

## Pickleball Singles

Rules will be in accordance with USA Pickleball Association rules (International Federation of Pickleball Official Tournament Rulebook, Reference Appendix A.) with the exception of any variations listed below.

### **The Game**

- Pickleball is a simple paddle game played using a special perforated, slow-moving ball over a tennis-type net on a badminton-sized court.
- The Ball is served underhand without bouncing it off the court and is served diagonally to the opponent's service court.

### **Unique Pickleball Features**

- Double Bounce Rule- Following serve, each side must make at least one groundstroke, prior to volleying the ball (hitting it before it has bounces).
- Non-Volley Zone (aka "kitchen")- A player cannot volley a ball while standing within the non-volley zone.

Adapted from Section 5 in the USA Pickleball Association Rules (International Federation of Pickleball).

### **Service/Side Selection and Rotation**

- A coin flip or any other fair method will determine first choice of service or side. If the winner chooses to serve or receive, the loser picks starting side. If the winner chooses starting side, the loser chooses to serve or receive.
- In best 2 of 3 games to 11, sides and initial service will be switched upon completion of each game. Sides will be switched in a third game (if the match is 2 out of 3 to 11) after the first player/team reaches a score of 6 points.
- In games to 11, sides will be switched after the first player reaches a score of 6 points. Serve remains with the player holding serve.
- In games to 15, sides will be switched after the first player reaches a score of 8 points. Serve remains with the player holding serve.
- In games to 21, sides will be switched after the first player reaches a score of 11 points. Serve remains with the player holding serve.

### **Scoring**

Adapted from Section 10 in the USA Pickleball Association Rules (International Federation of Pickleball).

- Scoring. Only the serving team can score points.
- Points are scored by legally serving a ball that is not touched by the opponent (an ace) or by winning the rally (faulting by the opponent).

### **Format Adaptations for Wake County Senior Games**

- **This is a double-elimination tournament. Times are listed on the bracket, but players should be ready to play. As courts become available, you may be asked to play early or on a different court than what is listed on the bracket.**
- Non-gold medal matches will play to 11 (win by 2) or until 20 minutes expires, whichever is first. If time expires while the ball is in play during a point, that point will be finished. If time expires, the player ahead only needs to be up by 1 point to win (not 2). If time expires and the score is tied, "sudden death" will be used and the next point will win the match.
- Gold medal matches, including "if needed" matches, will play to 15 (win by 2), with no time limit.