

Victoria Pickleball Leagues Code of Conduct

1. Our Purpose & Core Spirit

Pickleball Victoria is committed to creating a welcoming, safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for everyone. We expect all participants—players, spectators, officials, coaches, and volunteers—to embody the **SPiRiT** of Australian Pickleball:

- **Sporting:** Play fairly, honour the rules, and show humility.
- **Passion:** Play with energy while respecting your opponents and the game.
- **Inclusivity:** Treat everyone fairly regardless of age, skill level, or background.
- **Respect:** Show courtesy to opponents, partners, officials, and venue staff.
- **Integrity:** Act honestly and compete to the best of your ability at all times.
- **Trailblazing:** Lead by example to build a positive pickleball community.

2. Expected Behaviours

On the Court

- **Know & Follow the Rules:** Play by the official rules, make honest and fair line calls, and call your own non-volley zone (kitchen) faults.
- **Prioritise Safety:** Play hard but never endanger yourself or others on the court.
- **Respect the Officials:** Address questions or concerns calmly to match officials or event directors. A referee or event coordinators decision on the court is final.
- **Compete with Honor:** Win with grace and accept loss with dignity. Always make your best effort.

Off the Court & Around the Venue

- **Positive Representation:** Act responsibly before, during, and after matches, including at social events, venues, and on social media.
- **Respect Venue & Equipment:** Treat facilities and equipment with care.
- **Encourage Responsibility:** Players are responsible for the conduct of their friends, family, and spectators attending with them.

3. Unacceptable Conduct

The following behaviours are strictly prohibited and will result in warnings, fouls, or disciplinary action:

- **Unsporting Behaviour:** Intentionally bad line calling, illegal serving, refusing to play to your potential, or ignoring official directions.
- **Verbal Abuse & Obscenity:** Using profanity, yelling, or making derogatory/insulting remarks toward opponents, partners, or officials.
- **Visible Obscenity:** Making inappropriate gestures with your hands, paddle, or equipment.
- **Equipment Abuse:** Throwing, kicking, or violently hitting a paddle, ball, or net out of anger or frustration.
- **Physical Abuse:** Any unauthorized or aggressive physical contact.
- **Off-Court Disruptions:** Intimidating others, uninvited court-side coaching, or bringing the league/sport into disrepute.

4. Violations & Penalties

To maintain fairness, breaches of this Code of Conduct will be handled using a structured warning and penalty system:

On-Court Actions (Handled by Officials/Referees)

- **Verbal Warning:** Issued for minor first offences.
- **Technical Foul (1 Disciplinary Point):** Issued for repeated or moderate breaches.
- **Game Forfeit (2 Disciplinary Points):** Awarded for severe infractions during a game.
- **Match Default / Expulsion (3 Disciplinary Points):** Immediate disqualification from the match or event for serious misconduct or dangerous behaviour (e.g., throwing a paddle recklessly).

Disciplinary Points (12-Month Rolling Total)

Disciplinary points accumulate on a participant's record over a 12-month period:

Accumulated Points	Outcome
1 -2 points	Official notification of violation

3 points	Formal reprimand
4 points	1-month suspension from all league on-court roles (playing, coaching, refereeing).
5 points	Additional 1-month suspension (served concurrently or cumulatively).
6 points	2-month suspension (up to 4 months total).
7 plus points	Referral to the Disciplinary Tribunal consisting of 2 venue representatives and a Pickleball Victoria Board member.

5. Summary Guidelines for Players

Rule of Thumb: If an issue arises on court that cannot be resolved amicably between players, pause play immediately and request assistance from the League Coordinator or a referee (if one is available). Never escalate arguments on court.