

# **The Constitution of OSU Club Pickleball**

## **Article I: Purpose**

### Section 1: Goals

1. Buckeye Pickleball Club looks to improve the skill levels of each of its members in the sport of Pickleball through drills, events, and tournaments.
2. The club looks to build a community of pickleball players through social events to foster bonding.
3. Being a competitive sport, Buckeye Pickleball Club strives to win as many tournaments as possible and garner as high of a national rank as possible in all tournament formats (APP, MLP, DUPR).

## **Article II: Naming**

### Section 1: The Team Name

1. The team's name is Buckeye Pickleball Club, as per Ohio State's club organizations website, and shall remain consistent with the University's registration.
2. The team may also be referred to as OSU Club Pickleball on some registrations
3. For the purpose of this document, Buckeye Pickleball Club may be short handed to "the team" or related terms.
4. Any logos used must come from the Executive Board's shared documents folder that currently contains our two logos.

## **Article III: The Executive Board**

### Section 1: Officer Positions and Duties

1. President — To be the first point of contact with outside organizations, the office of recreational sports, and prospective members. To organize and connect the executive board, to delegate their respective tasks, and to keep the club's goals on schedule. The President is responsible for ensuring that the club is renewed every calendar year and should be aware of financial transactions throughout the year.
2. Vice President/Director of Competitive team — To organize meeting drills and activities designated to player development, primarily in regards to the competitive team. To establish connections with outside teams. To schedule tournament dates and locations and be the lead voice in determining what members qualify for which tournaments.
3. VP Marketing— To run social media, recruitment efforts, and create new flyers each semester to distribute around campus. To spearhead involvement fair activities, to respond to social media DMs. The social media director should be in charge of development of items used on the team's social media accounts (primarily instagram).
4. VP of Administration— To develop and send out emails to club members about upcoming meetings, practices, tournaments and logistics (particularly at the beginning of the year). To organize practices, events, executive board meetings. To manage both the

social and competitive team GroupMe's, and ensure that the correct members are present in their respective chats. To complete DoSportsEasy inputs for travel and member requirements. To monitor and respond to email inquiries through the team email. The VP of Admin is responsible for checking team email and responding accordingly once every 48 hours.

5. Treasurer— To keep track of all expenses and create a budget to calculate appropriate dues. To collect dues from prospective members and ensure that they are properly placed in the Buckeye Pickleball bank account. The treasurer must communicate dues paying members to the remainder of the board so that the VP of Admin may place them in their appropriate GroupMe.
6. VP of Social Team — To manage the Social team and develop practice plans for the social team practices. To create social events that range across the entire team and work with the VP of Marketing to ensure large attendance to these events. Responsible for ensuring that courts are available for team use during practice times. Events must be coordinated with the Social Media director and the treasurer to ensure that they are advertised/within budget respectively.
7. Risk Manager— To mitigate the risk associated with the club. To be CPR and First Aid certified and on hand for club events. The Risk manager must ensure that the club's med kit is along at tournaments and that registered safety officers are present.
8. Fundraising Chair - To make deals and negotiations with outside organizations, to develop sponsorship plans with other organizations. Leads fundraising events on and off campus. This chair will work under the Comp team VP (mainly in regards to sponsorships) and will work closely with the treasurer in regards to general funding. This position is a chair position and is not considered a member of the Board, but will still work in conjunction to the Board.

## Section 2: Stipulations for Officers

1. All candidates must be dues-paying members of the competitive or social team of Buckeye Pickleball Club.
2. Any member may run for any position of the executive board, so long as that student can hold that position for the entirety of the academic year following the election (i.e a student who plans on graduating at the conclusion of a winter semester may not seek a position at the conclusion of the prior spring semester).
3. No candidate may be on academic or disciplinary probation.

## Section 3: Officer selection/elections

1. New officer elections will occur after Spring Break and no later than 2 weeks prior to final exam week. The sitting board will confer and determine an election time and location and have it communicated to the club populace no later than 2 weeks prior to spring break.
2. All candidates must nominate themselves in writing to the sitting President at least three days before the election date announced by The President. In this nomination, candidates must indicate the highest-level officer position for which they plan to run.

Additionally, they must indicate all other officer positions for which they intend to run in the case that they do not win the election for the initial position.

3. The nomination will consist of a google form which will require a listing of skills that may be pertinent to the position(s) sought.
4. The current president will ensure the running of the election.
5. Voting will occur one position at a time in the order listed by Section 1 of this Article.
6. Candidates will have approximately 3-5 minutes to speak on why they should obtain their sought position. Candidates may then be required to answer questions posed by the current sitting board.
7. Voting will begin once all candidates seeking an office have spoken.
8. The sitting president will count the votes and announce the winner of each position as that individual vote has concluded.
9. A majority or plurality is required to take an office position.
10. Should a tie occur, a revote with the top two candidates will take place.
11. Those who cannot attend the election may fill out an absentee voter ballot, ranking their choices for each position. Absentee ballots are due no later than 1 hour before the election begins.
12. Those who may lose an election are eligible to run for any subsequent positions that they may have signed up for.

#### Section 4: Transition Period

1. Officers holding positions before elections must train their respective replacements in a time frame beginning no earlier than the conclusion of spring finals and ending no later than the start of the month of June.
2. The new Board will assume their positions on June 1, unless voted on differently by the standing board.

#### Section 5: Officer Removal

1. If an officer fails to meet the criteria laid out for their position in Section 1 of this Article, the officer will be asked to step down from their position by the President after consulting with the other board members. 4 out of the 5 remaining board members must vote to remove in order for the board member with grounds for removal to be removed.
2. Additional grounds for removing an officer include failing to uphold the purpose of the team, not meeting commitment expectations, or violation of team bylaws.
3. The president may be removed in the same manner with the Vice President initiating the process.
4. Those who are removed from office are not eligible to run for future positions.
5. Those who step down from positions are eligible to run for future positions.
6. If a board position is vacant, the sitting President or Vice President must appoint a member to fill the position until it is formally filled.

### **Article IV: Finances**

#### Section 1: Fiscal Calendar

1. Buckeye Pickleball will follow the same fiscal calendar as The Ohio State University.

#### Section 2: Reporting and Spending

1. Expenditures will be carried out by the treasurer and reported to the board accordingly. Expenditures that exceed \$500 must have at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  Board support in order to be approved. Total accounts values must be reported to the Board via either meeting or Board group chat on the last day of each month.
2. Should the accounts value reports be significantly unbalanced to what is actually present, funds be mismanaged, or fraud occur in any capacity, the treasurer will face dismissal as shown in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Treasurer and President have sole authority over the team credit card. All other board members must seek their approval for spending from this card.
4. At the discretion of the Treasurer, members of the team may be reimbursed for team related costs, including but not limited to gasoline expenses during team travel. The members must provide proof of purchase in the form of receipts to the Treasurer in order to receive this reimbursement, and should make an effort to act honestly and responsibly so as not to take advantage of any potential reimbursements.

#### Section 3: Dues

1. All dues must be paid through the Ohio State Pickleball Venmo account. If a member is unable to pay in that form, the member must reach out to a member of the board to make sure the payment is completed in an alternative manner that is approved by the Treasurer or President.
2. The current treasurer must manage the Ohio State Pickleball Venmo account and will receive all funds from dues and tryouts.

### **Article V: The Social Team**

#### Section 1: Management

1. Buckeye Pickleball Club is a Competitive Club Sports Team administered by the Department of Recreational Sports of The Ohio State University and therefore subject to all applicable policies and procedures including the Student Code of Conduct and the Sport Club Handbook.

#### Section 2: Team Membership

1. Team membership is open to all Ohio State students who meet eligibility requirements as set by the university.
2. Membership is not limited by, nor shall any person be denied Team membership due to his or her race, gender identity, sexual orientation, creed, or national origin.
3. Membership shall be divided into two

#### Section 3: Member Responsibilities

1. Members of The Team are expected to abide by the spirit and letter of this Constitution.

2. Members of The Team are subject to the policies and procedures outlined in the Bylaws of this Constitution.
3. Members of the Team are expected to abide by The Ohio State University Student Code of Conduct and Sport Club Handbook at all times.
4. Members of The Team agree to make reasonable efforts to provide the following to their fellow members:
  - a. A competitive, safe, and fun atmosphere
  - b. Maintenance and care of equipment
  - c. Respect of team bylaws and applicable University Codes of Conduct
  - d. The maintained reputation of the team including the recruiting of new members
  - e. The establishment of competitive goals
5. Members of The Team are expected to pay membership dues on a regular schedule.
6. Unlike the Competitive team listed below, there are no attendance requirements. However, per university facilities guidelines, a minimum of 8 members including officers/captains must be present for practice to proceed. This stipulation applies to both sections of the team.

#### Section 4: Membership Removal or Departure

1. Any team member who fails to uphold the values of the team as outlined in this Constitution, the Bylaws of this Constitution, The Ohio State University Student Code of Conduct or the Department of Recreational Sports Sport Club Handbook may be asked to leave the team.
2. A team member may be asked to leave the team by the President, after consultation with the board and an approval vote from at least two-thirds of the board.
3. Any dues that have been paid by an individual who is dismissed from or who leaves the team will be forfeited.
4. A member who leaves the team on their own accord may return to The Team at any time.
5. A member who is dismissed from the team may appeal the dismissal and ask for a hearing before the board. The approval of at least two-thirds of the board is necessary to reinstate a dismissed athlete upon appeal. The decision of the board will be final.

### **Article VI: The Competitive Team**

#### Section 1: Team Mission

The Competitive Team within the Ohio State Pickleball Club is committed to fostering athletic excellence, team unity, sportsmanship, and competitive success in the sport of pickleball. Our mission is to provide players with the opportunity to compete at a high level, improve their skills, and represent the club in tournaments while maintaining a supportive and respectful environment.

#### Section 2: Team Selection Process

1. Tryouts

- a. Tryout Structure: Players will be evaluated based on several key skills, as outlined in the tryout form. These include footwork and movement, ball control, serve accuracy, return accuracy, net play, drive, strategy and court awareness, and sportsmanship.
  - i. Dates: Tryouts will be held over a period of one week, with specific dates announced at least two weeks in advance. Players are expected to attend the tryout session that they sign up for, and then be available for callbacks if indicated.
  - ii. Number of Tryout Sessions: There will be a total of 3 tryout sessions, and one callback session, where players will be assessed on various skills, including footwork and movement, ball control, serve accuracy, return accuracy, net play, drive, strategy and court awareness, and sportsmanship.
  - iii. Callbacks: After the initial tryout sessions, a callback list will be posted within two days. Players on the callback list will be required to attend an additional evaluation session before final team selections are made. Callbacks provide a chance for further assessment, especially in team dynamics and match situations.
- b. Tryout Fee: A non-refundable tryout fee of \$5 will be required to participate in the tryouts. Should a player make the team, this fee will be applied toward their team dues for the season. Failure to pay the tryout fee before the tryout date will result in ineligibility to participate in the tryouts.
- c. Scoring Criteria
  - i. Each skill category will be rated on a scale of 1-10.
  - ii. A weighted scoring system will apply, with certain categories (e.g., ball control, strategy) holding more weight in the selection process.
  - iii. Each skill category will be rated on a scale of 1-10, and weighted based on its relative importance to overall team performance. For example, ball control and strategy may account for a higher percentage of the overall score than serve or return accuracy.
  - iv. Example: Weighted Total = (Footwork & Movement Score x 0.10) + (Ball Control x 0.20) + (Serve Accuracy x 0.10) + (Return Accuracy x 0.10) + (Net Play x 0.10) + (Drive x 0.10) + (Strategy & Court Awareness x 0.20) + (Sportsmanship x 0.10)
- d. Sportsmanship Rule: Any player scoring 4/10 or below in sportsmanship will be automatically disqualified from team consideration, regardless of overall performance.
  - i. Sportsmanship will be judged based on respect toward teammates, opponents, and officials, positive attitude, and ability to accept calls and outcomes without excessive confrontation.
  - ii. Some examples of poor sportsmanship are rolling eyes at your partner, rude comments, yelling in a disrespectful manner, throwing/breaking paddles, etc.

## 2. Team Selection

- a. Final Selection: In addition to scores, players will be assessed on their ability to work cohesively with the team, communicate effectively, and demonstrate leadership potential. Fit within the team dynamics will also consider the compatibility of playing styles and how well individuals contribute to a positive team environment. The team will consist of around 30 members, with a minimum of 12 male and 12 female players.
- b. Player Notification: Players will be informed via email or phone call regarding their selection status within 72 hours of the final tryout.

### Section 3: Member Removal

#### 1. Grounds for Removal

- a. Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Any member who exhibits behavior that violates the spirit of sportsmanship, including disrespect towards teammates, opponents, or officials, is subject to removal from the team.
- b. Attendance Violations: Consistent failure to meet the attendance requirements outlined in Article IV will lead to removal from the team.
- c. Payment Delinquency: Failure to meet financial obligations (outlined in Article V) may result in suspension or removal.
- d. Disciplinary Action: The team captain, in consultation with the coaches, has the right to recommend the removal of any member who negatively impacts team dynamics or performance. A team vote may be held if necessary.

#### 2. Removal Process

- a. Review: A meeting will be called by the captain and coaches to discuss the issues with the player in question.
- b. Decision: A vote will be held by the captain, co-captains, and coaches (if applicable) after the meeting. A two-thirds majority is required to remove a player from the team.
- c. Notification: The member will be informed in writing within 24 hours of the decision.
  - i. Members subject to removal will have the opportunity to appeal the decision within 48 hours. For minor infractions leading to removal, a probationary period of two weeks may be established to allow the member to demonstrate improved behavior or performance before the final removal vote.

### Section 4: Attendance Policies

- 1. Practice Attendance: Players are required to attend 25% of scheduled practices each month to maintain their spot on the team.
- 2. Tournament Attendance: Players must attend at least 50% of the scheduled practices to be considered for tournament participation. Failure to attend without prior notification may result in disciplinary action.
- 3. Excused Absences: Members may request excused absences due to illness, work, class requirements or personal emergencies. These must be communicated to the captain or coach in advance.

4. Consequences for Violations:
  - a. 1st Offense: Verbal warning
  - b. 2nd Offense: Suspension from the next tournament
  - c. 3rd Offense: Removal from the team
  - d. Number of offenses will reset each semester

#### Section 5: Payment Policies

1. Dues: All members must pay the required team dues by the designated deadline each season. These dues will cover uniforms, court time, and tournament fees.
2. Deadline for Payment: Team dues must be paid by the first practice following team selection, or members risk forfeiting their spot on the team.
  - a. A grace period of one week after the dues deadline will be provided. After this period, failure to pay will result in forfeiting the spot on the team unless the player arranges a payment plan or demonstrates extenuating circumstances approved by the captains.
3. Refunds: No refunds will be issued after the first practice of the season unless extenuating circumstances are approved by the team captains and coach.

#### Section 6: Team Organization

1. Captains
  - a. Responsibilities of the Captain:
    - i. Lead the team in practices and tournaments.
    - ii. Communicate practice times, tournament details, and other team information.
    - iii. Handle conflict resolution within the team.
    - iv. Represent the team in club meetings and events.
    - v. Oversee the tryout and selection process.
  - b. Co-Captains: Co-captains may be elected to assist the captain in their duties, including organizing practices and tournaments and maintaining team records.
2. Captain Elections:
  - a. Eligibility: Any current member of the team in good standing may run for captain.
  - b. Election Process: Elections will be held at the end of each season. Candidates must announce their candidacy two weeks before elections. A secret ballot vote will be held, with all team members eligible to vote.
  - c. Term: Captains serve for one season but may be re-elected.
3. Captain Removal:
  - a. Grounds for Removal: If a captain fails to fulfill their duties or behaves inappropriately, the team may vote to remove them.
  - b. Removal Process: A meeting will be called, and a two-thirds majority vote from the team members is required to remove the captain. A new election will follow within one week.

#### Section 7: Member Responsibilities



1. Commitment to the Team: Members are expected to participate fully in practices, tournaments, and team activities. They must maintain a positive attitude and contribute to a cohesive team environment.
2. Filling Out Forms: Members are responsible for completing all required forms related to tryouts, medical information, and tournament participation.
3. Sportsmanship: All members must uphold the club's values of fairness, respect, and good sportsmanship both on and off the court.

## Section 8: Team Meetings

1. Regular Meetings: The team will hold monthly meetings to discuss upcoming tournaments, practices, and any team concerns.
2. Mandatory Attendance: All members are required to attend team meetings unless excused by the captain.
3. Decisions involving team policies will be discussed at team meetings and voted on by all members present. A simple majority vote is required for approval of any changes, with leadership having the final say in exceptional circumstances.

## Section 9: Tournaments

1. Tournament Participation
  - a. Team Representation: The team will strive to have the maximum number of members participating in every tournament. However, due to logistical constraints, not every member may be able to attend every tournament.
  - b. Selection for Tournaments: In the event that the number of available tournament spots is limited, the following factors will be considered in selecting participants:
    - i. Skill level and performance in practice and previous tournaments.
    - ii. Attendance at practices and team events.
    - iii. Team roles and positional needs (singles, doubles, or mixed).
    - iv. Availability and commitment to the tournament schedule.
  - c. Notification: Members will be notified at least two weeks in advance of an upcoming tournament, when possible. Players must confirm their availability within 72 hours of receiving the tournament notification.
  - d. Absence: If a player is unable to attend a tournament they have committed to, they must notify the captain or coach as soon as possible. Frequent absences may affect future tournament selection.
2. Tournament Expenses
  - a. Club Contribution: The club will make every effort to cover a portion of tournament expenses, such as registration fees or travel subsidies. However, due to budget constraints, the club may only be able to cover certain costs.
    - i. The club will strive to cover registration fees and provide travel/lodging subsidies when possible. However, players should be prepared to cover individual costs such as lodging, meals, and transportation unless otherwise noted for specific tournaments.

- ii. Prior to the tournament, the executive board will set a planned budget for the tournament that they would like to keep expenses within. From here will be the basis of how much the club is able to contribute to each individual.
  - b. Individual Responsibility: Members are expected to cover any remaining expenses that the club cannot fund, such as travel, lodging, and meals, unless otherwise specified. It is important for each member to plan accordingly.
  - c. Budgeting for Key Tournaments: While the club will strive to cover as many expenses as possible, it must prioritize its budget to ensure the team can participate in the most significant tournaments throughout the season. Players should understand that resources may be limited and that personal financial contributions might be necessary for less critical tournaments.
3. Tournament Responsibilities
- a. Conduct and Sportsmanship: Players are expected to represent the club in a professional and sportsmanlike manner at all times during tournaments.
  - b. Team Support: Even if not selected for a specific tournament, members are encouraged to attend and support their teammates when possible.

## Section 10: Communication Policy

1. Acknowledgment of Communication
  - a. Board Communication: All members are required to acknowledge any official communication from the team's leadership (captain, co-captain, or coach) within 72 hours of receipt. Failure to do so may result in a warning or further disciplinary action.
2. Filling out Forms
  - a. Form Submission: Members are responsible for filling out any required forms (e.g., tournament registration, waiver forms, or surveys) within 4 days of receiving them. Failure to complete forms in a timely manner could result in the player being ineligible for upcoming tournaments or team activities.
3. Voting on Polls
  - a. Poll Participation: Members will be asked to participate in team decision-making through polls. All members must vote on polls within 48 hours of receiving them, unless a different deadline is provided.
4. Communication Channels
  - a. Primary Communication Platform: The team will use GroupMe as the primary communication platform. All members must regularly check this platform to stay updated on team announcements and events. The main mode of communication will be conveyed within the first week of the school year.
  - b. Responsiveness: Team members are expected to be responsive to messages from the captain, coach, or co-captains regarding practices, tournaments, and other team activities.

## Section 11: Practice Policies

## 1. Practice Attendance

- a. Communication of Attendance: All players are required to communicate their availability for each practice session at least 24 hours in advance unless there is an emergency or unforeseen circumstance.
  - i. Voting on the polls that are sent out, or registering on the specific website is sufficient communication.
- b. Assumed Absence: If a member does not notify the captain, co-captains, or coach regarding their attendance, it will be assumed that they are not attending that practice session.
- c. Structured practices will be held on designated nights and will require advanced notice of attendance. These sessions are crucial for team development and chemistry, and members are expected to prioritize participation in these sessions over open play nights. Open play nights are more flexible and focus on individual skill development.

## 2. Ladder Play, Partner Play, and Team Play Nights

- a. Only those who have communicated their attendance in advance will be allowed to participate. These dates will be communicated 72 hours prior to the practice time to allow for proper communication.
- b. Failure to communicate by the designated time will result in the member being unable to participate in the structured session, as these formats require pre-arranged pairings and planning.

## 3. Open Play Nights

- a. Late Arrivals: Members who fail to communicate their attendance in advance may still attend open play nights. However, they may only join the session after it has begun, as open play does not require the same level of pre-arrangement as structured practices.
- b. Open Play Flexibility: Open play nights are designed to offer flexibility and casual practice opportunities, but members are still encouraged to communicate their attendance for better organization.

## Section 12: Amendments

1. This constitution may be amended with a two-thirds majority vote from the team members. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the team captain, who will then organize a vote at the next team meeting.

## Bylaws

### Section 1:

1. Members of the team shall abide by The Ohio State University Student Code of Conduct and Sport Club Handbook at all times.
2. Members of the team agree to make reasonable efforts to provide the following to their fellow members

- a. A competitive, safe, and fun atmosphere
- b. Maintenance and care of equipment
- c. Respect of these bylaws and applicable University Codes of Conduct
- d. The maintained reputation of the team including the recruiting of new members
- e. The establishment of competitive goals

## Section 2: Travel

1. Members of the team are representatives of Ohio State Crew and The Ohio State University whenever they travel to any Team-sanctioned event, including practice.
2. Drivers are expected to follow the rules of the road and avoid reckless driving behaviors including but not limited to racing or speeding.
3. Drivers and passengers are expected to be responsible on the road and avoid behaviors that would put other drivers in danger including any form of distraction.
4. No member shall bring any form of alcohol or drugs on Team-sanctioned trips. This includes "nic-sticks", Juuls, and other similar items.

## Section 3: Hazing

1. Hazing is defined as doing, requiring, or encouraging any act, whether or not the act is voluntarily agreed upon, in conjunction with initiation, continued membership, or participation in any group, that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm or humiliation. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, the use of alcohol, the creation of excessive fatigue, and paddling, punching, or kicking in any form. Failure to intervene, prevent, or report acts of hazing may constitute a violation of this Constitution and these Bylaws.
2. Any member of the team suspected to be participating in hazing shall be immediately investigated and put on probation from the team until the full investigation is completed.

## Section 4: Harassment and Discrimination

1. This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment. As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Buckeye Pickleball Club expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: <https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>. If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleIX.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at [titleIX@osu.edu](mailto:titleIX@osu.edu).
2. Any member of the team suspected of harassment or discrimination shall immediately be investigated and put on probation from the team until the full investigation is completed.

## Section 5: Property/Facilities

1. Only members of the team and coaches should use team equipment or any other team owned/leased property. Other people may be granted access by the President.
2. Any person who leaves behind personal property for longer than three months after leaving The Team for any reason forfeits these items to team ownership except in the case of a prior written agreement with the President for the storage of given items.