



Welcome to the 2025 Spring season of ALTA's Pickleball League. It is time to start working on your roster submission. This packet includes roster submission instructions, important dates and deadlines, and contact information for questions.

Rosters will be accepted on the ALTA website beginning Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

**Roster deadline for the Spring 2025 season is Tuesday, January 21, 2025.**

Late Rosters (\$50 fee) and roster changes will be accepted January 22-26, 2025.

- **RECRUIT PLAYERS FOR YOUR TEAM.** Ten players— five men and five women—are the minimum number of players required to submit a roster. There is no maximum. **All pickleball players must have a paid 2025 Pickleball Membership.**
- **ONLY INCLUDE PLAYERS WHO HAVE AGREED TO JOIN YOUR ROSTER.** Each roster member will be alerted by email once they have been included on your roster.
- **NEED MORE PLAYERS?** If you need more players, you can post your team on the ALTA website under “Players & Facilities > Players & Teams > Teams Looking for Players”. Also, you can view players looking for teams under “Players & Facilities > Players & Teams > Players Looking for Teams”.
- **HOW WILL LEVEL/FLIGHT BE DETERMINED?** Now that we have three seasons in the record books, returning rosters and players will have a final level/flight attached in their history. The final level/flight, changes to the roster, any request for review, and the total number of rosters submitted will be the determinants for your team’s placement next season. Team leaders submitting new rosters will request a level/flight based on their assessment of the team’s ability. Refer to the Level – Skills Guide for Team Placement to help with that request.
- **SUBMIT YOUR ROSTER.** Log on at [altatennis.org](http://altatennis.org) and navigate to Member Portal > My Rosters & New/Reinstate. Follow the steps and remember to save when you have completed the process.
- **REVIEW YOUR ROSTER!** Review your roster online before the roster correction deadline, January 26, to ensure that all changes, additions, or deletions have been saved! Print the roster for your records. **If a player’s name is not listed, the player is not on your roster.**
- **Remember** you are committing your team to a six or seven week regular season and if you qualify, a three week post season. There can be significant penalties if your team chooses to not complete the season.

If you have any questions about the process or any problems, please contact member services at 770-399-5788, or you can contact me at the extension shown below.

Enjoy the season!

Greg McAfee

VP Pickleball League

Phone: 770-399-5788, ext. 127

E-mail: [pickleballvp@altatennis.org](mailto:pickleballvp@altatennis.org)

## 2025 SPRING PICKLEBALL IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Wednesday, January 1, 2025</b>	Roster Registration Begins	The first day for roster submission on the ALTA website. You must have 10 paid members for your roster to be accepted.
<b>Tuesday, January 21, 2025</b>	Roster Registration Ends	The last day for roster submission on the website. It is very busy the last few days, so please submit early.
<b>Sunday, January 26, 2025</b>	Late Roster Submission Deadline Roster Correction Deadline	If you missed the online registration deadline of January 21, you may submit a late roster online until January 26. There is a \$50 fee to submit a late roster. Corrections, additions, and deletions will be accepted online until midnight, Sunday, January 26. Players who want to be added or removed from your roster must be done by this deadline.
<b>Thursday, February 27, 2025</b>	Spring Schedules go Online	All Spring schedules can be found online. You may start adding players beginning Friday, February 28. You may add up to 6 players during the season. They must be added by midnight the night before the match.
<b>Monday, March 10, 2025</b>	Start of Pickleball Spring matches	Match start time is 6:30pm
<b>Monday, April 21, 2025</b>	End of Pickleball Spring matches	Last scheduled match of the Spring season.
<b>Monday, April 28, 2025</b>	Playoffs (rain date 4/30)	6:30pm match start time
<b>Monday, May 5, 2025</b>	Playoffs (rain date 5/7)	6:30pm match start time
<b>Monday, May 12, 2025</b>	Playoffs (rain date 5/14)	6:30pm match start time
<b>Monday, May 19, 2025</b>	City Finals (rain date 5/21)	City Finals location and start times will be in the captain's schedule packet.

<b>League Contacts</b>		
<b>Overall Coordinators</b>		
<b>ALTA Levels</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
VP Pickleball League	Greg McAfee	pickleballvp@altatennis.org 770-399-5788 ext 116

It is not the responsibility of the ALTA staff to answer league specific questions. However, the office staff is happy to answer questions about ALTA memberships.

Please remember ALTA coordinators are volunteers; not calling after 9pm will be most appreciated.

## TEAM PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR PICKLEBALL LEAGUE

To get an estimate of where your team might be placed, determine the value of each of the top players on your team. Find the average and round the result, ie., 15.5 goes to 16. Find the level in the chart associated with the result.

AA1 = 1	A1 = 5	B1 = 14	C1 = 23
AA2 = 2	A2 = 6	B2 = 15	C2 = 24
AA3 = 3	A3 = 7	B3 = 16	C3 = 25
AA4 = 4	A4 = 8	B4 = 17	C4 = 26
	A5 = 9	B5 = 18	C5 = 27
	A6 = 10	B6 = 19	C6 = 28
	A7 = 11	B7 = 20	C7 = 29
	A8 = 12	B8 = 21	C8 = 30
	A9 = 13	B9 = 22	

Team Placement is determined in the following ways: 1) the team's record from the most recent team history during the past 12 months; 2) the average of the top players on the team. **If this is a returning team, players identified as returning team members will be valued with the level/flight earned by that team in the past 12 months.** All other team members will be valued based on ALTA pickleball league history in the past 12 months.

Search Sequence order:

**PICKLEBALL LEAGUE** Use the average of the top 5 men and top 5 women.

- ❖ Searches Pickleball (two seasons)
- ❖ An ALTA member's tennis history is not part of pickleball calculations.

## **Level – Skills Guide for New Teams**

### **AA LEVEL (4.5-5.0)**

This player will execute all shots—forehand, backhand, serve, & return—with a high level of ability, accuracy, and with touch, spin, and pace.

DINK: has mastered the dink and drop shots, is able to move opponents with shot placements; will exhibit patience during rallies; will deftly create offensive opportunities.

3<sup>RD</sup> SHOT: has mastered the 3<sup>rd</sup> shot choices and strategies to create opportunities for winning points; is able to drop and drive ball from both the forehand and backhand side with high level of consistency.

VOLLEY: can block hard volleys and drop them into the NVZ; places overheads with ease; is able to volley shots at opponents' feet; is comfortable with the swinging volley.

STRATEGY: has mastered multiple strategies and styles of play in competitive matches; will convert defensive shots into offensive shots; has excellent footwork and is quick on the court.

UNFORCED ERRORS: rare.

### **A LEVEL (4.0-4.5)**

This player has a high level of consistency with forehand shots using pace and depth to force errors and set up the next shot; can effectively direct the backhand with varying depth and pace.

SERVE: serves with power, accuracy, and depth; will vary the speed and spin.

DINK: able to place the ball consistently and with offensive intent; recognizes attackable dinks.

3<sup>RD</sup> SHOT: will consistently execute effective 3<sup>rd</sup> shot strategies that are not easily returned; will intentionally and consistently place the ball.

VOLLEY: can block hard volleys and consistently drop them into the NVZ; is comfortable with the swinging volley; hits overhead shots consistently, often as put-aways.

STRATEGY: understands strategy and will adapt the game plan according to the opponents' strengths and weaknesses; very effective at the NVZ; communicates and moves well with partner; has good footwork and moves well laterally, backward, and forward.

UNFORCED ERRORS: rare.

### **HIGH B (3.5-4.0)**

This player consistently hits forehand shots with depth and control, but still perfecting shot selection and timing; has improved stroke mechanics with moderate success hitting the backhand.

SERVE / RETURN: can place majority of serves and returns with varying depth and speed.

DINK: has increased consistency with moderate ability to control height and depth; may dink rally due to lack of patience; can recognize attackable balls and those that are not.

3<sup>RD</sup> SHOT: mixes power shots with soft shots to create an advantage with inconsistent results.  
VOLLEY: able to volley a variety of shots at different speeds; is still developing consistency and control; beginning to understand block/reset volley.

STRATEGY: is aware of partner's position on the court and will move as a team; will change direction in an offensive manner; has broad knowledge of the rules; solid understanding of stacking and how to use it.

UNFORCED ERRORS: moderate number of unforced errors.

### **LOW B LEVEL (3.0-3.5)**

This player has improved forehand stroke development with moderate control and is starting to develop consistency with the backhand but will avoid the backhand if possible.

SERVE / RETURN: consistently gets serve and return in play with limited ability to control depth.

DINK: Increased consistency but with limited ability to control height and depth; beginning to vary pace.

3<sup>RD</sup> SHOT: is developing the drop shot to get to the net.

VOLLEY: can volley medium paced shots with some control.

STRATEGY: moves quickly to the NVZ; is trying to vary pace as a strategy; can sustain short rallies; has basic knowledge of stacking and knows where it can be effective.

### **HIGH C LEVEL (2.5-3.0)**

This player can hit a medium paced forehand shot but lacks directional intent and consistency; the backhand is very inconsistent, and the player will avoid using the backhand.

SERVE / RETURN: able to hit a medium paced shot but lacks depth, direction and consistency.

DINK: cannot sustain a dink rally.

3<sup>RD</sup> SHOT: will generally hit a medium paced ball with little direction.

VOLLEY: able to hit a medium paced shot; lacks direction and consistency.

STRATEGY: understands fundamentals; is learning proper court positions; has fundamental understanding rules and can keep score.

### **LOW C LEVEL (2.0-2.5)**

This player is just starting pickleball and has little experience with organized sports; minimal understanding of the rules; can sustain a short rally with players of equal ability; has basic ability to keep score.

## **Frequently Asked Questions – ALTA Pickleball League**

### **1. What level should I play?**

A Skills Guide is provided in the Roster Registration Information Packet to help in this decision.

### **2. How can I start a pickleball team?**

- Recruit at least ten players, five men and five women.
- All players must purchase an ALTA pickleball membership.
- You must be able to reserve a minimum of 2 Pickleball courts for the seven-week season at an ALTA approved pickleball facility.
- If the facility has not been approved by ALTA for pickleball play, go to the ALTA website, and complete a Facility Request Application.
- Check the ALTA website for the Roster Registration Information Packet with complete instructions and important dates.

### **3. How can I join an existing team?**

Check the ALTA website ([altatennis.org](http://altatennis.org)) for Teams Looking for Players (Find Players and Teams) or search by the facility in which you would like to play.

### **4. How can I find more players for my team?**

Check the ALTA website ([altatennis.org](http://altatennis.org)) for Players Looking for Teams (Find Players and Teams). Also check Pickleball Facebook pages in the Atlanta metro area.

### **5. What is the minimum and maximum number of players for a team?**

The minimum number of players needed to register a team is ten—five men and five women. There is no maximum number.

### **6. Are teams allowed to add players after the rosters have been submitted? If so, how many?**

Yes, you may add—and delete—players throughout the registration period and the corrections period. Once the deadline for corrections is passed, your roster will be closed so league officials can place teams in their level/flight and create divisions. After that process is complete, schedules will be released, and the “add-on” period begins. You may add up to six players from that moment and throughout the season. These dates and deadlines are provided in the Pickleball League calendar.

**7. What is the match format?**

Currently, the only Pickleball League is a mixed doubles league. Dual Meets consist of four lines of play: Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and two lines of Mixed Doubles.

**8. How many points do you play in a game, and how many games per match?**

Each line will play three games to 15, win by two.

**9. What is the maximum number of points that a team can win for a match?**

**What if the score is tied?**

Each game won is scored as one team point. Total possible team points per dual meet is 12. There is no tiebreaker during the regular season.

When a post-season dual meet is tied (6-6), the winning team will be decided accordingly: each team will select a pair and they will play a final game to 11 points by a margin of at least two points.

**10. Can a player play more than one line in a match?**

Players may play only one match per scheduled dual meet.

**11. Can a player join more than one team?**

Players may only be a member of one pickleball team per season. Players may participate in any winter or summer tennis league if the player meets league requirements and has paid for an ALTA tennis membership.

**12. Which team is responsible for providing balls and paying court fees?**

The home team is responsible for providing approved balls and pays all court fees.

**13. Who can call a foot fault on the server or on a player illegally in the No Volley Zone (NVZ) or kitchen.**

Any player may call a foot fault.

**14. In pickleball, is a ball landing on a line in or out?**

All lines are considered "in" while the point is in play. On serve, however, the NVZ line is "out". The NVZ line is part of the NVZ.

**15. How is the score to be called in a pickleball match?**

The server must call the complete three-digit score 10 seconds before serving (or before beginning the service motion). The first number is the serving team's score. The second number is the receiving team's score. The third number is the serving position, always 1 or 2. (e.g., 2-3-2)

**16. Can I use any color or type of balls, any type of paddle, wear any color of shirt?**

All balls and paddles must be USA Pickleball approved. Outdoor balls must be used for outdoor courts or rough surfaces. Indoor balls must be used for indoor courts or smooth surfaces. Players may wear any color of clothing.

**17. Can pickleball courts be indoor or outdoor and which surfaces are acceptable?** ALTA approved courts may be indoor or outdoor hard surface (clay is not approved). They may use painted or taped lines on tennis courts or dedicated courts. Facilities must have a minimum of two lighted courts, and restrooms located no more than 300 feet from the court.

**18. What is the default time if players are running late? What about the other lines?**

The default time is 20 minutes after the scheduled start time. Only the players who fail to arrive within 20 minutes of the scheduled start time will be in default. Each of the three games for that line only are scored zero and the team points will be awarded to the non-defaulting team.

**19. Can matches be played earlier or later than the scheduled date?**

Captains may agree to play a match or matches early. Matches may not be played later than scheduled match time. In the case of inclement weather, refer to the ALTA General Rules Pickleball League. Deadlines for make-up matches are published in the league rules.

**20. Is there a minimum age for this pickleball league?**

The minimum age for ALTA Pickleball league is 18.

**21. Is there a senior league for pickleball?**

Currently, there is only an adult league.

**22. Who can call an illegal serve and what is the penalty?**

An "illegal serve" is a serve using an illegal service motion. This does not pertain to a service ball that does not land in the service area or a foot fault;



those two errors are considered a fault. If the receiving team determines that the service motion was clearly illegal, the receiving team may call for a replay before the return of serve. Server will have two attempts to correct the serve motion. If the third service attempt is called illegal, it will result in a fault.

**23. What is the home team captain's responsibility other than filling out the scorecard and reporting the scores?**

The home team captain is responsible for contacting the opposing captain at least four days prior to the match. The home team will provide the following information:

- the number of courts available (minimum is two),
- indoor or outdoor,
- type and color of balls being used. (The visiting team may wear any colors regardless of the ball color.)