

2024 Rulebook - Paddle Specifications

2.E.1. Material. The paddle must be made of any material deemed safe and not prohibited by these rules. The paddle shall be made of rigid, non-compressible material meeting the criteria located on the USA PICKLEBALL website.

2.E.2. Surface. The paddle's hitting surface shall not contain delamination, holes, cracks, rough textures, or indentations that break the paddle skin or surface, or any objects or features that allow a player to impart excessive spin on the ball.

2.E.2.a. Reflection. The paddle's hitting surface shall not be adversely reflective, such that it has the potential to negatively affect the vision of opposing player(s).

2.E.3. Size. The combined length and width, including any edge guard and butt cap, shall not exceed 24 inches (60.96 cm). The paddle length cannot exceed 17 inches (43.18 cm). There is no restriction on paddle thickness.

2.E.4. Weight. There is no restriction on paddle weight.

2.E.5. Alterations. Altered paddles must meet all specifications.

2.E.5.a. Player alterations or additions to a commercially produced paddle as certified, may include items such as edge guard tape/replacements, weighted tape, weights for an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) integrated weight system, changes to the grip size via inserts, grip wraps, OEM interchangeable grips, OEM replacement paddle faces, and name decals and/or other identification markings on the paddle face.

2.E.5.b. Decals and tape can extend no farther than 1.0 inch (2.54 cm) above the top of the grip nor more than 0.5 inch (1.27 cm) inside the outer edge of a paddle or, if an edge guard is in place, 0.5 inch inside the edge guard.

2.E.5.c. The only permissible handwritten pen markings allowed on the paddle's playing surface must be for identification purposes only (name, signature, phone, email address). No aftermarket graphics are allowed on a commercially made paddle.

2.E.6. Prohibited Surface Features and Mechanical Features.

2.E.6.a. Anti-skid paint or any paint textured with sand, rubber particles, or any material that causes additional spin.

2.E.6.b. Rubber and synthetic rubber.

2.E.6.c. Sandpaper characteristics.

2.E.6.d. Moving parts that can increase head momentum.

2.E.7. Model Designation. The paddle must have a manufacturer-provided and clearly marked brand and model name or model number on the paddle. The brand and model information may be shown on the paddle by a manufacturer affixed decal.

Equipment Approval and Authorization.

2.F.1. USA PICKLEBALL Approved Paddle List – Players are responsible for confirming that the paddle they are on the USA PICKLEBALL Approved Paddle List. The lists of approved equipment may be posted on the USA PICKLEBALL website: USA Pickleball.org.

2.F.1.a. Violation. If at any point during the tournament it is determined that a player is using a paddle that violates any of the paddle specifications or is not listed on the USA PICKLEBALL Approved Paddle List as Pass, the following penalties apply:

2.F.1.a.1. If the violation is identified prior to the match starting, the player shall switch to a paddle listed as Pass on the USA PICKLEBALL Approved Paddle List. There is no penalty to switch paddles.

2.F.1.a.2. If the violation is identified after the match has started, the player or team forfeits only the match being played.

2.F.1.a.3. If the violation is discovered after the scoresheet is returned to the tournament operations desk, the match results stand.