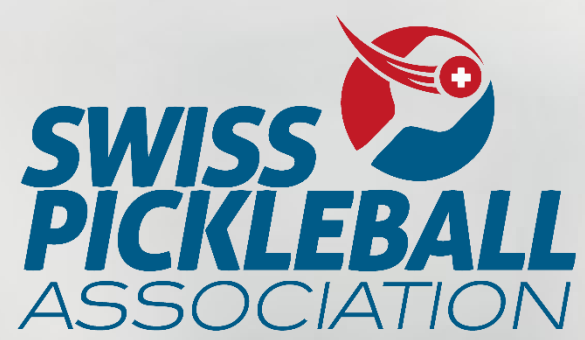




>> THE LEAGUE 2026 <<

The League 2026

Official Information and Instruction Handout for Clubs and Players

v1.01

Swiss Pickleball - The League is the official club league of the **Swiss Pickleball Association**. It is designed as a simple, free and community-driven team competition for clubs, centres, registered club members and individual SPA members across Switzerland.

The idea is simple:

SPA plans the match-ups. Teams play. Captains record the results. The standings are live in Tournated.

The League creates more regular match play, more tournament experience, more visibility for clubs and more connection within the Swiss pickleball community. It is competitive on court, friendly around it, and ideally ends with a BBQ rather than everyone vanishing like socks in a washing machine.

1. General Concept

Swiss Pickleball - The League is a team-based competition organised by the Swiss Pickleball Association.

The League is:

- Officially organised by the Swiss Pickleball Association
- Free to participate in
- Played between teams of member clubs and individual SPA members
- Managed through Tournated
- Designed for fair, regular and meaningful match play
- Built around competition, community and fair play

The goal is not only to crown winners, but also to give clubs and players a simple way to play more matches, gain experience and strengthen pickleball in Switzerland.

2. Who Can Participate?

Participation is open to:

- Registered members of Swiss pickleball clubs
- Clubs that are members of the Swiss Pickleball Association
- Several teams from the same club
- Individual SPA members who are not part of a club

Important rule:

Only registered club members may play for a club team.

Players who are individual members of the Swiss Pickleball Association but do not belong to a club may play for the SPA.

Several teams per club are allowed. A club may enter multiple teams, either in the same division or in different divisions.

3. Cost

Participation in Swiss Pickleball - The League is **free**.

There is no league entry fee.

Teams are responsible for their own local organisation, such as courts, balls, drinks and the social get-together after the matches.

4. Dates

The League follows this timeline:

Registration deadline:	August 10th, 2026
Match period:	August 12th to October 11th, 2026
Winners announced:	October 12th, 2026

All match-ups must be played within the official match period.

5. General Rules

- Newest USA Pickleball Rules apply.
- Paddles must be USA Pickleball Approved or UPA-A certified
- Balls must be USA Pickleball Approved

5.1. Format

- In every division, every team plays each team (single round-robin).
- In case of too many sign ups we might divide by region and create more than one group. In such a case, there would be inter-regional finals, to be announced.
- Sideout scoring
- Best of 3 games to 11 points
- Win by two
 - If the score reaches 14:14, a golden point is played.
 - The winner of that rally wins the game 15:14.
- Each team has 1 timeout per game

5.2. Fair Play

The League is built on fair play.

Players are expected to:

- Call lines honestly
- Respect opponents and teammates
- Respect the host club and its facilities
- Avoid unnecessary discussions
- Play competitively but respectfully
- Support newer players and growing teams
- Keep the atmosphere positive

If a disagreement occurs, players should resolve it calmly. If needed, the team captains make the final decision together.

6. Divisions

Swiss Pickleball - The League is played in **four divisions**.

Open Age, 3.5+

Team encounter format:

Played matches:

This is the higher Open Age division.

6 matches per team encounter

WS, MS, WD, MD, MXD 1, MXD 2

Open Age, 2.5+

Team encounter format:

Played matches:

4 matches per team encounter

WD, MD, MXD 1, MXD 2

Senior, 50+

Team encounter format:

Played matches:

4 matches per team encounter

WD, MD, MXD 1, MXD 2

Senior, 60+

Team encounter format:

Played matches:

4 matches per team encounter

WD, MD, MXD 1, MXD 2

7. Teams

Each participating club or SPA group can create several teams. It is not required to play all divisions.

Each team needs a captain.

8. For the team captains

8.1. Team Captain Responsibilities

Each team must appoint a captain or coordinator.

The captain is responsible for:

- Creating and managing the team
- Adding all players
- Checking that all players play with a paddle that is either **USA Pickleball Approved** or **UPA-A certified**
- Checking that all players are eligible
- Checking that all players have a DUPR rating
- Coordinating match dates with the opposing team
- Making sure results are recorded correctly
- Communicating with SPA if support is needed
- Supporting fair play on match day

The captain is the person who keeps the team ship pointing toward the right court.

8.2. How to register

Before registration you should make sure all your team players should have a DUPR rating.

8.2.1. Add members to club

All players need to be part of your club (in our software). For this, go to the club management page and check for pending members. Either accept or decline. Note that all members that want to play The League need to be member of your club.

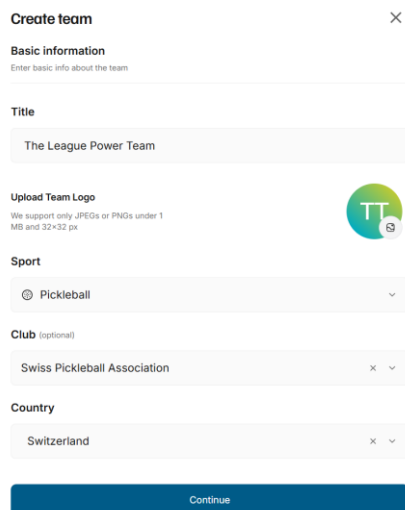
Club management: <https://play.pickleballverband.ch/profile/settings/club-admin>

One member of your club has access to manage your club members on our platform. If that isn't you, reach out to your club president or to us, we will support you!

8.2.2. Create your team(s)

Go to My Profile > My Career > Create Team

- Define Team Name (Title)
- Upload a logo (optional)
- Choose your club



Continue to the next page where you can add personal settings and social media accounts

After that you can **add your team members** and define their functions.

You yourself might be “Captain” or “Playing Captain” – up to you

8.2.3. Make sure players have DUPR connected

Make sure all your team players have their DUPR account connected

➔ My profile > My Sports & Third Party Connections

8.3. When to play

Match period:

August 12th to October 11th, 2026

Coordinate with the opposing team once match-ups are published. It is up to the team when the match-up shall be played, as long as it is within the match period.

8.4. How to see matches to be played

SPA plans all match-ups centrally in Tournated.

Clubs and teams do **not** need to create the match schedule themselves

8.5. Enter scores

At the match day you need to enter

- ➔ team roster for every match
- ➔ scores (latest one day after the match-up)

The SPA will report all results to DUPR within a week of play. Please inform the SPA about your matches

9. For the players

9.1. Required Accounts

Every participating player needs:

- A DUPR rating, get it from your club or other DUPR rated events
- A Tournated account, create on: <https://play.pickleballverband.ch>

9.2. Required mobile app and setup

9.2.1. Tournated

- select our space "Swiss Pickleball Association" on the upper left
- connect your DUPR: My Profile > My Sports & Third Party Connections
- add your club: My Profile > My Clubs & Coaches (your club manager needs to accept your request)

9.2.2. DUPR

App is suggested but not needed, account is sufficient.

10. Scoring and live standings

10.1. League Points System

The League uses a points system where **every game matters**.

For each individual match:

- Each game won gives **1 league point**
- The match winner receives **1 additional league point**

Example: Match ends 2:1 for Team A

Team A receives:

- 2 points for the two games won
- 1 additional point for winning the match
- **Total: 3 points**

Team B receives:

- 1 point for the game won
- **Total: 1 point**

This system rewards match wins, but also keeps close matches meaningful. Even a lost match can still contribute to the team's league standing.

10.2. Team Encounter Example

Example for **Open Age, 3.5+** with six matches:

Match Result	Team A Points	Team B Points
WD Team A wins 2:0	3	0
MD Team B wins 2:1	1	3
MXD 1 Team A wins 2:1	3	1
MXD 2 Team A wins 2:0	3	0
WS Team B wins 2:0	0	3
MS Team A wins 2:1	3	1

Final team encounter points:

Team A: 13 points

Team B: 8 points

Team A wins the encounter by total league points and receives another point for that.

Team A: 14 points

Team B: 8 points

10.3. Rankings and Standings

The official league table is based on the total number of league points collected.

Live standings are visible on our website and in the Tournated app

11. Plan a Match-up

Each team or host club should provide:

- Minimum two courts
- Pickleball balls (officially approved by USA Pickleball)
- Fair play attitude
- A team captain each team
- A BBQ or social get-together afterwards, where possible

The BBQ is not mandatory for the ranking, but strongly recommended for the soul of the thing.

11.1. How It Works

The process is designed to be simple:

1. Before Registration Deadline:
 1. Create a team on Tournated
 2. Add all players (make sure players are member of the club, also in Tournated!)
2. After Registration Deadline:
 1. SPA plans the match-ups in Tournated
3. During Match period:
 1. Clubs and teams play their matches
 2. The captain records the results
 3. Standings and rankings are generated live in Tournated
 4. Teams enjoy the social part afterwards

SPA handles the central planning.

Teams only need to organise their players, play the matches and enter the results.

11.2. Host Team Responsibilities

The host team or host club should provide:

- Courts
- Balls (must be USA Pickleball Approved)
- A clear match schedule for the day
- Basic organisation on site
- Result recording support
- A welcoming atmosphere
- Optional BBQ or get-together after the matches

If both teams agree, match-day details can be adapted locally.

11.3. Result Recording

Results must be recorded after the matches.

The captain should make sure that the following information is entered correctly:

- How to enter scores

Results should be entered in Tournated as soon as possible after the team encounter.

12. SPA Support

The Swiss Pickleball Association supports The League by:

- Creating and managing the official league structure
- Planning match-ups in Tournated
- Supporting teams with Tournated setup
- Helping players get started with DUPR
- Promoting participating clubs
- Creating visibility for Swiss pickleball
- Supporting the growth of a strong national pickleball community

The guiding message:

For Pickleball. For Switzerland. Together.

13. Prize

The winning club wins:

100 JOOLA HC-40 balls

14. Spirit of The League

Swiss Pickleball - The League is about more than match results.

It is about:

- More matches
- More team spirit
- More club identity
- More visibility
- More tournament experience
- More community

Play hard. Play fair. Stay for the BBQ.

Change History

Version	Date	Change
v1.00	13. Jul 2026	Initial version