

IPTPA Recommendations for hosting a

## **“Junior Pickleball Jamboree”**

A Junior Jamboree is intended to introduce the sport to new junior players and their families as well as lead a fun day of playing and learning for juniors that have some playing experience. Below are the guidelines and outline for running an inviting, fun, learning environment that will excite children and families about joining the lifelong sport of pickleball.

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IPTPA recommends all Junior instruction be led by a Certified IPTPA teaching pro.

Volunteers may assist but only under the direction of the certified pro.

A maximum ratio of 1 teaching pro per 8 players is the IPTPA standard, however we recommend a ratio of 4:1 when working with juniors.

### **Recommended Equipment-**

Paddles between 6-7.5 ounces with smaller handles.

Balls that are softer like the JUGS or ONIX indoor balls (Can even use foam balls for small children).

Training Targets and tools such as hula hoops, baskets, or rubber floor targets.

Teaching cart and some type of ball pick up equipment.

## Recommended Format

### Free for Children Ages 6-18

(If possible separate 5-7, 8-10,11-13, 14-18 age groups)

1 Day 4 hour format

(Can do in 2-3 hours if court time does not allow for longer)

#### Example

9am check in-Parents check in their children, sign necessary club waivers, and stay with their children until all families are checked in. (name tags are very helpful)

Once everyone is checked in have the families and children come out to the courts.

9:15 Welcome them and tell them *HOW EXCITED YOU ARE THAT THEY ARE THERE TO LEARN AND PLAY PICKLEBALL!* Explain that the day will be filled with lots of fun, learning and playing 😊

Ask the kids to raise their hand if they have ever played or watched anyone play pickleball?

+PLAY DEMO (do this while parents are still there to supervise)

Quick demo of point play so they can see what the game looks like. HAVE FUN with the demo 😊

You can even invite a few parents (or older experienced juniors) out to play in the demo if any of them have played before but be sure to keep it short and fun.

After the demo ask the kids if that looks fun and if they would like to learn how to hit some balls and play?

+You can now excuse the parents that would like to leave but if they want to stay and watch that is great! Ask the parents to come back 1 hour before the end of the Jamboree (12 pm in this sample format) so they can play a few games with the kids and they can register for the IPTPA junior registry, future classes, play days, lessons and more. (Have Handouts ready for them on all of this when they

return. Also have someone you work with there that can answer questions while you are still working with the kids).

+9:30 Now is the time you hand out paddles to the kids. (Ask them to respect the pickleball equipment they will be using as the paddles are fragile).

+Depending on the ages of your group you will run different drills.

Watch Junior Pickleball Teaching Certification video series on our website [www.iptpa.com](http://www.iptpa.com).

11am supervised snack and bathroom break

11:30 Game Play (Have enough volunteers or Parents there that you can pair 3 children with 1 adult for game play).

12:15 Run a mini tournament including parents with the kids

12:45 Finish with some fun drills such as “hitting targets for prizes”.

1pm wrap up, equipment hand in, hand out fliers to parents, thank them all for coming and tell them when they can come back to play. (also have flyers on how parents can buy equipment with suggestions of what to buy depending on the age/level of their child).