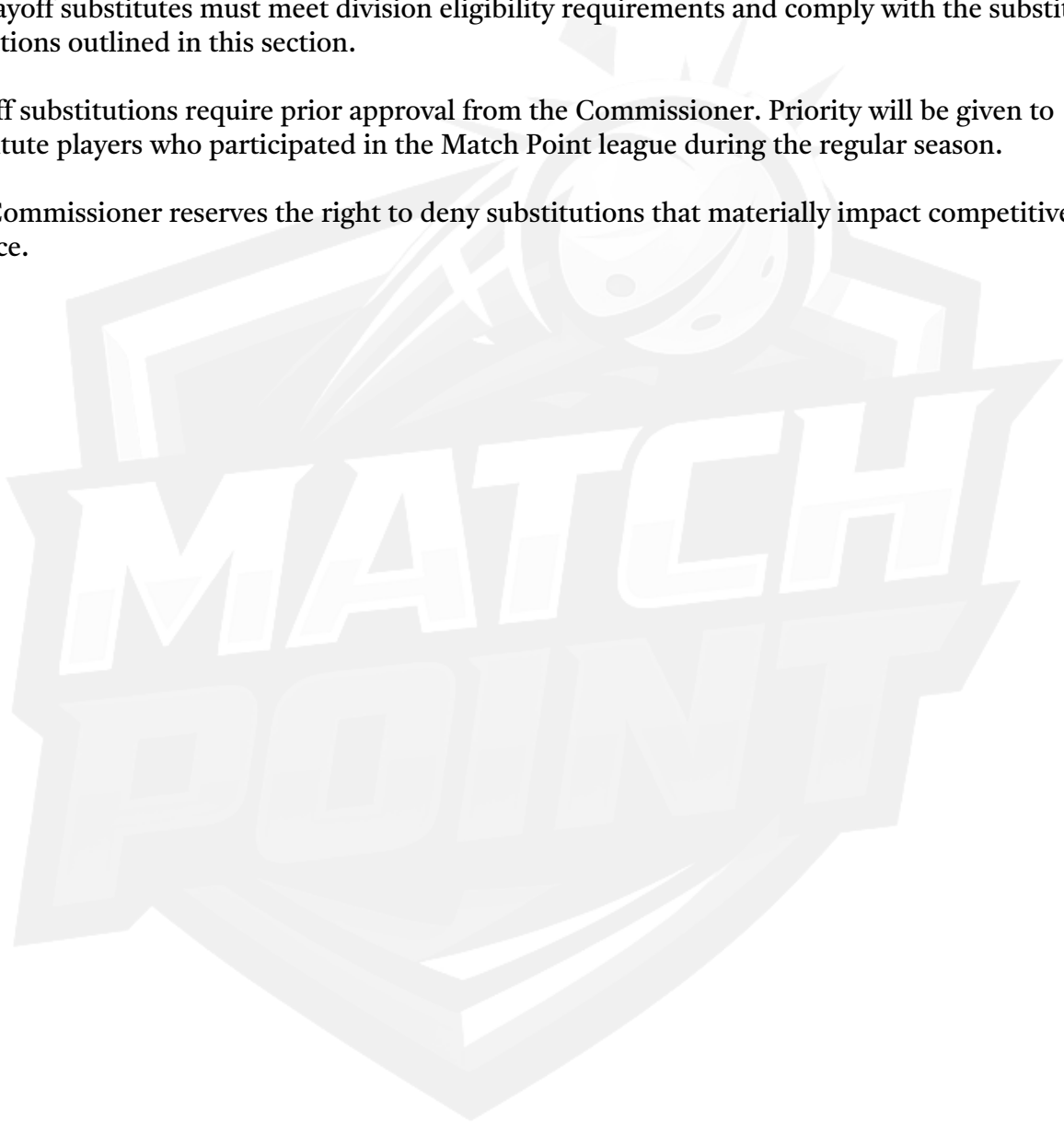
Playoff Substitutes

Substitute players may be used during playoff matches when a rostered player is unavailable due to injury, illness, or scheduling conflict.

All playoff substitutes must meet division eligibility requirements and comply with the substitution limitations outlined in this section.

Playoff substitutions require prior approval from the Commissioner. Priority will be given to substitute players who participated in the Match Point league during the regular season.

The Commissioner reserves the right to deny substitutions that materially impact competitive balance.



SECTION VII — MATCH NIGHT OPERATIONS

This section outlines the procedures that govern weekly match play and on-site league operations.

Approved Paddle Standards

All paddles used in Match Point League play, including playoffs, must appear on either the **USA Pickleball (USAP) Approved Paddle List** or the **UPA-A Approved Paddle Database** at the time of use.

Players are responsible for ensuring that their paddle complies with at least one of these equipment approval standards prior to match play. The official approval lists can be accessed at the following locations:

USA Pickleball Approved Paddle List
<https://equipment.usapickleball.org/paddle-list/>

UPA-A Approved Paddle Database
<https://upaa.unitedpickleball.com/paddles>

Paddles that do not appear on either approved list are not permitted for use in Match Point league competition.

The Commissioner reserves the right to disallow any paddle that has been modified, removed from both approval lists, or is otherwise determined to violate equipment standards or materially affect competitive balance.

Paddle Legality Challenges

- If a team believes an opposing player is using a non-compliant paddle, the concern must be raised **prior to the end of the game** in which the paddle is being used.
- Once a game has completed, paddle legality challenges for that game **will not be considered**.
- Paddle challenges raised after the completion of a game or match will not affect the result of the completed game or match.
- The Commissioner or designated league staff will make the final determination regarding paddle eligibility.

Match Readiness and Warmup Period

Teams are expected to arrive prepared to compete at their scheduled match time.

Captains are responsible for ensuring that their players are present, properly equipped, and ready to begin play when courts become available. Failure to field a valid lineup at the scheduled match start may result in lineup adjustments or match forfeiture at the Commissioner's discretion.

Teams will be provided a brief warm-up period prior to the start of each match. Warm-up time is intended for light hitting and preparation only. Excessive warm-up that delays scheduled match play may be curtailed by the Commissioner or league staff.

Late Arrivals

Players arriving after a match has begun may participate only if the relevant game has not yet started.

If a player is unavailable at the time their match is scheduled to begin, the team must either substitute an eligible player or forfeit that game.

Home vs Away Designation & Serve/Receive Determination

Home and Away team designations are determined by the official league schedule.

The Home team is responsible for initiating pre-match procedures and coordinating lineup communication in accordance with the lineup submission rules outlined in Section VI.

Prior to the start of each game, teams will determine **serve or side selection** using one of the following methods:

- coin flip
- paddle spin
- another mutually agreed random method

The **Away Team captain initiates** the method chosen, and the Home Team captain “calls it.” The winner of the selection may choose either:

- to serve or receive, or
- starting side of the court

The opposing team receives the remaining option.

For subsequent games within the same team match, the opposing team of the previous selection winner will be given the choice of serve/receive or side.

Score Reporting

Match results must be accurately reported through the league’s designated scoring platform. Captains from both teams are responsible for verifying the accuracy of reported scores. Any discrepancies should be reported to the Commissioner as soon as possible.

Once match results are verified and recorded, they may not be altered except in cases of scoring error or eligibility violation.

Injuries During Match Play

If a player becomes unable to continue due to injury during a match, the affected game will be handled according to league substitution or retirement procedures as determined by the Commissioner.

The safety of players is the priority, and the Commissioner may halt play if necessary.

SECTION VIII — COMPETITIVE INTEGRITY & ENFORCEMENT

Match Point leagues operate under a strict standard of competitive integrity. All participants share responsibility for maintaining a fair and professional competitive environment.

DUPR Rating Verification

All participating players, including substitutes, must be registered with DUPR (dupr.com) and Match Point. Ratings used for rostered league eligibility will be based on the player's rating at the time of registration close unless otherwise specified by the league. For substitute players, the applicable DUPR rating will be the player's rating at the time the substitution request is submitted to the league.

The Commissioner reserves the right to verify and review substitute eligibility to ensure compliance with league rules and to maintain competitive balance.

If a player's DUPR rating appears inaccurate or unrepresentative of current playing level, the Commissioner reserves the right to review and adjust eligibility decisions to preserve competitive balance.

All eligibility determinations are final.

Lineup Integrity

Once lineups are submitted and entered into the league scoring platform, they are considered final and may not be modified except in the case of injury, illness, or an approved substitution.

The Commissioner may deny lineup changes that materially alter competitive balance or create strategic manipulation of match order.

Substitute Player Enforcement

Substitute players must meet all division eligibility requirements and must be approved in accordance with league substitution policies. Failure to follow substitution procedures may result in:

- Removal of ineligible player results
- Match forfeiture
- Additional commissioner-imposed penalties

Sportsmanship & Conduct

Players and captains are expected to compete with professionalism, respect, and good sportsmanship. Unsportsmanlike behavior, excessive disputes, or conduct that undermines league operations may result in warnings, match penalties, or removal from league participation at the Commissioner's discretion.