



Arizona Pickleball Players League (APPL) Code of Conduct

The Arizona Pickleball Players League (“APPL”) is committed to providing a competitive, respectful, inclusive, and safe environment. This Code of Conduct applies to all players, captains, co-captains, coaches and trainers, volunteers, officials, spectators, and board members during APPL events and in all APPL-related communications, including electronic and social media communications.

Participation in APPL constitutes acknowledgment of, and agreement to comply with this Code. Participation in APPL is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked at any time at APPL’s sole discretion.

Standards of Conduct

All participants shall:

- Conduct themselves with respect, sportsmanship, and professionalism
- Comply with match rulings and league decisions without hostility or disruption
- Refrain from conduct that undermines the integrity, safety, or orderly operation of APPL
- Accept responsibility for their behavior and communications
- Limit cheering to permitted encouragement (no coaching or strategic direction)
- Engage in conduct, whether on or off the court, that is inconsistent with the values of APPL or that may negatively impact the experience, safety, or reputation of the league or its participants.

Prohibited Conduct

Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Verbal or physical abuse, harassment, bullying, intimidation, threats, discrimination, or profanity directed at any individual
- Throwing equipment, aggressive actions, or deliberate distraction
- Unauthorized coaching or sideline interference
- Repeated or prolonged disputes following official rulings
- Abusive, disparaging, or misleading written or electronic communications
- Knowingly disseminating false information regarding APPL
- Participation while impaired by alcohol or drugs, or engaging in unsafe or reckless behavior
- Retaliation against individuals who raise concerns in good faith

Leadership Obligations

Captains and co-captains are held to elevated standards and are responsible for modeling compliance, actively managing team conduct, and cooperating fully in any league inquiry or review.

Reporting & Enforcement

Concerns must be submitted through the APPL Grievance Form by an individual who is directly involved in or directly affected by the matter. APPL will review all reports in its discretion, maintain reasonable confidentiality, and prohibit retaliation. Anonymous complaints generally will not be investigated unless they involve serious misconduct or safety concerns as determined by APPL. APPL reserves the right to take disciplinary action for any conduct deemed detrimental to the league, even if not specifically listed in this Code. APPL may act with or without a formal grievance and may consider patterns of behavior, prior incidents, and any other information deemed relevant.

APPL leadership and its designated committees retain sole and final disciplinary authority. APPL generally follows progressive discipline when addressing violations. Sanctions may include warning or rule clarification, letter of reprimand, match attendance suspension, suspension of league privileges, or removal from league participation. While progressive discipline is generally followed, the committee may impose more significant disciplinary action when warranted. Disciplinary decisions are made on a case-by-case basis and prior decisions do not establish binding precedent.

Grievance reviews are administrative in nature and are not formal legal proceedings. APPL reserves the right to interpret and enforce this Code as necessary to protect the league and its participants.