



# Player Handbook

## 1. League Structure Overview

- **Name:** Pad Thai Padel Championship
  - **Start Date:** June 1st, 2025
  - **Format:** Round Robin Season + Playoffs + Finals Day
  - **Schedule:** Matches played over a 3-month period
  - **Structure:** Grouped by level across multiple divisions (Each team is guaranteed a minimum of **7 matches**, regardless of the number of teams in their division)
  - **Finals:** Promotion, relegation, and awards ceremony on Finals Day
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## 2. Competition Rules

### 2.1 Match Format

- Matches are played as **best of 3 sets**.
- **Standard tiebreak**
- **Silver point at deuce**
- *If teams are running out of time, we encourage switching to golden point in the third set to help finish on time. The League Manager may also suggest this to respect the **90-minute match limit**.*

### 2.2 Match Timing Rules

- **90-minute time slots** (strictly enforced).

- Players must **arrive at least 15 minutes before** their match.
- **Warm-up:** Maximum 5 minutes.
- **Late arrival tolerance:** Maximum 10 minutes.
- If a team is more than 10 minutes late, the opponent may claim victory by walkover (3-0).

## 2.3 If Time Runs Out

If the 90-minute match time ends before the match is completed:

- The team that is **leading** is declared the winner.
- If the score in the current set is **tied**, each team receives **1 point**.

### Example:

- Set 1: Team A wins 7-5
- Set 2: Team B wins 6-1
- Set 3 (in progress): Team B is leading 4-2 when time runs out
- **Result:** Team B wins the match because they are leading in the current set

This rule ensures matches finish on time and respects the schedule for following matches.

## 2.4 Scoring System

| Result          | Points              |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Win             | 3                   |
| Loss by 1 Set   | 1                   |
| Loss by 2 Sets  | 0                   |
| No-Show/Forfeit | 0 (opponent wins 3) |

### Result Registration:

- One team must register the result inside **The Padel Society App**.
- It is recommended to submit the result right after the match.

## 2.5 Match Rescheduling Rules

- Each team may request **1 reschedule** during the season, no penalty.
- Must notify the League Manager at least **7 days in advance**.
- Less than 7 days' notice = **automatic forfeit** (0–2 loss), unless the League Manager accepts a valid reason.
- Reschedules depend on court and opponent availability.

*Note: Exceptions may be considered to keep the league fun and fair.*

## 2.6 Substitute Players Rules

If you're injured, traveling, or unavailable:

### When Can I Use a Substitute?

- Injury (temporary or full-season)
- Travel or short-term absence
- Emergency or unexpected conflict

### How to Request a Sub:

- Notify the League Manager at least **48 hours in advance**.
- Provide the name and level of the sub (or ask us to help you find one).

### Rules for Substitutes:

- Must be **same or lower level** (based on App profile and League Manager's input).
- Cannot play in the **same division**.
- Must be **approved** by the League Manager **before playing**.

### Types of Substitutes:

- **Short-Term Subs (1–2 matches):** Allowed without opponent approval if fair and approved.
- **Full-Season Replacements:** Allowed for injuries or long absences. No opponent approval needed if approved.

- **Slightly Stronger Subs:**

- Opponent will be informed.
- If they object, League Manager will mediate.
- If no agreement: match counts as a loss for the team needing the sub.

*Note: Unapproved or last-minute subs = automatic forfeit.*

**Finals Day Policy:**

- No substitutes allowed unless exceptionally approved for medical or force majeure reasons.

## 2.7 Finals Day Rules

**Promotion & Relegation:**

- After the round-robin season, the **top team in each lower division** is promoted to the division above.
- The **bottom team in each higher division** is automatically relegated.

**Playoff Matches (Between Divisions):**

Playoff matches to decide additional promotions or relegations:

- A **high-performing team** from the lower division (e.g. 2nd or 3rd place)
- Versus a **lower-ranked team** from the higher division — but **not the last-place team**, as that team is already relegated automatically

→ The winner earns (or keeps) a spot in the higher division for next season.

**Division 1 Championship:**

To crown the Division 1 champion, the top 4 teams enter a knockout stage:

- Semifinals:
  - 1st vs 4th
  - 2nd vs 3rd

- Final: Winners of each semifinal play for the title

## Semifinals & Finals and Promotion/Relegation

### Female Divisions

#### Female Division 1

| Position | Outcome                                                                        |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st–4th  | Play semifinals and final to compete for the championship                      |
| 4th      | Plays a playoff vs 2nd place from Division 2 (could be relegated if they lose) |
| 5th      | Automatically relegated to Division 2                                          |

- 1st to 3rd remain in Division 1
- 4th must defend their spot via a playoff
- 5th is relegated directly

**Fairness Clause:** *If the 4th place team in Division 1 wins the playoff stage and becomes league champion, they are automatically safe and will not be required to play the relegation playoff. In that case, the playoff spot is passed to the 3rd place team.*

#### Female Division 2

| Position | Outcome                                                                      |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st      | Automatically promoted to Division 1                                         |
| 2nd      | Plays a playoff vs 4th place from Division 1 (could be promoted if they win) |
| 3rd–6th  | Remain in Division 2                                                         |

- No relegation from this division in this season.

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# Men's Divisions

## Division 1 (8 Teams)

| Position | Outcome                                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st–4th  | Play semifinals and final to compete for the championship |
| 5th–6th  | Stay in Division 1                                        |
| 7th      | Plays a playoff vs 2nd place from Division 2              |
| 8th      | Automatically relegated to Division 2                     |

### Semifinals:

- Semifinal 1: 1st vs 4th
- Semifinal 2: 2nd vs 3rd

**Final:** Winners of each semifinal

## Division 2 (8 Teams)

| Position | Outcome                                      |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1st      | Automatically promoted to Division 1         |
| 2nd      | Plays a playoff vs 7th place from Division 1 |
| 3rd–6th  | Stay in Division 2                           |
| 7th      | Plays a playoff vs 2nd place from Division 3 |
| 8th      | Automatically relegated to Division 3        |

### Promotion/Relegation:

- 1st place promoted to Division 1
- 8th place relegated to Division 3
- Playoff: 2nd place in Division 3 vs 7th place in Division 2

### Summary:

- Max 2 teams go up / 2 down
- Teams ranked 3rd to 6th stay in Division 2
- Division 2 remains with 8 teams

## Division 3 (8 Teams)

| Position | Outcome                                      |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1st      | Automatically promoted to Division 2         |
| 2nd      | Plays a playoff vs 7th place from Division 2 |
| 3rd–6th  | Stay in Division 3                           |
| 7th      | Plays a playoff vs 2nd place from Division 4 |
| 8th      | Automatically relegated to Division 4        |

### Promotion/Relegation:

- 1st place promoted to Division 2
- 8th place relegated to Division 4
- Playoff: 2nd place in Division 4 vs 7th place in Division 3

### Summary:

- Max 2 teams go up / 2 down
- Teams ranked 3rd to 6th stay in Division 3
- Division 3 remains with 8 teams

## Division 4 (8 Teams)

| Position | Outcome                                      |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1st      | Automatically promoted to Division 3         |
| 2nd      | Plays a playoff vs 7th place from Division 3 |
| 3rd–6th  | Stay in Division 4                           |
| 7th–8th  | Not relegated this season (bottom division)  |

### Promotion/Relegation:

- 1st place promoted to Division 3
- 2nd place plays playoff vs 7th place from Division 3
- No relegation (lowest division)

**Summary:**

- 2 teams may go up
- Teams ranked 3rd to 6th stay
- No one goes down (bottom division)

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## 3. Club Rules & Player Perks

### 3.1 Club Access

- **Ice Bath & Sauna** available post-match (within 1 hour)
- **1 Free Post-Match Drink** at the club bar
- **Weekly Sponsor Perks**

### 3.2 Behavior & Respect

- Respect your opponents, club staff, and the facility
- Aggressive or inappropriate behavior = immediate disqualification

### 3.3 Court Time

- **Strict 90 minutes per match**
- No extra time is guaranteed

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## 4. League Communication

- All communication is via **The Padel Society App** (Community section).

- A new section in the app called "**Competitions**" allows all players to see standings and schedules.
  - More details will be shared in the **Pad Thai Padel Championship community** in the app.
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## 5. Using The Padel Society App

- See your **upcoming league matches** on your homepage
  - Submit your **match results** directly (select winning team and scores)
  - Use **Competition tab** to check fixtures, standings, results
  - Join the league's **Community** to get updates and ask questions
  - **All matches are recorded** and videos are available for you to view and share
  - Use your **League E-Card** (Apple/Google Wallet) to access drinks, sauna, and perks
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## 6. Player Onboarding Guide

### Before the League Starts:

- Download **The Padel Society App**
- Register your team & confirm partner
- Pick up your **Welcome Pack** at the club
- Receive your **League E-Card**

### During the League:

- Arrive early and respect timing
- Submit results after each match
- Show E-Card for drinks & perks

- Enjoy content, perks & sponsor activations

### **Finals Day:**

- Attend Playoffs + Awards Ceremony
  - Vote for awards
  - Celebrate with your team and community
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## **7. FAQ**

### **Q1. Can I use a substitute?**

Yes. For injury, travel, or emergencies. Must:

- Be same/lower level
- Not in your division
- Be approved 48h before the match

### **Q2. What if the sub is stronger?**

- Opponent is notified
- If no agreement, match = loss

### **Q3. Can I bring in a friend to sub?**

Yes, if approved and not in the same division

### **Q4. What happens if time runs out?**

- Leading team wins
- If tied = 1 point each

### **Q5. Can we choose our division?**

No. You pick your level, League team assigns division

### **Q6. How do I get my perks?**

- You'll get a League E-Card via the app
- Show it for post-match drink, ice bath, sauna, sponsor perks