

## **Avalon Beach Pickleball Association Inc – Paddle Safety By-Law**

### **1. Background and Purpose**

Members of the Committee, through their involvement in the broader NSW pickleball community, have recently been advised by the Pickleball Association of New South Wales (PANSW) of safety concerns relating to non-approved, poor-quality, or low-cost paddles which may not meet basic quality or durability standards. PANSW has highlighted that such paddles may splinter, crack, or break during play, creating a foreseeable risk of injury.

Although Avalon Beach Pickleball Association Inc is not affiliated with PANSW, the Committee has nonetheless been made aware of these risks. Once such information is known, the club has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to protect members, visitors, and guests. This by-law is therefore established to address the risks identified by PANSW and ensure the club meets its duty-of-care obligations.

### **2. Approved Paddle Requirement**

2.1 For safety and insurance purposes, all paddles used at Avalon Beach Pickleball Association Inc events, sessions, and activities must be on USA Pickleball-approved Paddle list or appear on the United Pickleball Association of America (UPAA) approved Paddle List.

2.2 Paddles not appearing on the USA Pickleball Approved Paddle Lists are not permitted for use in club activities.

2.3 This requirement applies to all members, visitors, and guests participating in club play.

### **3. Unsafe or Damaged Paddles**

3.1 Each player is responsible for ensuring their paddle is safe to play regardless of its approval status. Any paddle that appears cracked, splintered, delaminated, or otherwise unsafe may be removed from play at the discretion of the Committee or session organisers.

### **4. Transition Period**

4.1 Members will be provided with a three-month transition period from the date of this by-law to comply.

4.2 After the transition period, only USA Pickleball–approved paddles may be used at club events.

## **5. Committee Discretion**

5.1 The Committee retains full authority to interpret and apply this by-law.

5.2 The Committee may update or amend this by-law if USA Pickleball changes its approval standards or if further safety advice is issued by recognised pickleball bodies or safety authorities.

## **6. Review**

This by-law will be reviewed annually, or as required, to ensure it remains effective and consistent with the club’s duty-of-care obligations.

**Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**