



Racquetball Rules

TPAW Sports Policies and Procedures

- All participants are required to adhere to the Policies of the TPAW Adult Sports Program.
- All participants must check in at the Membership Desk prior to every game.
- Pick-up and Return Score Sheets to the Membership before and after each game.
- Sign waiver before the beginning of each season.

All games will be held at the Trail Point Aquatics & Wellness Racquetball Courts, located at 2006 South Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50023.

Rule 1: Equipment

- a. No jewelry allowed (watches, earrings, facial piercings, necklaces, etc.)
Exception: Medical alert tags are not considered jewelry and may be worn, provided all of the chain, necklace, band, etc., is taped to the body with the tag visible.
- b. Sweatbands and soft caps on the head are allowed. No hats with a hard bill, bandanas, or other headgear are allowed.
- c. Players must wear closed toe athletic shoes with non-marking soles.
- d. Players are allowed to wear braces, soft casts, and protective coverings provided they are covered with ½ inch high density padding or wrapped with similar material.
- e. Racquetballs and limited racquets will be provided, on a first come, first serve basis.
Exception: Players/teams may, and are encouraged, to use their own racquets and racquetballs. They may use their own ball, provided both players/teams agree to use it.
- f. **Eye protection is highly recommended.**
- g. **TPAW staff reserves the right to rule on any equipment issue.**

Rule 2: Timing

- a. All games shall consist of best 2 out of 3 games.
- b. The first two games will be played to 15 points; the tie breaker game will be played to 11 points.
A player/team does **not** have to win by 2 points.

Rule 3: Scoring

- a. Serve scoring shall be used.
- b. To determine who serves first, play rock paper scissors.
- c. Person/team winning serve in first game also serves the third game

Rule 4: General playing rules

a. Serving

- a. The server must stand in the serving area and bounce the ball once before striking the ball.
- b. The ball must strike the front wall before striking any other wall, ceiling or floor.
- c. Failure to do so is an out.
- d. The server has two tries (serves) to legally serve the ball anywhere in the court.
- e. In doubles play, the team serving first in the game will only have 1 player's serve. After that turn is complete, each player on each team will serve during each turn.

b. Receiving

- a. The person receiving serve must stand at least 5 feet in back of the short service line.
- b. Receiver may play the ball either in the air or any time before the ball hits the floor a second time.

c. Fault Serves

- a. A player has two attempts to serve the ball legally. A fault serve occurs when:
 - i. The server leaves the serving area before the ball passes the short line.
 - ii. A ball hits the floor on or in front of the short line.
 - iii. A ball hits both side walls before hitting the floor.
 - iv. A ball hits the back wall or ceiling before hitting the floor.

d. Out Serves

- a. The server loses the serve when:
 - i. Server misses the ball in an attempt to serve.
 - ii. The server fails to hit the front wall first.
 - iii. After serving the ball, the ball hits the server before the opponent has an opportunity to play the ball.
 - iv. Two successive fault serves occur.
 - v. The glass

e. Rallies

- a. Each return of serve is called a rally and play continues until:
 - i. A player fails to return the ball to the front wall.
 - ii. The ball hits the floor twice before it is hit by the opposition.
 - iii. A hinder occurs.

f. Hinders

- a. Are a stoppage of play due to the following:
 - i. Ball striking a part of the court which results in an erratic rebound of the ball (fan vents, door knob, lights, fence, etc.)
 - ii. Accidentally hitting opponent with the ball, as the ball is heading for the front wall.
 - iii. Unintentionally contacting opponent while attempting to make a play on the ball.
 - iv. Screening opponent's view of the ball, or having the ball pass between one's legs.
 - v. When a hinder occurs, either person may make the call.

All rules are subject to change by the TPAW Sports Department.