

future recognition within the Paralympic Movement and other major international multi-sport events for athletes with disabilities. The Association remains committed to its long-term vision of achieving worldwide recognition and creating opportunities for Para Pickleball Players to compete at the highest levels of international sport. The IPPA Regional Championships, World Championships and World League are important and major para pickleball Events.

1.7 The Future of Para Pickleball

1. The future of Para Pickleball is built upon the principles of inclusion, fairness, accessibility, and excellence. As participation continues to increase worldwide, the sport is expected to develop stronger international competition pathways, expanded athlete classifications, enhanced coaching and officiating programs, and greater opportunities for athletes with disabilities.
2. The International Para Pickleball Association remains committed to fostering global growth while maintaining the integrity of competition and ensuring that every eligible player has the opportunity to participate and succeed.
3. Para Pickleball is more than a sport; it is a movement that empowers individuals, celebrates ability over disability, and demonstrates the limitless potential of players throughout the world.
4. Under the IPPA Infrastructure Development Program and with the support of Corporate and Governments of various Countries, a network of purpose-built Para Pickleball Academies will be developed across different countries accessible infrastructure and inclusive training environments for para pickleball players.
5. The International Para Pickleball Association is in discussion with Multi-National Corporations, large foundations and various National Governments of Countries to support the launch **6 IPPA WORLD RANKING** Platinum Label International Open Para Pickleball Championships like the following:
 1. US OPEN : PARA PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
 2. DUBAI OPEN : PARA PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



IPPA BOOK OF RULES

International Para Pickleball Association Book of Rules

By

Raghu Kumar Raghavelu

OFFICIAL RULEBOOK FOR ALL IPPA-SANCTIONED EVENTS, CHAMPIONSHIPS, LEAGUES,
AND COMPETITIONS WORLDWIDE

"Greatness is not defined by personal success alone; it is defined by how many lives we uplift along the way. People living with disabilities possess extraordinary talent, resilience, and determination. What they often need is not sympathy, but opportunity. Be the person who opens a door, removes a barrier, creates a pathway, or offers encouragement. A single act of support can transform a life, and a collective commitment to inclusion can transform the world." International Para Pickleball Association.

IPPA PARA PICKLEBALL BOOK OF RULES

INTERNATIONAL PARA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION (IPPA)

OFFICIAL RULEBOOK - 2026 EDITION

GOVERNING THE SPORT OF PARA PICKLEBALL WORLDWIDE

Governance • Rules • Regulations • Classifications • Competition Standards

Founder Author

Raghu Kumar Raghavelu

Published By

International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA)

OPPORTUNITY • INCLUSION • EQUALITY • SPORTS EXCELLENCE

Official Rulebook for all IPPA-Sanctioned Events, Championships, Leagues and all recognised Para Pickleball Tournaments / Competitions Worldwide.

First Edition – 2026

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- Founding the Indian Para Pickleball League and the World League.
- Promoting and encouraging Leadership by People living with Disabilities in Para Pickleball Organisations around the World.
- Organizing international championships and development programs.
- Building pathways for future recognition of Para Pickleball within the global sporting community.

His vision has contributed significantly to the advancement of Para Pickleball as an internationally governed sport. One of the principles strongly advocated by Raghu Kumar Raghavelu throughout the development of Para Pickleball has been the concept of "**Leadership Positions by the People with Disabilities.**" He has consistently promoted the inclusion of persons with disabilities in leadership, governance, and decision-making positions within Para Pickleball organizations. While this approach has not always been universally accepted and has faced resistance from many individuals and groups around the World, he has remained steadfast in his belief that persons living with disabilities should have a meaningful voice in shaping the future of the para sports. His vision is that Para Pickleball organizations should not only serve persons with disabilities but should also help people with disabilities to lead and take control wherever possible. This philosophy has contributed to the empowerment of para-athletes, the development of disability-led leadership, and the creation of a more inclusive and representative structure for the Worldwide Para Pickleball movement.

1.6 Growth Across the World

Today, the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) is working tirelessly to establish and strengthen National Governing Bodies for Para Pickleball across the world with a focus on encouraging people with disabilities to take leadership positions in the Organisations. Through the development of national federations, IPPA Academies and officiating programs, classification systems, and sanctioned competitions, the IPPA is laying the foundation for a sustainable international sport structure. These efforts are aimed at increasing global participation, enhancing competitive standards, and ensuring that Para Pickleball is represented across multiple countries and regions. By building a strong network of recognized national organizations and expanding the sport's international footprint, the IPPA is positioning Para Pickleball as a serious contender for

This movement ultimately led to the formation of the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) in 2022, dedicated to promoting, regulating, and developing Para Pickleball throughout the world. The IPPA was established with the mission of creating equal opportunities for players with disabilities while fostering international cooperation, player development, and competitive excellence. Through the introduction of standardized classification systems, technical regulations, coaching education, tournament sanctioning, and international championships, the IPPA has become the leading authority for the sport globally.

1.5 The Contribution of Raghu Kumar Raghavelu

A significant milestone in the modern development and international promotion of Para Pickleball has been the work of Raghu Kumar Raghavelu, Founder and Secretary General of the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA).

Recognizing the need for a dedicated global platform for para pickleball players with disabilities, Raghu Kumar Raghavelu worked extensively to establish an organized international structure capable of supporting the growth of Para Pickleball across continents.

Under his leadership, efforts have focused on:

- Expanding Para Pickleball Internationally.
- Establishing national and regional representation.
- Developing classification systems for multiple disability categories.
- Creating standardized competition rules for various Categories.
- Introducing to the World, Dwarf & Standing Para Pickleball.
- Founder of Intellectual Disabilities & Cerebral Palsy Para Pickleball.
- Introducing to the Para Pickleball Classification System and IPPR or IPPA WORLD RANKING SYSTEM.
- Founder of Wheelchair Pickleball Federation of India.
- Founder of Para Pickleball Federation of India.
- Founder of International Para Pickleball Association.

DEDICATION

This book is lovingly and respectfully dedicated to all my brothers and sisters living with disabilities across the world. Indeed, as they are proudly known in the United Arab Emirates, as **"People of Determination."** Yes! they are and it is not merely a description; but a recognition of the extraordinary courage, resilience, perseverance, and strength of character demonstrated by many para-athletes every day. Your courage in the face of adversity, your resilience in overcoming barriers, and your determination to pursue your dreams continue to inspire humanity every day. You have taught the world that true strength is not measured by physical ability, but by the power of the human spirit.

I also dedicate this work to every parent, caregiver, family member, volunteer, coach, classifier, medical professional, administrator, advocate, sponsor, and supporter who has devoted their time, energy, and compassion toward the empowerment, inclusion, dignity, and advancement of persons with disabilities. Your contributions, whether seen or unseen, have transformed lives and created opportunities.

Para Pickleball is more than a sport. It is a movement of hope, equality, opportunity, and empowerment. It is a platform through which individuals discover confidence, independence, friendship, purpose and economic freedom. Every player who steps onto a para pickleball court becomes a symbol of possibility and a reminder that limitations do not define potential.

As Founder of the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA), I am humbled by the courage, passion, and perseverance of para pickleball players and para-athletes around the world. This book stands as a tribute to your journey, your achievements, and your unwavering belief that every person deserves the opportunity to participate, compete, and excel. May this publication serve not only as a book of rules but also as a beacon of inspiration for future generations, encouraging a world where inclusion is embraced, barriers are removed, and every individual is empowered to reach their fullest potential.

With profound respect, gratitude, and dedication,

Raghu Kumar Raghavelu

Author – IPPA Book of Rules

Founder International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA)

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) on the publication of the IPPA - Para Pickleball Book of Rules.

Sport has a unique ability to unite people, inspire communities, and transform lives. Across the world, we continue to witness the extraordinary impact that accessible and inclusive sporting opportunities can have on individuals, families, and communities. The development of Para Pickleball represents an important step forward in expanding opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in meaningful and competitive sport. The efforts of the International Para Pickleball Association in establishing standards, promoting fair competition, and creating pathways for para pickleball players of all abilities deserve recognition and appreciation.

This rulebook is more than a technical document. It reflects a commitment to integrity, inclusion, accessibility, and excellence. It provides a framework that supports para pickleball player development while ensuring that the values of fairness, respect, and equal opportunity remain at the heart of the sport.

I warmly commend the outstanding leadership and visionary commitment of Mr. Raghu Kumar Raghavelu, Founder of the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) and author of this landmark publication; developing a standardized framework that will guide the sport's growth for years to come. I extend my best wishes to the International Para Pickleball Association, its member organizations, players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and supporters around the world.

Together, through sport, we can continue to break barriers, create opportunities, and empower people of all abilities to achieve excellence.

With best wishes,

M. Mahadeva

Founder, Paralympic Committee of India
Retired International Para Athlete and the
Recipient of National Honours Arjuna Award

The classification system established clear eligibility criteria, sport classes, and competition categories for Para Pickleball Players with various physical and intellectual impairments. As Para Pickleball continued to expand internationally, the classification system gained recognition as an essential tool for promoting competitive integrity and athlete inclusion. Following extensive development and international consultation, the Para Pickleball Classification System was formally adopted by the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) in June 2025, becoming the official classification framework for IPPA-sanctioned competitions worldwide. This milestone represented a significant step toward the professionalization and global standardization of Para Pickleball. Raghu Kumar Raghavelu also went on to create the **IPPR or IPPA WORLD RANKING SYSTEM** with three types of IPPA Recognition of Events and Ranking Points, namely 1. Platinum Level Championships 2. Gold Level Championships and 3. Silver Level Championships.

Since then, the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) has been working diligently to advance the global development and recognition of Para Pickleball. Through the establishment of international governance structures, standardized rules, athlete classification systems, coaching and officiating programs, and sanctioned competitions, the IPPA has sought to position Para Pickleball among the world's leading para sports. A key objective of IPPA is to achieve recognition and inclusion within the Paralympic Movement and the international sporting framework of World Abilitysport. By expanding participation across continents, fostering national federations, and promoting competitive opportunities for athletes with disabilities, the IPPA also continues to pursue its vision of making Para Pickleball a globally recognized sport with future pathways toward inclusion in major international multi-sport events, including the Paralympic Games, World Abilitysport competitions, Commonwealth Games and World Masters Sports Championships.

1.4 Development of International Para Pickleball

As participation grew globally, the need for a unified international governing structure became increasingly evident. Raghu Kumar Raghavelu saw that different regions were utilizing varying competition formats, disability categories, and eligibility criteria. To ensure consistency and fairness, he undertook to establish standardized rules and classifications specifically for Para Pickleball.

Kentucky, USA formally adopted wheelchair pickleball in 2015 and when pioneering advocates such as **Michael O'Leary** from Florida, USA actively participated in wheelchair Para Pickleball and promoted Wheelchair Pickleball through social media platforms and public awareness initiatives. His efforts, highlighted through Facebook communities and YouTube media coverage, demonstrated how Pickleball could be adapted to provide competitive sporting opportunities for wheelchair users and individuals with disabilities. Inspired by **Michael O'Leary** and his developments in Wheelchair Para Pickleball, **Raghu Kumar Raghavelu** of India recognized the potential to expand the sport beyond wheelchair participation. In 2019, with support from Khatri Kumar Poudel of Nepal, Raghu Kumar Raghavelu initiated discussions to establish an international framework that would create competitive pathways for athletes with a wider range of disabilities, including amputees, persons with upper and lower-limb impairments, dwarf players, spinal cord injuries and individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Cerebral Palsy. With a vision of building a truly inclusive Para sport, they formed the foundational committee that would later evolve into the **International Para Pickleball Movement**. What began as an ambitious dream in 2019 soon transformed into a global mission to ensure that athletes with disabilities, regardless of their impairment type, could participate, compete, and excel in the sport of Pickleball. Thus, the dream of an inclusive International Para Pickleball System was born in 2019, laying the foundation for the establishment of the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) and the worldwide growth of Para Pickleball.

Another landmark achievement in the evolution of Para Pickleball occurred in 2022 when Raghu Kumar Raghavelu developed and introduced the **Para Pickleball Classification System**. Recognizing the need for a structured and standardized framework to ensure fair and equitable competition among players with diverse disabilities, he designed a comprehensive classification model tailored specifically to the unique demands of Para Pickleball.

1. Dwarf or Short Stature Para Pickleball
2. Standing Para Pickleball
3. Wheelchair Para Pickleball.
4. Intellectual Disabilities Para Pickleball
5. Cerebral Palsy Para Pickleball and

PREFACE

The publication of the **IPPA PARA PICKLEBALL BOOK OF RULES** marks a significant milestone in the history and development of Para Pickleball worldwide. As the official rulebook of the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA), this book has been created to provide a clear, consistent, and comprehensive framework for para pickleball players, officials, classifiers, coaches, tournament organizers, volunteers and IPPA National Governing Bodies across the world.

Para Pickleball is more than a sport. It is a platform for inclusion, empowerment, opportunity, and human achievement. It brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds and abilities, creating an environment where determination, skill, sportsmanship, and perseverance are celebrated. As the sport continues to grow internationally, the need for a clear, consistent, and universally accepted set of rules has become increasingly important. This book establishes the standards that govern competition while recognizing the unique needs and abilities of para pickleball players living with disabilities. This book provides the foundation necessary for the organized growth and development of Para Pickleball across local, national, regional, and international levels.

This publication is intended to be a living document that will continue to evolve alongside Para Pickleball. As Para Pickleball expands into new countries and reaches new communities, International Para Pickleball Association remains committed to reviewing and updating these rules to ensure they reflect best practices, technological advancements, para pickleball players welfare considerations.

Every player who participates in Para Pickleball represents the spirit of determination and serves as an inspiration to others around the world. It is my sincere hope that this book will not only serve as an authoritative reference for competition but also inspire greater participation, broader inclusion, and continued excellence throughout the global Para Pickleball community. Together, let us continue building a future where every person, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to participate, compete, achieve, and excel.

With gratitude and commitment,

Raghu Kumar Raghavelu

Author – IPPA Book of Rules

Founder International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The publication of the IPPA BOOK OF RULES would not have been possible without the encouragement, expertise, dedication, and unwavering support of many individuals who share a common vision of advancing opportunities for persons with disabilities through Para Pickleball.

I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to **Mr. Matt Hannison**, a single-leg amputee Player from Australia who is the present IPPA Representative for Oceania. I acknowledge that I have been motivated by the contributions of **Mr. Michael O'Leary** (USA), a distinguished Wheelchair Para Pickleball player whose passion, commitment, and advocacy for Wheelchair Para Pickleball have contributed significantly to the development and promotion of the sport throughout United States of America and other Countries. My heartfelt appreciation goes to IPPA Representatives **Dr. Mark Fosbrook** (Europe) and **Mr. Son Huynh Cong** (Asia) for their inspirational leadership and dedication to expanding regional opportunities in Para Pickleball. Special thanks also to **Ms. Nhan Le**, a dedicated Dwarf Para Pickleball player from Vietnam, for her vital contributions. I am also grateful to **Mr. Subbarao Suravarapu**, Secretary General of the Para Pickleball Federation of India (PPFI) for his support.

I would like to acknowledge **Mr. Khatri Kumar Poudel**, the Vice President Competition of the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA), for supporting me through his dedication to the development of Dwarf Para Pickleball and Standing Para Pickleball. His encouragement and support have helped me continue to strengthen the sport worldwide.

To these remarkable individuals, and to the many para pickleball players, coaches, officials, classifiers, volunteers, administrators, supporters, and advocates whose names may not appear on these pages, I offer my sincere gratitude. Your contributions, whether large or small, have helped shape the vision, values, and future of Para Pickleball. This book stands as a testament to our collective commitment to inclusion, accessibility, equality, dignity, opportunity, and sporting excellence.

With profound appreciation and gratitude,

Raghu Kumar Raghavelu

Author - IPPA Book of Rules

Founder – International Para Pickleball Association

Para Pickleball is seeing exponential growth globally. The sport continues to push toward broader recognition, with International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) putting great efforts for its inclusion in future Paralympic Games.

1.3 Emergence of Para Pickleball



The growth of para sports and the global movement toward inclusion inspired players, coaches, rehabilitation specialists, and disability advocates to explore how Pickleball could be designed for people living with disabilities.

Because the game requires less court coverage than tennis and can be modified to suit different functional abilities, it quickly proved suitable for wheelchair users. The United States of America was at the fore front promoting Wheelchair Para Pickleball and the US Wheelchair Pickleball Association (USWPA) was founded and hosted its first-ever official national wheelchair Para Pickleball Tournament on November 12–13, 2023, in Grapevine, Texas.

The evolution of Para Pickleball gained significant momentum between 2015 and 2018. Adaptive centres, such as those at the Fort Campbell Military Adaptive Court Sports,

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION TO PARA PICKLEBALL

1.1 Introduction

Para Pickleball is a modified paddle sport that provides athletes with disabilities the opportunity to participate in a dynamic, competitive, and inclusive sporting environment. Derived from the sport of Pickleball, Para Pickleball has evolved to accommodate individuals with physical, intellectual, and developmental impairments while maintaining the essential principles and spirit of the game.

The sport combines elements of tennis, table tennis and badminton and is played on a court similar in size to a badminton court using a perforated plastic ball and solid paddles. Through carefully developed rules, classifications, and competition structures, Para Pickleball enables players with diverse disabilities to compete fairly and safely at recreational, national, continental, and international levels.

Today, the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) is proudly spearheading what has become the fastest-growing para sport on Earth, uniting hearts across every age and ability. More than just a game, Para Pickleball is a lifeline that restores independence, sparks physical renewal, fosters deep community connections, and inspires a profound pursuit of competitive excellence.

1.2 History of Pickleball

To understand the development of Para Pickleball, it is important to recognize the origins of Pickleball itself. Pickleball was created in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, Washington, USA, by three friends Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum. What began as a simple backyard activity quickly developed into a structured sport enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

The sport gained popularity because of its simple rules, smaller court dimensions, and accessibility for players of varying skill levels. Over the following decades, Pickleball expanded throughout North America and later spread across Europe, Asia, Oceania, Africa, and South America. As participation increased worldwide, the sport became recognized not only as a recreational activity but also as a competitive sport capable of accommodating athletes with disabilities.



FRANK HOONING



MATT HANSSON



KUMAR POUDEL



OSEI MENSAH



ANNA GLOTOVA



MARK FOSBROOK

“ Together We Serve. Together We Inspire.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS - CHAPTERS**PART I – GOVERNANCE & GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Chapter 1: Introduction to Para Pickleball.....	1-17
Chapter 2: IPPA Vision, Mission and Objectives.....	18-22
Chapter 3: Definitions and Terminology.....	23-37
Chapter 4: Principles of Fair Play and Sportsmanship.....	37-41
Chapter 5: Players Rights and Responsibilities.....	42-45
Chapter 6: Eligibility and Participation Requirements.....	46-48
Chapter 7: National Federation Membership Requirements..	49-50
Chapter 8: Players Nationality and Representation Rules.....	51-52
Chapter 9: IPPA Code of Ethics and Conduct.....	53-56
Chapter 10: Safeguarding and Players Protection.....	57-59

PART II – COURT, EQUIPMENT & TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Chapter 11: Para Pickleball Court Dimensions and Markings.	60-64
Chapter 12: Net Specifications & Support System.....	65-68
Chapter 13: Competition Venue Requirements.....	69-71
Chapter 14: Play Area Lighting Standards.....	72-75
Chapter 15: Playing Surface Standards.....	76-80
Chapter 16: Pickleball Ball Specifications.....	81-87
Chapter 17: Paddle Specifications and Approval.....	88-94
Chapter 18: Wheelchair Equipment Standards.....	95-102
Chapter 19: Approved Equipment and Assistive Devices.....	103-104
Chapter 20: Player Uniforms and Identification.....	105-109
Chapter 21: Technical Equipment Inspection Procedures.....	110-116

PART III – GAME RULES

Chapter 22: Basic Rules of Play.....	117-120
Chapter 23: Match Formats and Competition Structures.....	121-127
Chapter 24: Scoring System (11-Points)	128-131
Chapter 25: Service Rules and Players Positions.....	132-136
Chapter 26: Court Line Calling & Decisions.....	137-139

Chapter 27: Carry on the Paddle Rule.....	139-139
Chapter 28: Mandatory Bounce Rule.....	140-140
Chapter 29: Additional Bounce Rule.....	140-141
Chapter 30: Receiving and Return of Service.....	141-141
Chapter 31: Rally Situations and Rules.....	142-145
Chapter 32: Non-Volley Zone Rules.....	145-149
Chapter 33: Faults and Violations.....	149-154
Chapter 34: Let, Replay and Dead Ball Situations.....	154-158
Chapter 35: Time-Outs and Medical Time-Outs.....	158-163
Chapter 36: Player Substitutions and Withdrawals.....	163-165
Chapter 37: Match Completion and Results.....	166-169

PART IV – PARA PICKLEBALL CLASSIFICATION

Chapter 38: Introduction to Para Pickleball Classification.....	170-173
Chapter 39: Disability or Impairment Eligibility Criteria.....	173-176
Chapter 40: Dwarf/Short Stature Para Pickleball Classificati.	176-177
Chapter 41: Standing Para Pickleball Classification.....	178-185
Chapter 42: Wheelchair Para Pickleball Classification.....	186-191
Chapter 43: Intellectual Disa.. & Cerebral Palsy Classification	192-199
Chapter 44: Classification Evaluation Procedures.....	200-202
Chapter 45: Classification Protests, Reviews and Appeals.....	203-207

PART VI – COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

Chapter 46: IPPA World Ranking System.....	206-216
Chapter 47: IPPA Competition/Tournament Regulations.....	216-226
Chapter 48: Event Sanctioning and Hosting Requirements.....	226-229
Chapter 49: Clubbing Policy (Merging of Classes/Categories)..	230-233
Chapter 50: Technical Officials, Referees, Classification Panels	234-241
Chapter 51: Anti-Doping Rules and Compliance.....	242-249
Chapter 52: Disciplinary Regulations, Appeals and Amend.....	250-256

The collection of conceptual, social, and practical skills required for everyday living.

Cognitive Processing

The ability to understand, analyse, and respond to information during play.

Decision-Making Ability

The capacity of a para pickleball player to make appropriate tactical and strategic choices during competition.

Intellectual Impairment Classification

The process used to determine eligibility and competition grouping for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Learning Support

Approved assistance or accommodations provided to facilitate understanding of competition procedures.

(B)Cerebral Palsy (CP) Terminology

Cerebral Palsy (CP)

A neurological condition affecting movement, muscle tone, coordination, balance, and posture due to damage to the developing brain.

CP Para Pickleball Player

A para pickleball player diagnosed with cerebral palsy or a comparable neurological condition recognized by the IPPA.

Spasticity

An increase in muscle tone causing stiffness and difficulty in movement.

Ataxia

A neurological condition characterized by impaired balance, coordination, and movement control.

Athetosis

A movement disorder involving involuntary and uncontrolled movements.

Hypertonia

3. FRENCH OPEN : PARA PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

4. THAILAND OPEN : PARA PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

5. MALAYSIAN OPEN : PARA PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

6. AUSTRALIAN OPEN : PARA PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

6. The proposed **IPPA World Ranking Platinum Label Open Para Pickleball Championships** will create a sustainable competitive pathway for para pickleball players to compete regularly at the highest international level while earning prize money, appearance incentives, sponsorship opportunities, and professional recognition. The **IPPA World Ranking Points System** will be the key performance measure, rewarding athletes based on their results across sanctioned tournaments and encouraging consistent participation throughout the international competition calendar. Higher rankings will enhance players' eligibility for elite championships, professional leagues, sponsorships, players development programs, and other career opportunities, thereby contributing to the long-term economic empowerment and professional growth of para pickleball athletes worldwide.
7. The said championships shall adopt a **professional cash prize model**, ensuring that para pickleball players are financially rewarded at every stage of the competition. Prize money shall be distributed from the Winning Champion through the early rounds, enabling a larger number of para pickleball players to earn income from their performances. This model will encourage athletes to compete consistently across the international circuit while recognizing sporting excellence and professionalism. Together with the **IPPA World Ranking Points System**, the cash prize structure will create a sustainable career pathway for para pickleball players, where higher rankings lead to greater earning opportunities, sponsorships, endorsements, invitations to elite tournaments, and participation in professional para pickleball leagues worldwide.

CHAPTER 2: IPPA VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 International Para Pickleball Association

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) is the global governing body dedicated to the development, promotion, regulation, and advancement of Para Pickleball throughout the world. Established to provide leadership, structure, and opportunity for people with disabilities, the IPPA strives to create an inclusive sporting environment where every individual, regardless of physical or intellectual impairment, can participate, compete, and excel.

The IPPA recognizes sport as a powerful tool for empowerment, rehabilitation, social inclusion, and personal achievement. Through the establishment of standardized rules, classification systems, competition pathways, and governance structures, the IPPA seeks to ensure that Para Pickleball is accessible, fair, and sustainable across all continents.

This chapter outlines the Vision, Mission, and Objectives of the International Para Pickleball Association and serves as the foundation upon which all IPPA programs, policies, and activities are built.

2.2 IPPA Vision

Vision Statement: "To establish Para Pickleball as a globally recognized, inclusive, and accessible sport that empowers persons with disabilities to achieve excellence, promote social inclusion, and inspire future generations through participation, competition, and leadership."

The IPPA envisions a world where:

- Every person with a disability has the opportunity to participate in Para Pickleball and its economic development programs that fuel financial independence, vocational growth, and career equity for para pickleball players with disabilities.
- Para Pickleball is recognized and practiced in all regions of the world.
- Para Pickleball Players with disabilities receive equal opportunities for competition and development.
- Communities embrace inclusion through para pickleball sport.
- Persons with disabilities are represented in leadership and decision-making roles.

A condition in which certain body segments are shorter relative to the rest of the body.

E. Functional Reach

The effective distance an athlete can reach while maintaining balance and control during play.

F. Modified Movement Pattern

A movement technique naturally adopted by dwarf para pickleball players with short stature to maximize court coverage and shot execution.

G. Short Stature Category

A competition category designated for eligible athletes with short stature classifications.

H. Adaptive Positioning

The strategic positioning adopted by a para pickleball player to compensate for reduced reach or height.

I. Height-Based Eligibility

The criteria established by the IPPA Classification System to determine participation in Short Stature competition categories.

J. Skeletal Impairment

A permanent impairment affecting bone development, structure, or growth.

3.7 Intellectual Disability (ID) and Cerebral Palsy (CP) Para Pickleball Terminology

(A) Intellectual Disability (ID)

A condition characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour, affecting learning, reasoning, problem-solving, and everyday life skills. It originates during the developmental period and may impact an athlete's ability to process information, make decisions, and apply game strategies.

ID Para Pickleball Player

A Para Pickleball Player who meets the eligibility criteria for Intellectual Disability competition established by the IPPA.

Adaptive Functioning

A reduction in an athlete's ability to maintain stable body positioning during movement or stroke execution.

K. Limb Deficiency

The total or partial absence of bones, joints, or muscles resulting in reduced functional ability.

3.6 Dwarf Para Pickleball Terminology

A. Dwarf Athlete

A Para Pickleball Player with a medically recognized condition resulting in short stature and who meets the eligibility requirements established by the IPPA Classification System.

B. Short Stature

A condition characterized by significantly reduced height caused by skeletal dysplasia or other recognized medical conditions.

The commonly referenced eligibility thresholds for **PP40** are:

Category	Maximum Standing Height	Maximum Arm Length
Male PP40	130 cm	59 cm
Female PP40	125 cm	57 cm

The commonly referenced eligibility thresholds for **F41** are:

Category	Maximum Standing Height	Maximum Arm Length
Male PP41	145 cm	66 cm
Female PP41	137 cm	63 cm

Skeletal Dysplasia

A group of medical conditions affecting bone and cartilage growth, often resulting in short stature and limb differences.

C. Proportionate Short Stature

A condition in which all body parts are reduced in size proportionally.

D. Disproportionate Short Stature

- Para Pickleball becomes a recognized sport within the Paralympic Movement and included in the World AbilitySport.
- To promote Para Pickleball as a vehicle for independence, confidence, and social integration.

2.3 IPPA Mission

Mission Statement: "To develop, govern, promote, and expand Para Pickleball worldwide by creating opportunities for participation, competition, education, and leadership for persons with disabilities while maintaining the highest standards of fairness, integrity, accessibility, and sportsmanship."

1. To develop, maintain, and administer the Official International Book of Rules for Para Pickleball, ensuring consistency, fairness, safety, and competitive integrity across all sanctioned competitions worldwide.
2. To sanction and allocate Para Pickleball events worldwide under a structured points-based system, including Platinum, Gold, and Silver Label tournaments, in order to promote competitive excellence, ensure standardized event quality, and provide athletes with equitable opportunities to earn international ranking points.
3. To establish and develop Para Pickleball Academies in countries across the world, creating sustainable pathways for athlete development, education, and high-performance excellence.
4. To maintain the IPPA World Ranking System as a fair, accurate, transparent, and technically robust method of ranking Para Pickleball players worldwide. By maintaining comprehensive player records and publishing official world rankings once every three months, positioning a system that provides a reliable and credible international benchmark that recognizes consistent performance in sanctioned competitions.

The mission of the IPPA is also achieved through:

a) Development

Promote the global growth of Para Pickleball by introducing the sport to new countries, supporting the establishment of National Governing Bodies, fostering leadership among people living with disabilities, implementing sustainable development programs, and creating structured athlete development pathways.

b) Governance

Ensure the effective and transparent governance of Para Pickleball worldwide by implementing and enforcing uniform international rules, safeguarding the integrity of the sport, administering standardized classification systems, regulating international competitions, and promoting fair and accountable administration.

c) Inclusion

- Promoting equal participation opportunities.
- Encouraging diversity and representation.
- Removing barriers to sport participation.
- Supporting players from underserved communities.

d) Education

- Training coaches, officials, classifiers, and administrators.
- Providing educational resources and certification programs.
- Encouraging research and innovation in adaptive sport.

e) Competition

- Organizing regional, continental, and world championships.
- Organizing the IPPA World League & World Tour
- Establishing ranking systems and qualification pathways.
- Providing safe and equitable competition environments.

2.4 Objectives of the IPPA

The objectives of the International Para Pickleball Association include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Worldwide Development

To promote and expand Para Pickleball throughout the world and encourage participation in all regions and countries.

A Para Pickleball Player who competes in an upright standing position Single Leg Amputee SLA-BK (Below Knee) or Double Leg Amputee (DLA-BK Below Knee) and who is not required to use a wheelchair during play.

B. Lower Limb Amputee Athlete

A Para Pickleball Player with a partial or complete absence of lower limb resulting from congenital limb deficiency, illness, trauma, or surgical amputation.

C. Lower Limb Disability

A Para Pickleball Player with Limb deficiency, Muscle weakness, Joint restriction, Paralysis affecting the lower limbs, Neurological impairments affecting mobility or Orthopaedic conditions affecting walking or movement

D. Prosthesis

An artificial limb or device used to replace a missing body part and approved for competition under IPPA regulations usually used by Amputees.

E. Prosthetic Failure

The malfunction, breakage, or dislodgement of a prosthetic device during play.

F. Residual Limb

The remaining portion of a limb following amputation.

G. Standing Division

A competition category for athletes who compete while standing, including athletes with limb loss, limb deficiencies, and other eligible physical impairments.

H. Mobility Impairment

A physical condition that affects movement, balance, coordination, or functional ability while standing or moving on the court.

I. Assistive Device

An approved aid, brace, orthosis, or prosthetic component used to enhance mobility or stability during competition.

J. Balance Limitation

The transfer of the serve to the opposing side.

K. Volley

The act of the player striking the ball before it bounces on the playing surface or court without entering the non-Volley Zone touching the line.

L. Groundstroke

A shot played after the ball has bounced.

M. Let

A rally or serve replayed without penalty when authorized by the rules.

N. Dead Ball

A ball that is no longer in play and cannot be legally struck to continue a rally.

O. Live Ball

A ball that remains in play.

P. Replay

The restarting of a rally without the referee awarding a point, side out, or fault to either side.

Q. Around the Post

It is a legal and often spectacular shot where a player hits the ball around the outside of the net post, rather than over the net, and the ball lands in the opponent's court.

R. Additional Bounce Rule

The Para Pickleball Players competing in the Wheelchair, Intellectual Disability (ID), Cerebral Palsy (CP) and Dwarf Assisted categories may allow the ball to bounce **twice** before returning it. The first bounce must occur within the court boundaries, while the second bounce may occur either inside or outside the court.

3.5 Standing Para Pickleball Terminology

A. Standing Player

2. Recognition of Para Pickleball

To obtain recognition of Para Pickleball from international sporting organizations and disability sport bodies including the International Paralympic Committee and World AbilitySport.

3. Paralympic Pathway

To work toward the inclusion of Para Pickleball within the Paralympic Movement and future Paralympic Games.

4. Establishment of National Governing Bodies

To encourage and support the creation of National Para Pickleball Federations and Associations in all the Countries of the World.

5. Competition Structure

To establish a structured pathway of competitions at National, Regional and International levels.

6. Para Pickleball Players Development

To provide opportunities for para pickleball players to develop skills, compete internationally, and achieve sporting excellence through the IPPA ACADEMIES.

7. Classification

To create and maintain a fair and evidence-based classification system that ensures equitable competition.

8. Technical Standards

To develop and maintain international standards relating to:

- Rules of Play
- Lighting
- Flooring
- Equipment
- Classification
- Officiating

- Competition Management

9. Education and Certification

To establish certification programs for:

Coaches, Referees, Technical Officials, Classifiers, Tournament Directors and Administrators.

10. Promotion of Leadership

To encourage persons with disabilities to serve as: Presidents, Secretaries, Administrators, Technical Officials, Coaches, Classifiers and Executive Members in their National Governing Bodies.

11. Anti-Doping Compliance

To support clean sport principles and maintain compliance with international anti-doping standards.

12. International Cooperation

To collaborate with governments, corporate, sports organizations, disability groups, educational institutions, and community organizations.

The area surrounding the official Para Pickleball court that remains available for player movement and play. The IPPA requires a minimum unobstructed clearance of 10 feet (3.05 metres) beyond all four sides of the playing court. Given that the official court dimensions are 20 feet x 44 feet (6.10 m x 13.41 m), the recommended minimum Extended Play Area is 7 feet 6 inches on the sides and 10 feet behind the baseline which results in a total playing space of 40 feet x 64 feet (12.19 m x 19.51 m).

3.4 Playing Terminology

A. Serve

The act of initiating a rally by striking the ball into the opponent's service court.

B. Drop Serve

Bouncing the Ball Before Serving (Drop Serve).

C. Server

The player delivering the serve.

D. Receiver

The player designated to receive the serve.

E. Legal Serve

A serve executed in accordance with IPPA serving rules.

F. Service Sequence

The prescribed order in which players serve.

G. Mandatory 2-Bounce Rule

The requirement that the served ball and return of serve each bounce once before volleying is permitted.

H. Rally Scoring

A scoring system in which a point is awarded after every rally.

I. Conditional Scoring

A scoring system in which only the serving side may score points.

J. Side Out

AB. Tournament Director

The person responsible for the overall administration and operation of a tournament.

AC. National Governing Body (NGB)

A National Governing Body is the official national organization recognized by the IPPA to govern, develop, and represent Para Pickleball within a country or territory.

3.3 Court and Playing Area Terminology**A. Centerline**

The line dividing each service court into left and right service areas.

B. Non-Volley Zone (NVZ)

The area extending 7 feet (2.13 m) from each side of the net.

C. Non-Volley Zone Line

The boundary line separating the non-Volley Zone from the remainder of the court.

D. Service Court

The area beyond the non-Volley Zone where serves are delivered and received.

E. Sideline

The boundary line running perpendicular to the net.

F. Net

The barrier extending across the center of the court.

G. Net Post

The structure supporting the net.

H. Permanent Object

Any object located near or around the court that is not part of the playing surface, including walls, fences, lighting systems, wheelchairs not in play, spectators, and equipment.

I. Extended Play Area (EPA)**CHAPTER 3: DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY****3.1 Scope**

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a common understanding of the terms, phrases, abbreviations, and definitions used throughout the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) Book of Rules. These definitions shall apply to all IPPA-sanctioned competitions, tournaments, programs, and activities unless otherwise specified.

Where applicable, terminology used in mainstream pickleball has been modified to meet the unique requirements of Para Pickleball while preserving the integrity, fairness, and spirit of the game.

3.2 General Definitions**A. Athlete / Player / Para Pickleball Player**

A person who participates in Para Pickleball competition and has met the eligibility requirements established by the IPPA.

B. Para Pickleball Equipment

Any approved equipment, nets, paddle, ball, device, prosthesis, orthosis, wheelchair, mobility aid, or assistive technology used by an athlete during competition.

C. Appeal

A formal request submitted to challenge a ruling, decision, classification outcome, or disciplinary action.

D. Assistant

An individual authorized to assist a para pickleball player before, during, or after play in accordance with IPPA regulations.

E. Baseline

The line parallel to the net at the back of each court, forming the boundary of the playing area.

F. Classification

The process by which players are evaluated and assigned to sport classes based on eligible impairments and activity limitations.

G. Classifier

An individual certified by the IPPA to assess and assign sport classes.

H. Court

The designated playing area measuring 20 feet (6.10 m) wide and 44 feet (13.41 m) long.

I. Extended Area of Play

Extra 7 feet 6 inches on the sides and 10 feet behind each baseline expands the total playing footprint to 35 feet wide by 64 feet long.

J. Disability Category

A group of athletes sharing similar eligible impairments as defined by the IPPA Classification System.

K. Singles

A match involving one player on each side of the net.

L. Doubles

A match involving two players on each side of the net.

M. End Change

The exchange of court ends by players during a match as prescribed by tournament regulations.

N. Equipment Inspection

The examination of paddles, net, wheelchairs, prostheses, or other equipment to ensure compliance with IPPA standards.

O. Fault

Any rule violation that results in the loss of a rally or service.

P. Forfeit

The termination of a match resulting in a win being awarded to the opposing side due to non-participation, withdrawal, misconduct, or other reasons recognized by the IPPA.

Q. Match

A contest between two sides consisting of one or more para pickleball games.

R. Medical Timeout

A temporary suspension of play granted for the treatment of a para pickleball players medical condition.

S. Official

A para pickleball referee, tournament director, line judge, classifier, or any person appointed to administer competition.

T. Paddle

The IPPA approved playing equipment used to strike the ball.

U. Para Pickleball

The modified version of pickleball sport governed by the International Para Pickleball Association.

V. Rally

The continuous sequence of play beginning with the serve and ending when a fault occurs.

W. Referee

The official responsible for enforcing the rules during a match.

X. Sanctioned Tournament

A competition officially approved by the IPPA.

Y. Para Pickleball Class

A category assigned to a para pickleball player through classification procedures.

Z. Technical Delegate

An IPPA-appointed official responsible for overseeing the technical conduct of an event.

AA. Timeout

A temporary suspension of play requested by a player, team, or official in accordance with the rules.

All players are expected to participate in good faith, demonstrate sportsmanship, respect officials and opponents, and uphold the integrity of competition. Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage through misrepresentation, fraudulent documentation, intentional classification deception, misconduct, or other unethical behavior may result in disciplinary action, suspension, disqualification, or loss of eligibility.

6.9 Right of Participation

Subject to compliance with all eligibility requirements, the IPPA supports the right of every eligible player to participate in Para Pickleball without discrimination based on disability, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, language, or social background. The IPPA remains committed to fostering an inclusive environment that provides meaningful opportunities for participation, competition, personal development, and sporting excellence for all athletes.

6.10 Concluding Remarks

Eligibility and participation requirements are essential to ensuring fair competition, athlete safety, and the continued growth of Para Pickleball worldwide. By meeting these requirements and respecting the principles of honesty, integrity, and inclusion, athletes contribute to a competitive environment that reflects the highest standards of the International Para Pickleball Association and promotes equal opportunities for all participants.

CHAPTER 7: NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Introduction

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) recognizes National Governing Bodies as the primary governing branches of IPPA responsible for the development, promotion, administration, and regulation of Para Pickleball within their respective countries. National Governing Bodies Membership with IPPA serves as the foundation

Abnormally increased muscle tension that affects movement and posture.

Coordination Impairment

A limitation affecting the smooth and efficient execution of movements.

Neurological Impairment

A condition affecting the nervous system and resulting in reduced physical function.

Functional Mobility

The ability of an athlete to move effectively around the court while maintaining balance and control.

CP Category

A competition category established for para pickleball players with cerebral palsy and related neurological impairments.

3.8 Wheelchair Para Pickleball Terminology

A. Para Pickleball Wheelchair

A wheelchair designed and approved for para pickleball participation by IPPA.

B. Wheelchair Para Pickleball Player

A player who competes while seated in a wheelchair due to an eligible impairment as per IPPA Classification.

C. Additional Bounce Rule

A rule permitting wheelchair athletes to allow the ball to bounce twice before returning it. The second bounce may occur inside or outside the court boundaries.

D. Wheelchair Contact

Any contact between the wheelchair and court surface that is considered movement of the para pickleball player.

E. Wheelchair Footplate

The component of a sports wheelchair supporting the players feet.

F. Chair Control

The ability of a para pickleball to manoeuvre and position the wheelchair safely during play.

3.9 Classification Terminology

A. Eligible Impairment

A physical, visual, intellectual, neurological, or other impairment recognized by the IPPA Classification Code.

B. Classification Panel

A group of certified classifiers appointed to conduct athlete evaluations.

C. Observation Assessment

The evaluation of an athlete during actual competition.

D. Classification Protest

A formal challenge to a sport class assignment.

E. Review Status

A classification status indicating that future reassessment may be required.

F. Confirmed Status

A classification status indicating that no immediate reassessment is anticipated.

G. Clubbing

The process of combining two or more para-pickleball classification categories into a single competition event when the number of entries in individual categories is insufficient to conduct separate events.

3.10 Officiating Terminology

A. Line Call

A decision regarding whether a ball lands in or out of the court.

B. In Ball - Out Ball

A ball that lands on or within the boundary lines is in ball. And A ball landing completely outside the boundary lines is out ball.

Dwarf / Short Stature Classification (PP40, PP41 and PP40-PP41 Assisted): Players with medically recognized short stature who meet the IPPA classification criteria for competition.

Standing Classification (PP42-PP44): Amputees-Players with lower-limb physical impairments who compete while standing.

Wheelchair Classification (PP51-PP57): Players with permanent lower-limb impairments who compete using a sports wheelchair.

Intellectual Disabilities & Cerebral Palsy Classification: Players with intellectual disabilities or cerebral palsy classified according to the severity of functional impairment.

6.5 Registration and Licence Number

All para pickleball players participating in IPPA-sanctioned competitions must complete the required registration procedures and maintain membership status prescribed by the IPPA. The Players Licence Number and Registration information must be accurate, complete, and submitted within the prescribed deadlines. Players are responsible for ensuring that all personal, medical, and competition-related information provided is truthful and current.

6.6 Compliance with Rules and Policies

Participation in IPPA activities is conditional upon compliance with the IPPA Book of Rules, Competition Regulations, Code of Conduct, Safeguarding Policies, Anti-Doping Rules, Classification Regulations, and any additional policies adopted by the IPPA. By entering an IPPA-sanctioned event, athletes acknowledge their responsibility to follow these rules and agree to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values and objectives of the organization.

6.7 Fitness to Participate

Players are responsible for ensuring that they are medically fit and physically capable of participating in competition. The IPPA reserves the right to require medical clearance when necessary to protect athlete welfare and safety. Players must immediately report any medical condition, injury, illness, or circumstance that may significantly affect their ability to compete safely. Athlete health and well-being shall always take precedence over competitive considerations.

6.8 Participation Standards

the appropriate divisions and classifications. These requirements apply to all players participating in IPPA-sanctioned events, tournaments, championships, leagues, and development programs.

6.2 Player Eligibility

To participate in an IPPA-sanctioned competition, a player must satisfy the eligibility criteria established by the IPPA and the relevant competition regulations. Para Pickleball Players must meet the minimum age requirements, comply with registration procedures, and fulfil any classification or disability eligibility requirements applicable to their competition division. Participation may be denied to any individual who fails to satisfy these requirements or who is subject to disciplinary sanctions, suspension, or ineligibility under IPPA regulations. The IPPA **Licence Number** is the player's permanent and unique identification within the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA). It shall be mandatory for all sanctioned competitions and shall be used for player registration, eligibility verification, classification records, tournament results, disciplinary actions, historical records, statistical analysis, and the administration of the IPPA World Ranking System. No player shall be recognized in the official IPPA records without a valid IPPA Licence Number.

6.3 Disability Eligibility

Para Pickleball is intended to provide competitive opportunities for athletes with eligible impairments recognized by the IPPA Classification System. Eligible athletes may include individuals with physical disabilities, limb deficiencies, amputations, lower limb impairments, cerebral palsy, short stature, intellectual disabilities, wheelchair dependency, or other impairments approved by the IPPA. Athletes may be required to provide medical documentation or undergo classification assessments to verify eligibility for Para Pickleball competition. Note: Double Leg Amputees will play in the Wheelchair Division/Classification.

6.4 Classification Requirements

Para Pickleball Players competing in disability-specific divisions must participate in the IPPA Classification Process when required. Classification is conducted to ensure that players compete against others with comparable functional abilities and to promote fairness within competition. Players are expected to cooperate fully with classifiers, provide accurate information, attend scheduled evaluations, and comply with all classification decisions and review procedures established by the IPPA.

C. Hindrance

Any event that interferes with a player's ability to complete a shot.

D. Technical Foul

A penalty imposed for misconduct or rule violations.

E. Code of Conduct

The standards of behaviour expected of participants.

F. Warning - Ejection

An official notice regarding misconduct is warning. Removal of a participant from competition is ejection.

3.11 Medical and Safety Terminology

A. Medical Personnel

Licensed professionals designated to provide medical services during competition.

B. Concussion Protocol

Procedures established to protect athletes suspected of having sustained a concussion.

C. Safeguarding

Measures intended to protect athletes from abuse, harassment, discrimination, exploitation, or neglect.

D. Emergency Action Plan

A documented procedure for responding to emergencies at a competition venue.

3.12 Common Pickleball Terms

A. Ace

A legal serve that is not touched by the receiver and results in an immediate point.

B. Around-the-Post (ATP)

A legal shot that travels outside the net post and lands in the opponent's court.

C. Erne

An advanced shot where a player legally strikes the ball near or outside the non-Volley Zone without violating Non-Volley-Zone rules.

D. Dink - Drive

A soft shot that lands in the opponent's non-Volley Zone is dink. A powerful offensive shot struck with speed and pace is drive.

E. Lob - Overhead Smash

A high-arching shot intended to pass over an opponent is lob. A forceful downward shot played above the player's head is overhead smash.

F. Third Shot Drop

A soft shot played after the return of serve that lands in the opponent's non-Volley Zone.

G. Reset Shot

A controlled shot intended to neutralize an opponent's attack and regain strategic positioning.

H. Stacking

A doubles positioning strategy used to maintain preferred court alignment.

3.13 Interpretation

Where uncertainty exists regarding the meaning of any term contained in this Book of Rules, the interpretation issued by the International Para Pickleball Association shall be final and binding.

Note: Terms not specifically defined in this chapter shall be interpreted according to their ordinary meaning, accepted international sporting practice, and the principles of fairness, safety, inclusion, and competitive integrity promoted by the IPPA.

CHAPTER 4: PRINCIPLES OF FAIR PLAY AND SPORTSMANSHIP

4.1 Introduction

5.5 Responsibility as Ambassadors of the Sport

Every player represents not only themselves but also their club, team, federation, country, and the broader Para Pickleball movement. Whether competing locally or internationally, players should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the sport. Professionalism, courtesy, humility, and respect should guide their actions both on and off the court.

Para Pickleball Players are encouraged to promote the values of Para Pickleball within their communities, inspire others to participate, and serve as role models for future generations. Through their conduct and achievements, players contribute to the growth, reputation, and long-term success of the sport worldwide.

5.6 Conclusion

The rights and responsibilities of players are inseparable elements of a successful sporting environment. Rights ensure that athletes are protected, respected, and provided with fair opportunities to participate, while responsibilities ensure that competition remains ethical, safe, inclusive, and enjoyable for all. By understanding and embracing these principles, players contribute to a culture of excellence, integrity, and mutual respect that strengthens the global Para Pickleball community.

The IPPA believes that athletes are not only competitors but also leaders, ambassadors, and champions of inclusion. Through responsible conduct and respect for the rights of others, every player helps build a sport that empowers individuals, breaks barriers, and inspires communities around the world.

IPPA Player Declaration:

"I will compete with honesty, respect, and integrity; uphold the rules of the game; respect the rights of others; and contribute positively to the growth and spirit of Para Pickleball."

CHAPTER 6: ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Introduction

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) is committed to ensuring that all players participate in competition in a fair, safe, transparent, and inclusive manner. Eligibility and participation requirements are established to protect the integrity of the sport, maintain competitive balance, and ensure that para pickleball players compete in

components of fair play. Athletes must uphold the spirit as well as the letter of the rules and should never seek unfair advantages through unethical conduct.

- D. Athletes have a responsibility to maintain safe conduct on and around the court. They should use approved equipment, follow safety instructions, and avoid reckless behavior that may endanger themselves or others. Players must promptly report any medical concerns, equipment malfunctions, unsafe playing conditions, or incidents that could compromise athlete welfare.
- E. Participants are responsible for maintaining appropriate standards of personal conduct and communication. Offensive language, abusive behavior, discriminatory remarks, harassment, intimidation, threats, or acts of violence are inconsistent with the values of the IPPA and may result in disciplinary action. Athletes should contribute positively to the sporting environment and serve as ambassadors for Para Pickleball.
- F. Players are also responsible for cooperating with classification procedures, eligibility reviews, anti-doping programs, medical evaluations, and competition administration requirements. Athletes must provide accurate information when requested and must not knowingly submit false or misleading documentation related to eligibility, classification, or competition participation.
- G. The protection of the integrity of sport is a shared responsibility. Athletes should report suspected cheating, safeguarding concerns, discrimination, corruption, or misconduct through the appropriate channels established by the IPPA. By speaking up when issues arise, players help preserve trust and confidence in the sport.

5.4 Responsibility Toward Inclusion and Respect

- A. Para Pickleball is built upon the principles of inclusion, accessibility, and equal opportunity. Athletes are expected to support and promote these values by treating all participants with dignity and respect. Differences in disability, culture, language, nationality, age, gender, or ability should be recognized as strengths that enrich the global Para Pickleball community rather than as barriers to participation.
- B. Players should encourage positive interactions, support new participants, and contribute to an atmosphere where everyone feels welcome and valued. Acts of kindness, encouragement, mentorship, and mutual support strengthen the sport and help create lasting friendships across diverse communities and nations.

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) recognizes that the true value of sport extends far beyond winning matches, earning medals, or achieving rankings. At its core, Para Pickleball is a celebration of human potential, determination, inclusion, and mutual respect. Every athlete who steps onto a court becomes an ambassador of the sport and a representative of the values upon which the IPPA is founded. Fair play and sportsmanship are therefore fundamental principles that guide the conduct of athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers, and spectators participating in Para Pickleball activities around the world.

The purpose of these principles is to ensure that competition remains honest, respectful, safe, and enjoyable for all participants. While players are encouraged to strive for excellence and perform to the best of their abilities, success must always be pursued within the framework of integrity, respect, and ethical behavior. The IPPA believes that the spirit of competition is strongest when victories are earned fairly and opponents are treated with dignity and respect.

4.2 Respect for Opponents

Respect for opponents is one of the cornerstones of sportsmanship. Every para pickleball player, regardless of disability, age, gender, nationality, skill level, or competitive standing, deserves to be treated with courtesy and consideration. Competitors should recognize that their opponents have invested significant time, effort, and dedication to participate in the sport. Respect is demonstrated through professional conduct before, during, and after matches, including courteous greetings, fair line calls, and positive interactions on and off the court.

Para Pickleball Players should avoid behavior that seeks to intimidate, insult, humiliate, or distract opponents. Unsporting conduct such as taunting, excessive celebrations intended to demean others, verbal abuse, or deliberate gamesmanship undermines the values of Para Pickleball and may result in disciplinary action. The IPPA encourages players to view opponents not as enemies but as partners in competition who contribute to the growth and enjoyment of the sport.

4.3 Honesty and Integrity

Integrity is the foundation upon which all fair competition is built. Participants must conduct themselves honestly at all times and adhere to both the letter and spirit of the rules. Players are expected to make truthful line calls, accurately report scores, and

refrain from attempting to gain unfair advantages through deception or misrepresentation.

The integrity of Para Pickleball depends upon the trust that exists between competitors, officials, and organizers. When disputes arise, participants should address them respectfully and through appropriate channels rather than engaging in confrontation. Honest conduct strengthens confidence in the sport and ensures that outcomes reflect athletic performance rather than unethical behavior.

4.4 Respect for Officials and Event Personnel

Referees, tournament directors, classifiers, volunteers, and technical officials play an essential role in ensuring the successful conduct of competitions. Their decisions must be respected, even when participants disagree with a ruling. While athletes may seek clarification of a decision through approved procedures, abusive language, aggressive behaviour, or personal attacks directed toward officials are unacceptable.

Officials are expected to perform their duties impartially and professionally, and athletes are encouraged to cooperate fully with their instructions. Mutual respect between participants and officials contributes to a positive competition environment and promotes confidence in the administration of the sport.

4.5 Inclusion and Equality

Para Pickleball is founded upon the principle that sport should be accessible to everyone. The IPPA is committed to creating an environment where individuals of all backgrounds and abilities are welcomed, respected, and valued. Discrimination based on disability, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, language, social status, or any other characteristic has no place in the sport.

Participants are expected to embrace diversity and contribute to a culture of inclusion. The strength of Para Pickleball lies in its ability to bring people together through a shared passion for sport. Every player should have the opportunity to participate without fear of prejudice, exclusion, harassment, or unequal treatment.

4.6 Safety and Athlete Welfare

The safety and well-being of para pickleball players are of paramount importance. Fair play includes taking reasonable measures to protect both oneself and others from unnecessary risk. Participants should compete in a manner that prioritizes safety and

safeguarding measures that protect athletes from physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and discriminatory harm. Every athlete has the right to report concerns without fear of retaliation and to have such concerns addressed through appropriate procedures.

- E. Players have the right to fair classification and eligibility assessment. Classification systems must be administered objectively, consistently, and professionally to ensure that athletes compete against others with comparable levels of functional ability. Players are entitled to receive clear information regarding their classification status and the procedures available for review, protest, or appeal.
- F. Every player has the right to receive fair and impartial officiating. Referees, tournament directors, classifiers, and other officials are expected to perform their duties without bias and in accordance with established rules and procedures. When disputes arise, athletes have the right to seek clarification and utilize the appropriate appeal mechanisms provided by the IPPA.
- G. Athletes also have the right to pursue personal and athletic development. Through training opportunities, coaching programs, educational resources, competitions, and leadership initiatives, players should be encouraged to achieve their full potential both on and off the court. The IPPA believes that sport should empower individuals and create pathways for lifelong participation and personal growth.

5.3 Players' Responsibilities

- A. While players enjoy important rights, they also have significant responsibilities toward the sport, fellow competitors, officials, and the broader Para Pickleball community. Every player is responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with the official IPPA Rules, Regulations, Policies, and Code of Conduct. Ignorance of the rules shall not excuse violations or misconduct.
- B. Players are responsible for demonstrating good sportsmanship at all times. Respectful behavior toward opponents, teammates, officials, volunteers, spectators, and event organizers is expected before, during, and after competition. Players should compete honestly, accept outcomes with dignity, and avoid actions that may bring the sport into disrepute.
- C. Players are expected to compete fairly and refrain from any form of cheating, deception, match manipulation, or deliberate rule violation. Honest line calls, accurate score reporting, and respect for officiating decisions are essential

Pickleball worldwide. Every player, regardless of disability, age, gender, nationality, skill level, or competitive status, is entitled to participate in an environment that promotes fairness, dignity, safety, inclusion, and equal opportunity. At the same time, athletes are expected to uphold the values, rules, and standards of conduct that ensure the integrity and positive development of the sport.

This chapter outlines the fundamental rights and responsibilities of all athletes participating in IPPA-sanctioned activities. These principles are intended to protect athletes, promote ethical competition, and encourage mutual respect among all members of the Para Pickleball community. Understanding and fulfilling these rights and responsibilities is essential for maintaining a fair, safe, and enjoyable sporting environment for everyone involved.

5.2 Players' Rights

- A. Every athlete participating in Para Pickleball has the right to be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect. No player shall be subjected to discrimination, harassment, abuse, intimidation, or unequal treatment on the basis of disability, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, language, social status, or any other personal characteristic. The IPPA is committed to fostering an inclusive sporting environment where all athletes can participate confidently and without fear of prejudice or exclusion.
- B. Players have the right to compete under a transparent and consistently applied set of rules. All athletes should have access to the official IPPA Book of Rules and should be informed of competition regulations, classification procedures, eligibility requirements, and tournament policies that affect their participation. Consistent application of the rules helps ensure fairness and protects the integrity of competition.
- C. Athletes have the right to safe and accessible playing conditions. Competition venues should be designed and maintained to accommodate the needs of Para Pickleball participants, including wheelchair users, athletes with limb deficiencies, athletes with cerebral palsy, athletes with intellectual disabilities, and athletes with short stature. Reasonable accommodations should be provided whenever possible to support meaningful participation while maintaining competitive fairness.
- D. Players also have the right to participate in competitions free from abuse, bullying, harassment, exploitation, or any form of misconduct. The IPPA supports

should avoid reckless actions that could result in injury to opponents, partners, officials, or spectators.

Players are encouraged to report unsafe conditions, equipment defects, or medical concerns promptly. Coaches, officials, and event organizers share a responsibility to create and maintain a safe competition environment. Respect for player welfare extends beyond physical safety and includes emotional well-being, safeguarding, and protection from abuse or exploitation.

4.7 Playing Within the Spirit of the Rules

While rules provide a framework for competition, sportsmanship requires participants to honour the spirit as well as the letter of those rules. Actions that technically comply with the rules but violate principles of fairness or ethical conduct are inconsistent with the values of the IPPA. Athletes should strive to compete honourably and avoid exploiting loopholes, ambiguities, or procedural technicalities for unfair advantage.

The spirit of the game emphasizes respect, honesty, inclusion, and fair competition. Participants who consistently demonstrate these values contribute to a positive sporting culture and serve as role models for future generations of athletes.

4.8 Responsibility of Coaches and Support Personnel

Coaches, team managers, assistants, family members, and support personnel have a significant influence on athlete behaviour. They are expected to promote positive values, encourage ethical conduct, and foster respect for opponents and officials. Their actions should reflect professionalism and support the educational and developmental goals of sport.

Support personnel must never encourage cheating, unsporting behaviour, or disrespectful conduct. Instead, they should help athletes understand that character and integrity are as important as competitive success. By setting a positive example, coaches and support personnel help build a strong and sustainable Para Pickleball community.

4.9 Dignity in Victory and Defeat

Winning and losing are natural outcomes of competitive sport, and every athlete is expected to display respect, humility, and integrity regardless of the result. Victory should be celebrated with modesty and appreciation for the efforts of all competitors, while avoiding excessive celebrations, taunting, provocative gestures, or conduct

intended to ridicule or humiliate opponents. True champions are recognized not only by their achievements but also by the dignity, respect, and sportsmanship they demonstrate on and off the court.

Similarly, athletes who experience defeat should accept the outcome with composure, congratulate their opponents, and use the experience as an opportunity for learning and improvement. Every match provides valuable lessons that contribute to personal growth, technical development, and mental resilience. The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) believes that an athlete's character, respect for fellow competitors, officials, and spectators, and adherence to the principles of fair play leave a far greater and more enduring legacy than the final score. Sportsmanship remains one of the highest values of para pickleball and shall be upheld at all times.

Respect the Result: Players shall respect the final outcome of every match, recognizing that both victory and defeat are earned through fair competition. The result should be accepted without argument, hostility, or unsporting conduct.

Character Above Competition: A player's reputation is built not only by winning matches but by demonstrating honesty, self-control, courtesy, and respect towards opponents, officials, volunteers, and spectators throughout the competition.

Every Match is a Lesson: Each competition provides an opportunity to improve technical skills, mental resilience, and sportsmanship. Athletes are encouraged to view both success and setbacks as valuable experiences that contribute to their long-term development and excellence in para pickleball.

4.10 Building the Future of Para Pickleball

Every participant has a responsibility to contribute to the growth and reputation of Para Pickleball. Through fair play, respect, inclusion, and ethical conduct, athletes and stakeholders help create an environment in which the sport can flourish. The values demonstrated on the court influence public perception, inspire future participants, and strengthen the global Para Pickleball movement.

The IPPA believes that true champions are not defined solely by medals or titles but by their commitment to integrity, respect, and service to the sport. By embracing the principles of fair play and sportsmanship, all members of the Para Pickleball community contribute to a legacy that extends beyond competition and promotes the highest ideals of human achievement.

4.11 IPPA Fair Play Declaration

The International Para Pickleball Association affirms that fair play and sportsmanship shall remain fundamental principles of all IPPA-sanctioned activities. Every participant is expected to compete with honesty, respect, dignity, and integrity, recognizing that the ultimate purpose of sport is not merely to determine a winner but to foster inclusion, friendship, personal development, and excellence.

Play Fair, Always: Every participant shall compete honestly, ethically, and in full compliance with the IPPA Rules and Regulations.

Respect Everyone: Players, officials, volunteers, and spectators shall be treated with dignity, courtesy, equality, and mutual respect at all times.

Integrity Defines Champions: True success in para pickleball is measured not only by victories but also by integrity, sportsmanship, inclusion, and respect for the spirit of the game.

"Play Fair, Respect All, Compete with Honor, and Inspire Through Example." – IPPA Fair Play Motto.

CHAPTER 5: PLAYERS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Introduction

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) recognizes para pickleball players as the heart of the sport and the driving force behind the growth and success of Para



STANDING WORLD RANKING

RANKED. RECOGNISED. RESPECTED.

A GLOBAL RANKING SYSTEM
FOR STANDING PARA PICKLEBALL PLAYERS



GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Compete globally.
Be seen. Be ranked.



EARN POINTS CLIMB HIGHER

Perform. Earn points.
Improve your rank.



FAIR & TRANSPARENT

Performance based.
Merit driven.
Equal opportunity.



INSPIRE THE WORLD

Lead the way.
Inspire millions.

for the global growth of para pickleball and enables effective cooperation between the IPPA and its member organizations. To ensure consistency, transparency, and good governance, all National Governing Bodies seeking membership must satisfy the requirements established by the IPPA.

7.2 Membership Eligibility

Any legally established national organization dedicated to the promotion and development of Para Pickleball may apply for membership with the IPPA. The applicant organization must demonstrate a commitment to the principles of inclusion, fairness, athlete welfare, good governance, and compliance with the IPPA Constitution, Rules, Regulations, and Policies.

7.3 Membership Responsibilities

National Governing Bodies are responsible for developing Para Pickleball within their country, organizing competitions and development programs, supporting athletes, coaches, and officials, and ensuring compliance with IPPA standards. Member Federations shall promote fair play, safeguarding, accessibility, anti-doping compliance, and equal opportunities for all participants.

7.4 Recognition and Good Standing

To maintain membership in good standing, National Federations must remain active, submit required reports and information when requested, maintain accurate organizational records, and comply with all obligations established by the IPPA. Failure to meet membership requirements may result in suspension, disciplinary action, or termination of membership.

7.5 Statement of Commitment

The IPPA values strong and effective National Federations as essential partners in the worldwide advancement of Para Pickleball. Through collaboration, responsible governance, and a shared commitment to inclusion and excellence, National Federations play a vital role in creating opportunities for athletes with disabilities and strengthening the global Para Pickleball movement.

7.6 Associate Membership

Associate Membership may be granted to a National Para Pickleball organization that is in the process of developing the sport within its country and has not yet fulfilled all

requirements for Permanent Membership. Associate Members are recognized by the IPPA and may participate in IPPA meetings, development programs, educational activities, and sanctioned events as permitted by the IPPA. Associate Membership serves as a pathway toward achieving Permanent Membership status. Associate Members shall comply with the IPPA Constitution, Rules, Regulations, and Policies but may have limited voting and governance rights as determined by the IPPA.

Permanent Membership

Permanent Membership may be granted to a National Para Pickleball Governing Body which have served their Country for 8 years or more as Associate Members of IPPA and who has satisfied all membership requirements established by the IPPA and has demonstrated active governance, development, and promotion of Para Pickleball within its country. Permanent Members enjoy full recognition by the IPPA and are entitled to participate in the governance, decision-making, elections, and activities of the Association in accordance with the IPPA Constitution. Permanent Members shall maintain good standing through continued compliance with IPPA requirements and shall actively contribute to the growth and advancement of Para Pickleball nationally and internationally.

Pathway from Associate to Permanent Membership

An Associate Member that has remained in good standing with the IPPA for eight (8) consecutive years or more may apply for Permanent Membership, subject to approval by the IPPA.

CHAPTER 8. PLAYERS' NATIONALITY AND REPRESENTATION RULES

8.1 Introduction

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) recognizes the importance of nationality and national representation in international para pickleball competition. These rules are designed to ensure fairness, transparency, and consistency in determining the country or territory that an athlete is eligible to represent in IPPA-

wheelchair-accessible entrances, ramps, changing facilities, restrooms, spectator areas, and emergency exits. Tournament organizers should ensure that players can access courts and related facilities independently and with dignity whenever possible.

11.10 Court Marking Specifications

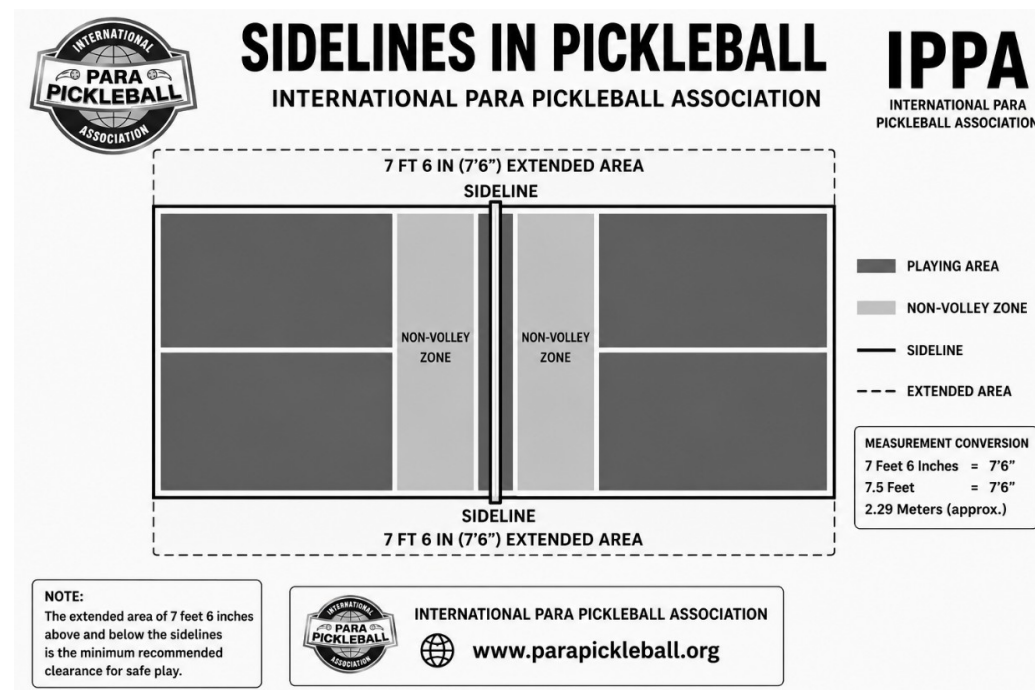
All court lines should be clearly painted or marked using a contrasting colour that is easily visible to players and officials. Recommended line width shall be **2 inches (5.08 cm)**. The markings must remain consistent throughout the event and should be inspected regularly to ensure accuracy and visibility. Temporary markings used during tournaments must meet the same standards as permanent markings.

11.11 Authority and Compliance

All courts used in IPPA-sanctioned tournaments, championships, and official competitions shall comply with the court dimensions and marking requirements established in this Rule Book. Tournament Directors, Referees, and Technical Delegates have the authority to inspect courts and require corrective measures before competition begins. Failure to comply with these specifications may result in the court being deemed unsuitable for official play.

11.12 Principle of Uniformity

Uniform court dimensions and markings are essential to ensuring consistency, fairness, and integrity across all levels of Para Pickleball competition. Regardless of the country, venue, or competition level, para pickleball players should be able to compete on courts that meet recognized international standards. The IPPA shall continue to review and update court specifications as necessary to support the growth, accessibility, and development of Para Pickleball worldwide.



11.7 Extended Area / Clearances and Safety Zones

To ensure player safety and unrestricted movement, a minimum unobstructed extended area should surround the court. For IPPA-sanctioned events, a recommended clearance of at least **10 feet** behind the baseline and **7 feet 6 inches** from the side lines of the Para Pickleball Court must be provided. Larger clearances are encouraged for Stadium Matches, particularly for amputees and wheelchair players who require additional manoeuvring space. All surrounding areas must be free from obstacles, equipment, spectators, and hazards.

11.8 Court Surface Requirements

Para Pickleball may be played on indoor or outdoor courts constructed from approved materials such as acrylic-coated concrete, asphalt, synthetic sports flooring, or other IPPA-approved surfaces. The playing surface should provide adequate traction while allowing smooth grip and movement where applicable. Uneven surfaces, excessive cracks, standing water, or other conditions that may compromise safety shall render the court unsuitable for competition.

11.9 Accessibility Considerations

The IPPA encourages all venues hosting Para Pickleball events to adopt accessibility standards that accommodate athletes with disabilities. These standards may include

sanctioned events. The objective is to protect the integrity of international competition while providing para pickleball players with clear guidelines regarding eligibility and representation.

8.2 National Representation

A para pickleball player may represent only one country or territory in IPPA-sanctioned international competitions at any given time. Representation shall be based on the athlete's nationality, citizenship, legal status, or other criteria recognized by the IPPA and the athlete's National Governing Body (NGB). Athletes must comply with all applicable eligibility requirements before representing a country in international competition.

8.3 Eligibility to Represent a Country

To represent a country or territory, an athlete must be recognized by the National Governing Body affiliated with the IPPA and must provide any documentation required to verify nationality, citizenship, residency, or eligibility status. The IPPA may request additional evidence whenever necessary to confirm an athlete's right to represent a particular nation in competition. However, in a Country where there is no IPPA Branch or National Governing Body, the para pickleball players may send their entry directly to IPPA.

8.4 Change of Representation

An athlete who has previously represented one country in an IPPA-sanctioned international competition and subsequently becomes eligible to represent another country may apply for a change of representation. Such requests shall be submitted in writing and supported by appropriate documentation. The IPPA shall determine the eligibility of the athlete in accordance with its regulations and may impose waiting periods or additional conditions where necessary to protect the integrity of international competition.

8.5 Responsibility of Players and National Federations

Para Pickleball Players and National Governing Bodies share responsibility for ensuring that representation information is accurate, truthful, and up to date. Any attempt to misrepresent nationality, citizenship, residency, or eligibility status may result in disciplinary action, suspension, disqualification, forfeiture of results, or other sanctions deemed appropriate by the IPPA.

8.6 Participation in International Events

Para Pickleball Players selected to represent their country are expected to uphold the values of sportsmanship, integrity, respect, and professionalism. When competing internationally, players serve as ambassadors for their nation, their National Governing Body, and the global Para Pickleball community. Their conduct both on and off the court should reflect the highest standards of the sport.

8.7 Statement of Commitment

The IPPA is committed to maintaining a fair and transparent system of athlete representation that respects national identity while safeguarding the integrity of international competition through clear nationality and representation rules.

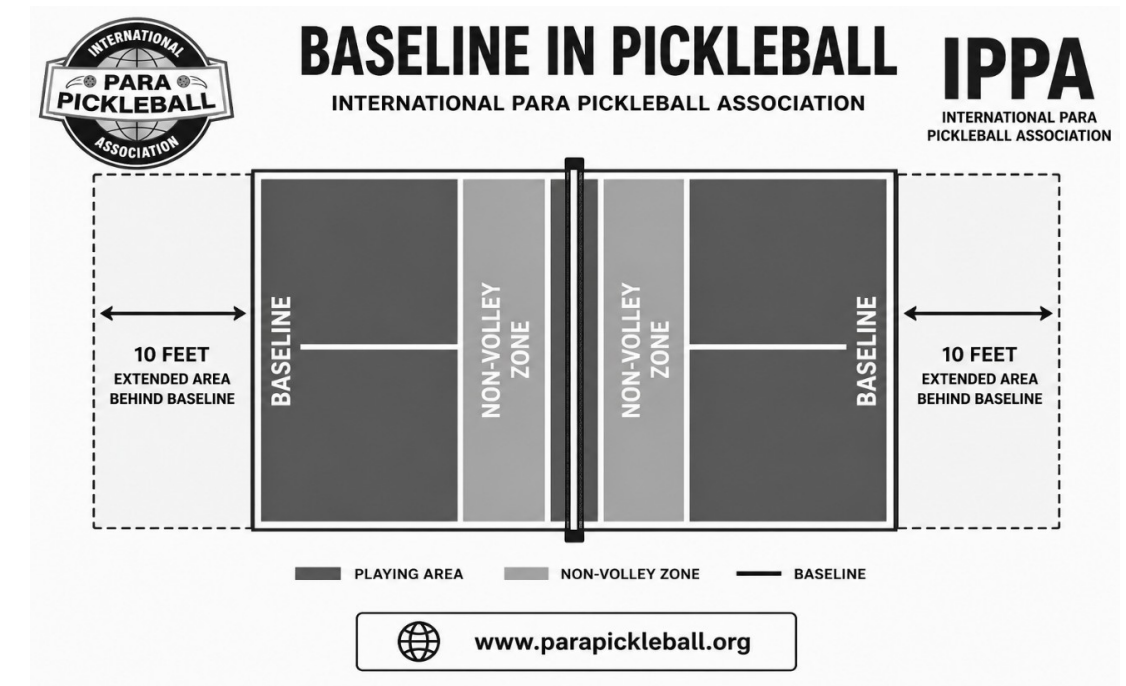
CHAPTER 9: IPPA CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

9.1 Introduction

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) is committed to promoting the highest standards of integrity, fairness, respect, and professionalism in all aspects of Para Pickleball. The Code of Ethics and Conduct establish the principles and behavioural standards expected of players, coaches, officials, classifiers, administrators, volunteers,

11.4 Baselines and Sidelines

The **baselines** are the lines running parallel to the net at each end of the court and mark the rear boundary of the playing area. Each baseline measures 20 feet (6.10 meters) in length. The **sidelines** run perpendicular to the net and define the lateral boundaries of the court. Each sideline measures 44 feet (13.41 meters) in length. A ball contacting any portion of a baseline or sideline shall be considered in play.



11.5 Centerline and Service Courts

A Centerline extends from the non-volley zone line to the baseline on each side of the court, dividing the playing area into right and left service courts. The service courts are used during serving and receiving and are essential for determining proper service placement. The Centerline shall be clearly marked and extend through the service area without interruption.

11.6 Non-Volley Zone (NVZ)

The Non-Volley Zone (NVZ), is a rectangular area extending **7 feet (2.13 meters)** from the net on each side of the court. The NVZ spans the entire width of the court and is bounded by the non-volley zone line. Players are prohibited from volleying the ball while standing within the NVZ or touching the NVZ line during a volley. The NVZ plays a critical role in promoting strategy, control, and fairness in the game.

preserving the fundamental principles of pickleball. Unless otherwise specified by the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA), the dimensions of a Para Pickleball court shall be consistent with the standard pickleball court used worldwide. Court markings must be clearly visible, accurately measured, and maintained to ensure fair competition and player safety. All IPPA-sanctioned competitions shall utilize courts that comply with the specifications outlined in this chapter.

National Governing Bodies, and all individuals participating in IPPA-sanctioned activities. The purpose of this Code is to protect the reputation of the sport, ensure fair competition, promote inclusion, and foster a safe and respectful environment for all participants.

9.2 Fundamental Principles

All members of the IPPA community shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the principles of honesty, integrity, accountability, transparency, fairness, respect, and good sportsmanship. Every participant has a responsibility to uphold the values of the sport and to contribute positively to the development and reputation of Para Pickleball at the local, national, and international levels.

9.3 Respect and Dignity

All participants shall treat others with dignity, courtesy, and respect at all times. Discrimination, harassment, bullying, intimidation, abuse, victimization, or any form of disrespectful conduct based on disability, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, language, social status, or any other personal characteristic is strictly prohibited. The IPPA is committed to fostering an environment where all individuals are valued, included, and treated fairly.

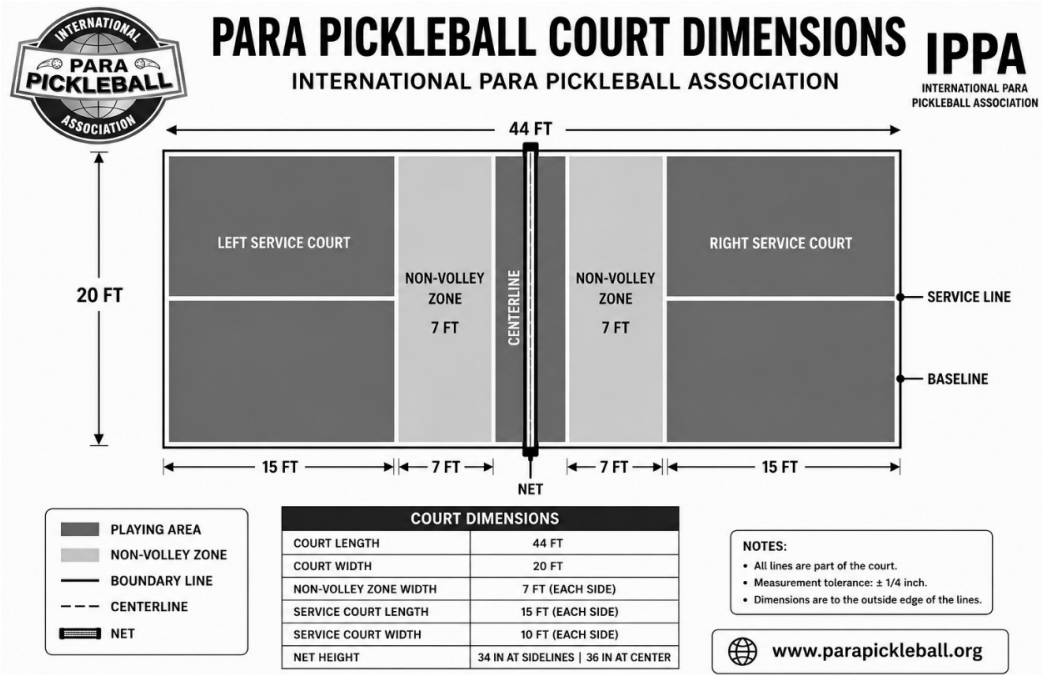
9.4 Integrity and Honest Conduct

Participants shall act honestly and ethically in all matters relating to the sport. Cheating, fraud, deception, falsification of records, intentional misrepresentation, classification manipulation, match-fixing, corruption, or any attempt to gain an unfair advantage is prohibited. All decisions and actions should be guided by the principles of fairness and integrity.

9.5 Sportsmanship and Fair Play

Athletes and participants shall compete and conduct themselves in the spirit of fair play. Respect for opponents, teammates, officials, and spectators is essential to maintaining the integrity of competition. Unsporting behaviour, including abusive language, taunting, deliberate distraction, excessive misconduct, or actions intended to bring the sport into disrepute, shall not be tolerated.

9.6 Compliance with Rules and Regulations



11.2 Standard Court Dimensions

A Para Pickleball court shall be rectangular in shape and measure 20 feet (6.10 meters) in width and 44 feet (13.41 meters) in length. These dimensions apply to both singles and doubles competition. The court is divided equally into two playing areas by a net positioned at the center of the court. The playing surface should be level, non-slip, and free from hazards that may interfere with player movement, wheelchair mobility, or the safe conduct of play.

11.3 Court Layout

The court is divided into several distinct areas marked by boundary lines and service lines. These include the baseline, sidelines, Centerline, service courts, and non-volley zone. Together, these markings establish the areas from which players serve, receive serves, and engage in rallies. All court lines form part of the area they define and should be clearly distinguishable from the playing surface.

All participants are required to comply with the IPPA Constitution, Book of Rules, Competition Regulations, Classification Rules, Safeguarding Policies, Anti-Doping Rules, and any other regulations adopted by the IPPA. Ignorance of the rules shall not excuse violations or misconduct.

9.7 Safeguarding and Athlete Welfare

The welfare and protection of athletes are of paramount importance. All participants must contribute to a safe sporting environment free from physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, or discriminatory abuse. Any form of exploitation, neglect, harassment, or misconduct that threatens athlete welfare is strictly prohibited and may result in severe disciplinary action.

9.8 Conflict of Interest

Individuals serving in official capacities shall avoid situations in which personal, financial, political, or professional interests conflict with their responsibilities to the IPPA. Any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must be disclosed promptly and managed in a transparent and ethical manner.

9.9 Confidentiality

Participants entrusted with confidential information through their involvement with the IPPA shall protect such information and shall not disclose it without proper authorization, except where required by law or official procedure. Confidential information includes personal data, medical information, classification records, disciplinary matters, and other sensitive information.

9.10 Equality, Inclusion and Accessibility

The IPPA promotes equal opportunity and accessibility for all participants. Every individual shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in Para Pickleball without discrimination or unnecessary barriers. Members of the IPPA community are expected to actively support diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and disability-led leadership throughout the sport.

9.11 Professional Conduct

Participants shall conduct themselves professionally during all IPPA-related activities. Courtesy, cooperation, punctuality, responsibility, and respect for organizational

vigilance, the Para Pickleball community can ensure that the sport remains a positive and inspiring experience for all.

- **Player Safety**
- **Mutual Respect**
- **Inclusive Environment**
- **Collective Responsibility**
- **Ethical Conduct**

CHAPTER 11: PARA PICKLEBALL COURT DIMENSIONS AND MARKINGS

11.0 SPECIAL COURT MEASUREMENT RULE (SINGLES MATCHES):

For Wheelchair Pickleball Players in Classes PP51-PP53 Singles Matches, Intellectual Disability Class PP20-A Singles Matches, Standing- Amputees PP42 & SLA-AK & DLA-AK Singles Matches and Cerebral Palsy Para Pickleball PP1 to PP8, Singles matches shall be played on one-half of the standard pickleball court.

The playing area for the above Categories Singles Matches shall measure 10 feet (3.05 m) in width × 44 feet (13.41 m) in length, with the net extending across the 10-foot (3.05 m) width. The 7-foot (2.13 m) Non-Volley Zone (NVZ/Kitchen) shall be maintained from the net along the full length-width of the half-court.

PARA PICKLEBALL COURT DIMENSIONS AND MARKINGS

11.1 Introduction

The Para Pickleball court is designed to provide a safe, fair, and accessible playing environment for players with various physical and intellectual disabilities while

10.5 Protection of Vulnerable Participants

Special consideration shall be given to the protection of children, young athletes, and vulnerable adults participating in Para Pickleball. Coaches, officials, volunteers, and support personnel must exercise a duty of care at all times and ensure that interactions with vulnerable participants remain professional, appropriate, and transparent. The IPPA encourages the presence of guardians, chaperones, or designated safeguarding officers when working with minors or individuals requiring additional support. The welfare of the athlete shall always take precedence over competitive success.

10.6 Reporting and Response Procedures

Any individual who witnesses, experiences, or becomes aware of safeguarding concerns is encouraged to report the matter promptly to the designated Safeguarding Officer, Tournament Director, National Governing Body, or the IPPA Safeguarding Committee. Reports may be made confidentially and without fear of victimization or retaliation. Upon receiving a report, the relevant authority shall conduct a fair, impartial, and timely assessment of the matter while protecting the rights and privacy of all parties involved. Immediate action may be taken where necessary to ensure the safety of participants.

10.7 Education and Awareness

The IPPA promotes ongoing safeguarding education and awareness among players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, and administrators. Training programs may include recognizing signs of abuse, understanding safeguarding responsibilities, maintaining appropriate professional boundaries, reporting procedures, disability awareness, and promoting respectful conduct. Through education and continuous improvement, the IPPA seeks to build a culture where safeguarding is understood, valued, and actively practiced by all members of the Para Pickleball community.

10.8 Commitment to Safe Sport

The International Para Pickleball Association believes that sport should empower individuals, enhance confidence, promote inclusion, and contribute positively to personal development. Safeguarding and player protection is therefore integral components of every IPPA competition, training session, development program, and organizational activity. All members are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct and to actively contribute to creating an environment where every participant feels safe, respected, protected, and valued. Through collective responsibility and

procedures are expected at all times. Individuals representing the IPPA should act in a manner that reflects positively on the organization and the sport.

9.12 Social Media and Public Communications

Participants shall use social media and public communication platforms responsibly and respectfully. False statements, defamatory comments, abusive content, discriminatory remarks, harassment, or conduct that damages the reputation of the IPPA, its members, or the sport may constitute a breach of this Code. Participants should communicate in a manner consistent with the values of respect, integrity, and professionalism.

9.13 Anti-Doping and Clean Sport

The IPPA fully supports the principles of clean sport and fair competition. Athletes and support personnel must comply with all applicable anti-doping rules and regulations. The use, possession, administration, trafficking, or encouragement of prohibited substances or methods is strictly prohibited and may result in sanctions under applicable anti-doping regulations.

9.14 Responsibility to Report Misconduct

All participants have a responsibility to report suspected violations of this Code, safeguarding concerns, discrimination, corruption, abuse, cheating, or other misconduct through the appropriate reporting channels. Individuals who report concerns in good faith shall be protected from retaliation to the fullest extent possible.

9.15 Disciplinary Action

Any violation of the IPPA Code of Ethics and Conduct may result in disciplinary action. Sanctions may include warnings, reprimands, fines, suspension, removal from office, disqualification, loss of eligibility, termination of membership, or any other measures deemed appropriate by the IPPA. Disciplinary procedures shall be conducted fairly, impartially, and in accordance with established regulations.

9.16 Ethical Leadership

The IPPA strongly supports the principle of Disability-Led Leadership and encourages persons with disabilities to participate in leadership, governance, administration, officiating, coaching, and decision-making roles within the sport. Leaders are expected to act as role models and uphold the highest ethical standards in carrying out their responsibilities.

1. **Leadership**
2. **Inclusion**
3. **Integrity**
4. **Empowerment**

9.17 Statement of Commitment

The IPPA Code of Ethics and Conduct reflects the values and principles upon which the sport of Para Pickleball is built. Every participant shares responsibility for maintaining a culture of integrity, respect, inclusion, accountability, and fair play. By participating in IPPA activities, all individuals agree to uphold this Code and contribute to the continued growth, credibility, and success of Para Pickleball worldwide.

IPPA Ethical Commitment

"Act with Integrity, Compete with Honor, Lead with Respect, and Serve the Sport with Pride."

CHAPTER 10: SAFEGUARDING AND PLAYERS PROTECTION

10.1 Introduction

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) is firmly committed to creating and maintaining a safe, inclusive, respectful, and supportive environment for all participants involved in Para Pickleball. Every player, coach, official, volunteer, classifier,

administrator, and spectator has the right to participate in the sport free from abuse, harassment, discrimination, exploitation, neglect, bullying, intimidation, and any form of misconduct. Safeguarding is a fundamental responsibility of every member of the Para Pickleball community and is essential for protecting the dignity, well-being, and human rights of all individuals, particularly persons with disabilities who may face additional vulnerabilities.

10.2 Purpose of Safeguarding

The purpose of safeguarding is to prevent harm and to ensure that every participant can enjoy Para Pickleball in an environment that promotes respect, equality, personal development, and fair participation. Safeguarding measures are designed to identify risks, establish protective procedures, provide education, and create clear reporting mechanisms for concerns or incidents. The IPPA recognizes that effective safeguarding is not merely a legal obligation but a moral and ethical commitment to protecting athletes and fostering a positive sporting culture.

10.3 Rights of Players

Every player participating in IPPA-sanctioned activities has the right to be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect regardless of disability, gender, age, nationality, race, religion, social background, or level of competition. Players have the right to train and compete in safe conditions, receive appropriate support, express concerns without fear of retaliation, and have access to fair and confidential complaint procedures. No player shall be subjected to physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual misconduct, neglect, bullying, cyberbullying, coercion, exploitation, or any conduct that compromises their safety and welfare.

10.4 Prohibited Conduct

The IPPA strictly prohibits all forms of misconduct that may endanger the physical, emotional, psychological, or social well-being of participants. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to, physical violence, threatening behavior, discriminatory actions, verbal abuse, sexual harassment, inappropriate touching, exploitation of athletes, emotional manipulation, bullying, hazing, stalking, online harassment, and abuse of authority. Any individual found engaging in such conduct may be subject to disciplinary action, suspension, removal from events, or permanent exclusion from IPPA activities.

The IPPA encourages the adoption of environmentally responsible surface technologies that combine athlete safety, performance quality, accessibility, and sustainability. Advances in synthetic materials, shock-absorbing systems, recycled construction components, and energy-efficient maintenance practices may be incorporated into future venue development.

As Para Pickleball continues to grow globally, the IPPA may periodically revise surface standards to reflect scientific research, technological innovation, athlete feedback, and international best practices.

15.15 Principle of Performance, Accessibility, and Safety

The fundamental objective of all playing surface standards is to create a competition environment that promotes safety, consistency, accessibility, and sporting excellence. Every athlete, regardless of disability category or level of competition, should have the opportunity to compete on a surface that supports optimal performance and minimizes avoidable risk. By maintaining high standards for playing surfaces, the IPPA reinforces its commitment to fair play, athlete welfare, and the continued development of Para Pickleball throughout the world.

15.16 Air Quality and Oxygen Levels for Indoor Competition Venues

All indoor Para Pickleball venues shall maintain acceptable indoor air quality to ensure the health, safety, comfort, and performance of players, officials, and spectators. Competition venues shall provide adequate natural or mechanical ventilation in accordance with recognized international standards, including ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1 or equivalent national standards. Indoor oxygen concentration shall be maintained at normal atmospheric levels, generally between 19.5% and 23.5% by volume. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations during occupied periods should not exceed 1,000 parts per million (ppm), and venue operators shall take appropriate measures to improve ventilation whenever CO₂ levels consistently exceed this threshold. Indoor relative humidity should be maintained between 30% and 60%, and the venue shall be free from excessive dust, fumes, smoke, mold, or other airborne contaminants that may adversely affect para pickleball players.

CHAPTER 12: NET SPECIFICATIONS & SUPPORT SYSTEM

12.1 Purpose

The net and its support system are essential components of the Para Pickleball court and play a critical role in ensuring fair, consistent, and safe competition. All nets used in International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) sanctioned events shall conform to the specifications outlined in this chapter. The objective of these standards is to provide uniform playing conditions across all levels of Para Pickleball competition.

12.2 Net Dimensions

The net shall extend completely across the width of the court and separate the two playing areas. The net shall measure a minimum of 22 feet (6.71 meters) in length to cover the full court width and provide adequate attachment to the support posts extending 1 foot past each side of the 20-foot-wide court. The finished height of the net shall be:

- **36 inches (91.44 cm) at each sideline**
- **34 inches (86.36 cm) at the center of the court**

These measurements shall be taken from the court surface to the top edge of the net.

12.3 Net Material

The net shall be constructed of durable woven or braided material designed to withstand regular play and varying environmental conditions. The mesh openings shall be sufficiently small to prevent the ball from passing through the net. The material should provide consistent performance while minimizing excessive stretching or sagging during play. The preferred colours for the net material are black, or dark colours as approved by IPPA that provide clear visibility against the playing environment.

12.4 Net Headband

A white or light-coloured headband shall be securely attached along the entire top edge of the net. The headband shall:

- Measure approximately **2 inches (5.08 cm)** in width.
- Contain a tension cable, cord, or rope to maintain proper net tension.
- Be constructed of durable material capable of withstanding repeated use and weather exposure.

The headband shall be clearly visible and shall form the official upper boundary of the net.

12.5 Center Strap

A center strap shall be used to maintain the required center net height of **34 inches (86.36 cm)**.

The center strap shall:

- Be positioned at the midpoint of the court.
- Be securely anchored to the court surface.
- Be adjustable to allow accurate height measurements.
- Not create a hazard to players or wheelchair users.

The center strap shall be maintained in good condition throughout the competition.

12.6 Net Support Posts

The net shall be supported by two vertical posts positioned outside the sidelines of the court.

The support posts shall:

- Be placed approximately **12 inches (30.48 cm)** outside each sideline whenever possible.
- Be securely anchored and stable.
- Not protrude into the playing area.
- Be free from sharp edges, exposed bolts, or hazardous components.

Portable net systems may be used provided they meet all IPPA height, tension, and stability requirements.

12.7 Portable Net Systems

Portable net systems are permitted for recreational play, development programs, and sanctioned competitions where permanent installations are unavailable.

Portable systems shall:

- Maintain the required net heights.
- Remain stable during normal play.
- Not shift, collapse, or interfere with player movement.
- Be inspected before competition begins.

Tournament or Championships officials may reject any portable net system deemed unsafe or incapable of maintaining proper specifications.

Tournament organizers shall ensure that courts are inspected before each competition session. Any hazard identified during inspection shall be addressed immediately. Where corrective action cannot be completed promptly, the affected court may be removed from competition use until compliance is restored.

15.11 Environmental and Weather Considerations

Environmental conditions may significantly influence playing surface performance. Rain, excessive humidity, extreme temperatures, dust, windborne debris, and other environmental factors can affect traction, wheelchair mobility, and ball behavior. Tournament officials shall continuously monitor surface conditions during competition and may suspend, postpone, relocate, or cancel matches when environmental conditions create an unacceptable safety risk.

15.12 Safety Standards and Risk Management

The playing surface shall be free from conditions likely to cause injury. Hazardous conditions include but are not limited to standing water, loose materials, protrusions, cracks, holes, damaged surface coatings, unstable transitions, exposed drainage components, or foreign objects.

A formal risk assessment should be conducted before major competitions to identify and mitigate potential hazards. Medical personnel, technical officials, and venue management should work collaboratively to ensure that surface-related risks are appropriately managed throughout the event.

15.13 Surface Inspection and Certification

Prior to the commencement of any IPPA-sanctioned competition, the Tournament Director, Technical Delegate, Referee, or designated venue inspector may conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the playing surface. The inspection may include assessment of flatness, traction, accessibility, drainage, ball bounce consistency, surface condition, and overall safety.

Courts failing to satisfy required standards may be rejected for competition use until corrective measures have been completed and verified. Organizers shall cooperate fully with inspection procedures and provide access to relevant maintenance and facility documentation when requested.

15.14 Sustainability and Future Developments

to ensure uninterrupted mobility. Accessibility considerations are an essential component of venue approval for IPPA-sanctioned competitions.

15.7 Surface Colour and Visual Contrast

The playing surface should provide sufficient visual contrast between the court, boundary lines, net system, and surrounding environment. Colour selection should facilitate accurate ball tracking by players, officials, and spectators while supporting athletes with visual processing challenges.

Highly reflective finishes, distracting patterns, excessive glare, or visual elements capable of interfering with player concentration should be avoided. The court surface and line markings shall remain clearly distinguishable under both natural and artificial lighting conditions.

15.8 Indoor Playing Surface Standards

Indoor venues shall utilize sport flooring systems specifically designed for competitive racket and paddle sports. Indoor surfaces shall be free from dust accumulation, loose materials, moisture, and other contaminants that may affect traction or ball behavior.

Climate control systems should maintain environmental conditions that preserve surface integrity and provide consistent playing characteristics throughout the competition period. Temporary court installations shall meet the same performance and safety requirements as permanent courts.

15.9 Outdoor Playing Surface Standards

Outdoor courts shall be designed to withstand environmental exposure while maintaining acceptable playing characteristics. Surface materials shall resist deterioration caused by sunlight, rainfall, temperature fluctuations, and routine use.

Adequate drainage systems shall be incorporated to prevent standing water and facilitate rapid drying after precipitation. Organizers shall regularly inspect outdoor courts for weather-related damage, debris accumulation, surface erosion, and contamination that may affect player safety or performance.

15.10 Surface Maintenance Requirements

Competition surfaces shall be maintained in a clean, safe, and competition-ready condition at all times. Routine maintenance programs should include cleaning, debris removal, crack repair, surface recoating, drainage inspection, and traction assessment.

12.8 Net Tension

The net shall be maintained under sufficient tension to ensure consistent playing conditions.

The net shall:

- Remain consistently level across its entire width with a dip downward at the middle measuring 34 inches in height.
- Not sag excessively between support posts.
- Maintain the prescribed center and sideline heights.
- Be inspected before each competition session.

Minor movement of the net caused by normal play shall not constitute a defect unless the net fails to meet the required specifications.

12.9 Safety Requirements

Player safety shall be a primary consideration in all net installations.

All net systems shall:

- Be securely installed.
- Present no tripping hazards.
- Have padded or protected support structures where necessary.
- Be regularly inspected for wear, damage, or instability.
- Comply with applicable venue safety standards.

Any damaged or unsafe net equipment shall be repaired or replaced before play commences.

12.10 Inspection and Approval

Prior to the start of any IPPA-sanctioned event, the Tournament Director, Referee, or Technical Delegate shall inspect the net and support system to verify compliance with IPPA regulations.

The inspection shall include:

- Net height measurements.
- Net tension verification.
- Support post stability.
- Center strap functionality.
- General safety assessment.

Any deficiencies identified during inspection must be corrected before competition may begin.

12.11 Net Adjustment During Play

If the net becomes damaged, displaced, or fails to meet the required specifications during a match, play shall be suspended until the issue is corrected.

The Referee may:

- Order immediate adjustment of the net.
- Suspend play temporarily.
- Replay a rally if the defect materially affected the outcome of the point.
- Resume play only after the net has been restored to regulation standards.

12.12 Ball Passing Through the Net

If a ball passes through a hole, tear, or defective portion of the net and enters the opponent's court, play shall be stopped immediately and the rally replayed if the defect is discovered during the point. The net must be repaired before play resumes.

12.13 Advertising on Nets

Advertising, sponsorship logos, and promotional materials may be displayed on nets during IPPA-sanctioned competitions provided that:

- They do not interfere with visibility.
- They do not alter the dimensions or performance of the net.
- They are approved by the Tournament Director or IPPA.
- They comply with applicable sponsorship regulations.

12A.14 Safety Padding Requirements

For major championships, continental championships, world championships, and Paralympic qualification events, the IPPA may require protective padding on net posts and support structures to reduce the risk of injury from accidental collisions.

12.15 Uniformity and Compliance

All IPPA-sanctioned competitions, including local, national, continental, and international events, shall utilize net systems that comply with the standards established in this chapter. Uniform net specifications contribute to competitive fairness, consistency, and the integrity of Para Pickleball competition worldwide.

The IPPA reserves the right to amend these specifications as technology, equipment standards, and the needs of Para Pickleball Players continue to evolve.

The court shall be substantially level, with no significant depressions, ridges, cracks, holes, or uneven transitions. Surface irregularities capable of affecting ball movement, wheelchair travel, player footing, or officiating decisions shall be corrected before play begins. Any condition that compromises competitive fairness or athlete safety may result in the court being declared unsuitable for competition until repairs are completed.

15.4 Surface Friction and Traction Characteristics

The coefficient of friction of the playing surface shall be sufficient to permit controlled acceleration, deceleration, directional changes, and wheelchair mobility without creating excessive slipping or abrupt stopping forces.

Excessively smooth surfaces may contribute to slips and falls, while excessively rough surfaces may increase stress on joints, prosthetic devices, wheelchair tires, and spinal cord. The objective is to achieve a balanced traction profile that supports athletic performance while minimizing injury risk. Surface traction shall remain reasonably consistent throughout the entire playing area and surrounding safety zones.

15.5 Ball Bounce Performance

The playing surface shall provide consistent and predictable ball rebound characteristics. Ball bounce behavior shall not vary significantly from one area of the court to another. Surface conditions that produce irregular, dead, exaggerated, or unpredictable rebounds may negatively affect competitive fairness and shall be corrected where possible.

Environmental factors such as moisture, contamination, surface deterioration, or excessive wear shall not be permitted to materially alter normal ball performance. Tournament officials may suspend play if surface conditions adversely affect the expected behavior of the ball.

15.6 Wheelchair Accessibility and Mobility Considerations

Given the unique requirements of Standing SLA Para Pickleball and wheelchair Para Pickleball, surfaces shall be capable of supporting smooth, efficient, and safe movement. The playing area shall allow athletes to accelerate, turn, stop, pivot, and reposition without encountering excessive rolling resistance or surface instability.

The surface should minimize vibration, foot and wheel sinkage, and abrupt transitions that may interfere with wheelchair control. Particular attention shall be given to court entrances, transitions between playing areas, warm-up zones, and athlete access routes

CHAPTER 15: PLAYING SURFACE STANDARDS

15.1 Introduction

The playing surface is one of the most critical elements of a Para Pickleball competition environment, directly influencing para pickleball players safety, performance, mobility, ball behavior, and competitive fairness. The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) recognizes that players participating in Para Pickleball may utilize wheelchairs, prosthetic devices, or other assistive equipment, making the quality and consistency of the playing surface particularly important. Accordingly, all IPPA-sanctioned competitions shall be conducted on surfaces that meet the technical, safety, accessibility, and performance standards established in this chapter.

A properly constructed and maintained playing surface promotes predictable ball bounce characteristics, secure player movement, reduced injury risk, and equitable competition conditions. Tournament organizers, venue operators, and technical officials share responsibility for ensuring that playing surfaces comply with these standards before and throughout the duration of competition.

15.2 Approved Surface Types

Para Pickleball may be played on both indoor and outdoor courts, provided the surface has been approved for competitive use by IPPA. Common approved surfaces include acrylic-coated concrete, acrylic-coated asphalt, synthetic sports flooring systems, modular sport tile systems approved by the IPPA, and other engineered sport surfaces that provide equivalent performance characteristics.

The selected surface shall provide adequate traction without being excessively abrasive, allowing safe movement for ambulatory athletes while also supporting efficient wheelchair propulsion and manoeuvrability. Surfaces that produce inconsistent ball bounce, excessive wheel resistance, or increased injury risk shall not be approved for sanctioned competition.

15.3 Surface Uniformity and Flatness

The entire playing surface shall be uniform in composition, texture, colour, and performance characteristics. Variations in surface hardness, friction, elevation, or material composition may create unfair playing conditions and increase the likelihood of injury.

CHAPTER 13: COMPETITION VENUE REQUIREMENTS

13.1 Introduction

The success of a Para Pickleball competition depends not only on the quality of play but also on the suitability, safety, and accessibility of the venue. The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) requires all sanctioned competitions to be conducted at venues that provide a safe, fair, inclusive, and professionally managed environment for players, officials, volunteers, spectators, and other stakeholders. Competition venues shall meet the standards prescribed in this chapter to ensure consistency, players welfare, and the integrity of the sport.

13.2 Venue Suitability

All competition venues shall be capable of accommodating the specific needs of Para Pickleball players, including players who use wheelchairs, prosthetic devices, crutches, walkers, or other mobility aids. The venue shall provide sufficient space for competition courts, warm-up areas, athlete movement, officiating activities, medical services, equipment storage, and spectator access. Tournament organizers shall ensure that the venue is maintained in a condition suitable for high-quality competition throughout the duration of the event.

13.3 Accessibility Requirements

Accessibility is a fundamental requirement for all IPPA-sanctioned events. Competition venues shall provide barrier-free access to courts, entrances, exits, registration areas, players lounges, restrooms, medical facilities, and spectator seating. Ramps, elevators, accessible pathways, and designated parking spaces should be available wherever necessary. Organizers shall make reasonable accommodations to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate fully and independently in all aspects of the competition.

13.4 Competition Courts

All courts used for competition shall comply with the official IPPA Court Dimensions and Markings Regulations. Courts must be accurately measured, properly marked, and maintained in a safe condition. The playing surface shall be level, stable, and free from hazards that could affect players safety or performance. Any court found to be unsafe or non-compliant may be removed from competition use until corrective action has been taken.

13.5 Court Surroundings and Safety Zones

Adequate clearance shall be provided around each court to allow safe player movement and wheelchair manoeuvrability. The areas surrounding the courts shall be free from obstacles, equipment, loose cables, advertising structures, or any other hazards. Barriers separating spectators from the playing area should be positioned at a safe distance to prevent interference with play while maintaining good viewing conditions.

13.6 Environmental Conditions

Competition venues shall provide conditions that support players safety, comfort, and performance. Indoor venues should maintain appropriate ventilation and air circulation, while outdoor venues should include measures to address weather-related risks such as excessive heat, rain, wind, or poor air quality. Tournament officials may suspend, postpone, or relocate competition if environmental conditions present a risk to participants.

13.7 Para Pickleball Players Facilities

Suitable facilities shall be provided for players participating in the competition. These may include registration areas, changing rooms, accessible restrooms, lounges, hydration stations, equipment storage areas, and designated warm-up zones. Organizers should ensure that these facilities are clean, safe, and accessible to all participants throughout the event.

13.8 Medical and Emergency Services

Every competition venue shall have appropriate medical support and emergency response procedures in place. Depending on the level of competition, this may include qualified medical personnel, first-aid stations, emergency equipment, ambulance access, and emergency evacuation plans. The safety and welfare of players shall be the highest priority, and all personnel should be familiar with emergency procedures before competition begins.

13.9 Officials and Technical Areas

The venue shall provide adequate working areas for referees, line judges, classifiers, technical delegates, tournament directors, and other competition officials. These areas should allow officials to perform their duties efficiently and without disruption. Access to technical areas shall be restricted to authorized personnel only.

Emergency systems shall be tested before the commencement of competition.

14.10 Broadcast and Media Lighting Standards

Competitions intended for television, streaming, or digital broadcasting shall comply with enhanced lighting requirements.

Additional requirements may include:

- Uniform vertical illuminance for camera coverage.
- Broadcast-compatible colour temperature.
- Flicker-free operation for high-speed cameras.
- Balanced luminance ratios across all camera positions.
- Dedicated lighting zones for interviews and media activities.

Broadcast lighting installations shall not compromise athlete safety or visual comfort.

14.11 Future Lighting Technologies

The IPPA recognizes the continuing evolution of sports lighting technologies, including adaptive LED systems, intelligent lighting controls, spectral optimization, sensor-driven illumination management, and sustainable energy-efficient solutions. Future amendments to these standards may incorporate advancements in safety and competitive equity.

14.12 Principle of Visual Integrity

The ultimate objective of play area lighting is to create an environment in which every athlete can perceive, react, compete, and perform under consistent and scientifically optimized visual conditions. Proper lighting contributes directly to player safety, officiating accuracy, spectator experience, and the global professional development of Para Pickleball. The IPPA therefore regards lighting as a critical element of competition infrastructure and an essential component of world-class event delivery.

The lighting design shall minimize multiple shadows, hard shadows, and moving shadow effects that may interfere with ball tracking and player orientation.

Shadow reduction measures shall include:

- Multi-directional luminaire arrangements.
- Symmetrical light distribution.
- Appropriate fixture mounting heights.
- Balanced beam overlap patterns.

The objective is to maintain visual consistency throughout the entire court and safety perimeter.

14.8 Outdoor Venue Lighting

Outdoor lighting systems shall account for environmental variables including:

- Solar transition periods.
- Cloud cover variability.
- Wind loading on lighting structures.
- Atmospheric scattering.
- Light pollution control.

Outdoor luminaires shall utilize weather-resistant enclosures with a minimum protection rating of IP65.

14.9 Emergency Lighting Systems

All indoor competition venues shall maintain emergency lighting systems capable of supporting safe evacuation and emergency response procedures.

Emergency illumination shall provide:

- Minimum 50 lux along evacuation routes.
- Illuminated exit signage.
- Automatic activation upon power interruption.
- Independent backup power sources.

13.10 Spectator and Media Facilities

Where spectators are permitted, organizers should provide safe and accessible seating areas that do not interfere with competition. Facilities for media representatives, photographers, broadcasters, and event communications personnel should be provided when appropriate. Media activities shall be conducted in a manner that respects athlete safety, privacy, and the orderly conduct of competition.

13.11 Security and Venue Management

Tournament organizers shall implement appropriate security measures to protect athletes, officials, spectators, equipment, and venue property. Access control systems, accreditation procedures, crowd management plans, and emergency communication protocols should be established according to the size and nature of the event.

13.12 Clean Sport and Integrity Requirements

Competition venues shall support the implementation of anti-doping programs, classification procedures, safeguarding measures, and other integrity-related activities required by the IPPA. Suitable private areas should be available for classification assessments, disciplinary hearings, anti-doping processes, and safeguarding investigations when necessary.

13.13 Venue Inspection and Approval

Prior to the commencement of any IPPA-sanctioned competition, the venue may be inspected by designated officials to verify compliance with applicable regulations. Organizers shall address any identified deficiencies before competition begins. Failure to meet required standards may result in conditions being imposed, event sanctions being withheld, or approval being denied.

13.14 Commitment to Excellence

Competition venues play a vital role in delivering a positive and professional Para Pickleball experience. By adhering to the standards established in this chapter, organizers contribute to athlete safety, competitive fairness, accessibility, and the continued growth of Para Pickleball worldwide.

CHAPTER 14: PLAY AREA LIGHTING STANDARDS

14.1 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of these Play Area Lighting Standards is to establish the minimum technical, photometric, and operational requirements necessary to ensure safe, fair, and visually optimal conditions for Para Pickleball competition. Proper illumination is essential for accurate ball tracking, player orientation, officiating accuracy, broadcast quality, athlete safety, and overall competition integrity. These standards shall apply to all indoor and outdoor venues hosting International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) sanctioned competitions, including local, national, continental, and international championships.

14.2 Fundamental Lighting Principles

The lighting system shall be designed to provide uniform illumination across the entire field of play while minimizing visual discomfort, glare, shadowing, flicker, and contrast distortion. Lighting performance shall facilitate rapid visual recognition of the pickleball, court markings, net assembly, officials, mobility devices, and surrounding safety zones.

14.3 Illuminance Requirements

Illuminance shall be measured in lux (lx) using calibrated photometric instruments in accordance with internationally recognized lighting engineering standards.

The recommended maintained horizontal illuminance levels are:

Competition Level	Minimum Average Illuminance
Recreational and Club Competition	300 lux
National Competition	500 lux
Continental Championships	750 lux
International Championships	750 lux
Television and Broadcast Competition	750–1000 lux

These values shall represent maintained illuminance after accounting for lamp depreciation, dirt accumulation, environmental factors, and aging of lighting equipment.

14.4 Uniformity Ratio

Lighting uniformity is critical for player perception and reaction time.

The following minimum uniformity ratios shall apply:

- Average-to-Minimum Illuminance Ratio ($E_{avg} : E_{min}$) shall not exceed 2.0:1.
- Minimum-to-Average Uniformity shall be at least 0.50.
- Minimum-to-Maximum Uniformity shall be maintained to avoid localized over-illumination or dark zones.

Excessive variations in illumination may impair ball visibility and increase the risk of players injury.

14.5 Flicker Performance Standards

To prevent visual fatigue, neurological discomfort, and broadcast interference, lighting systems shall comply with low-flicker performance standards.

Recommended limits:

- Flicker Percentage: Less than 1%.
- Flicker Index: Less than 0.05.
- High-Speed Camera Compliance: Suitable for recording at frame rates exceeding 1,000 frames per second.

LED lighting systems shall utilize constant-current drivers or equivalent technologies designed to eliminate perceptible flicker.

14.6 Glare Control Requirements

Glare shall be minimized through proper luminaire selection, aiming angles, shielding devices, and installation geometry.

The Unified Glare Rating (UGR) should not exceed:

- UGR 22 for standard competition.
- UGR 19 for elite international competition.

Lighting fixtures shall not be positioned within the normal line of sight of players during serving, returning, or overhead shot execution.

14.7 Shadow Management

A competition wheelchair is defined as a manually propelled mobility device specifically designed or adapted for sports participation by an eligible athlete. The wheelchair shall provide safe and effective mobility during competition while maintaining structural integrity under the physical demands of Para Pickleball.

The wheelchair may be custom-built or commercially manufactured and may incorporate sport-specific adaptations, provided that such adaptations comply with the requirements established in this chapter.

18.3 General Construction Requirements

Competition wheelchairs shall be constructed using durable materials capable of withstanding repeated acceleration, deceleration, directional changes, impacts, and extended competitive use.

Permissible construction materials may include:

- Aluminium alloys
- Titanium alloys
- Carbon fibre composites
- High-strength steel alloys
- High Density Polyethylene
- Reinforced polymer composites
- Other approved engineering materials

The wheelchair frame shall be structurally stable and free from defects that may compromise safety or performance. Cracked frames, damaged welds, loose structural components, or compromised load-bearing elements shall not be permitted during competition.

18.4 Mechanical Safety Standards

All wheelchairs shall be maintained in a safe operating condition at all times.

The wheelchair shall be free from:

- Sharp edges
- Exposed fasteners creating injury risk

CHAPTER 16: PICKLEBALL BALL SPECIFICATIONS

16.1 Regulatory Objective

The IPPA Competition Ball shall be a certified sporting implement designed to achieve standardized performance parameters relating to size, mass, rebound response, flight stability, impact resistance, and visibility. The ball shall demonstrate reproducible playing characteristics under varying environmental conditions and shall be capable of maintaining competitive consistency throughout the duration of sanctioned play. Compliance with the specifications contained in this chapter is mandatory for all balls approved for use in IPPA-recognized tournaments, championships, and international competitions.



INTERNATIONAL
PARA PICKLEBALL
ASSOCIATION

IPPA BALL SPECIFICATIONS

APPROVED BALLS FOR PARA PICKLEBALL COMPETITIONS

1. OUTDOOR COMPETITION BALL



- Type:** Outdoor Competition
- Material:** Rotationally Molded High Density Polyethylene
- Color:** Optic Yellow / High Visibility
- Weight:** 24 to 26.5 grams
- Diameter:** 74.0 mm (2.91 in)
- Circumference:** 233 – 235 mm (9.17 – 9.25 in)
- Hardness:** Shore D 40 – 50
- Bounce Height:** Outdoor Surface: 30 – 34 in (From 78 in / 1.98 m Drop)
- Usage:** Outdoor Courts

OUTDOOR COMPETITION BALL FEATURES

Typically utilize **38 to 40** smaller holes for optimal aerodynamic performance, wind resistance and consistent bounce.

2. INDOOR COMPETITION BALL



- Type:** Indoor Competition
- Material:** Rotationally Molded Polypropylene
- Color:** Optic Green / High Visibility
- Weight:** 22 to 24.5 grams
- Diameter:** 74.0 mm (2.91 in)
- Circumference:** 233 – 235 mm (9.17 – 9.25 in)
- Hardness:** Shore D 30 – 40 (Softer)
- Bounce Height:** Indoor Surface: 26 – 30 in (From 78 in / 1.98 m Drop)
- Usage:** Indoor Courts

INDOOR COMPETITION BALL FEATURES

Typically utilize **26 to 28** larger holes for enhanced control, precision and indoor play consistency.

3. HOLE PATTERNS

OUTDOOR COMPETITION BALL – 38 TO 40 SMALLER HOLES





TOP VIEW

SIDE VIEW

ANGLE VIEW

- 38 to 40 precision-drilled smaller holes.
- Uniform hole size and distribution for consistent aerodynamics and bounce.
- Hole edges must be smooth and free from burrs.
- Hole pattern designed to minimize wind effect (outdoor) and maximize control (indoor).

INDOOR COMPETITION BALL – 26 TO 28 LARGER HOLES





TOP VIEW

SIDE VIEW

ANGLE VIEW

NOTES:

- All balls must comply with IPPA specifications for official matches.
- Balls shall be free from cracks, deformities and discoloration.
- Regular inspection and replacement of balls is mandatory.

HOLE SPECIFICATIONS (FOR BOTH BALLS)



Hole Diameter:
10.0 mm
(0.35 – 0.39 in)



Hole Edge Rounding:
0.5 – 1.0 mm
(0.02 – 0.04 in)



Outdoor Total Holes:
38 to 40 (Smaller)

Indoor Total Holes:
26 to 28 (Larger)



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16.2 Construction and Design

The official IPPA Competition Ball shall be manufactured as a precision-engineered hollow sphere utilizing approved polymer-based compounds or equivalent synthetic materials. The physical properties of the ball shall be optimized to achieve dimensional stability, impact resistance, and energy restitution characteristics suitable for high-level competition. The construction methodology shall ensure that the ball retains its intended shape and performance profile throughout repeated impact cycles.

The ball shall demonstrate symmetrical geometry and uniform mass distribution across its entire structure. Structural defects, material anomalies, surface discontinuities, deformation, or production inconsistencies that may influence aerodynamic behavior, rotational balance, rebound dynamics, or durability shall not be permitted. The design and placement of perforations, combined with controlled wall thickness and material composition, shall facilitate stable airflow characteristics and predictable ball movement during play.

16.3 Diameter

The diameter of the official para pickleball shall be:

- **Minimum:** 2.874 inches
- **Maximum:** 2.972 inches

The diameter shall be measured at multiple points around the ball to verify spherical uniformity. No point on the ball shall fall outside the approved dimensional tolerance.

16.4 Peripheral Measurement Standards

The external perimeter of the official IPPA Competition Ball, when measured around its widest axis, shall fall within the following dimensional limits:

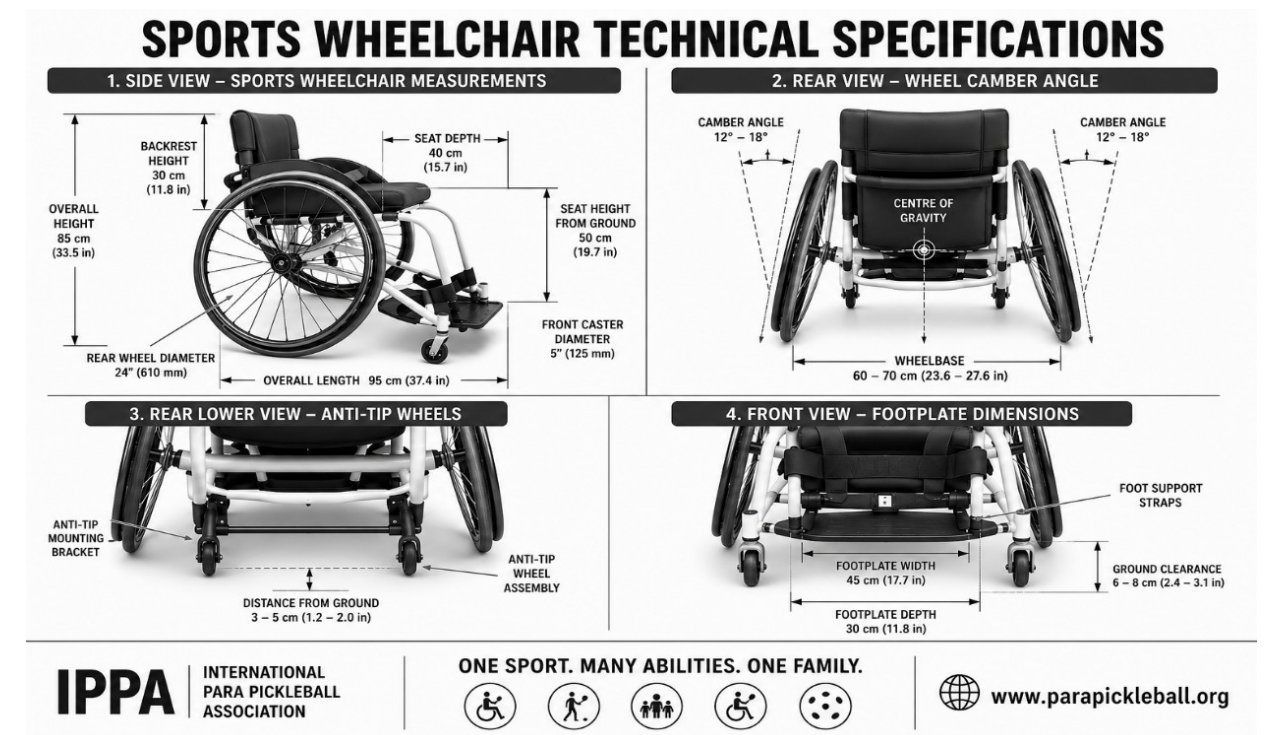
- Minimum Permissible Circumference: 9.029 inches (22.93 cm)
- Maximum Permissible Circumference: 9.337 inches (23.72 cm)

All circumference measurements shall correspond proportionately with the approved diameter requirements specified within these regulations. The ball shall exhibit a high degree of dimensional symmetry and roundness, ensuring that perimeter measurements remain substantially uniform regardless of the axis along which the ball is evaluated. Variations that may indicate distortion, asymmetry, or manufacturing inconsistencies shall render the ball non-compliant for sanctioned competition.

16.5 Weight

The official para pickleball ball shall weigh:

- **Indoor ball** : 22 to 24.5 grams
- **Outdoor ball** : 24 to 26.5 grams



18.1 Objective

Wheelchairs used in Para Pickleball are specialized mobility devices that function as an extension of the player during competition. The purpose of these standards is to establish uniform requirements governing the design, construction, safety, performance, and inspection of wheelchairs utilized in IPPA-sanctioned competitions. These regulations are intended to promote athlete safety, accessibility, competitive fairness, and equipment reliability while recognizing the diversity of disability types and functional needs within the Para Pickleball community.

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) acknowledges that wheelchair technology continues to evolve through advances in biomechanics, rehabilitation engineering, materials science, and adaptive sports design. These standards seek to encourage innovation while ensuring that competition outcomes remain determined primarily by athletic ability, skill, strategy, and training rather than technological advantage.

18.2 Definition of a Competition Wheelchair

Manufacturers shall ensure that approved paddles maintain structural integrity and predictable playing characteristics under expected operating conditions.

17.16 Certification and Approval Process

All paddles intended for use in IPPA-sanctioned competition shall undergo an approval process administered by the IPPA Equipment Standards Committee.

Evaluation may include:

- Dimensional verification.
- Mass measurement.
- Surface analysis.
- Energy restitution testing.
- Spin potential assessment.
- Structural durability testing.
- Material safety evaluation.
- Accessibility review where applicable.

Only paddles that successfully satisfy all applicable requirements shall be entered into the Official IPPA Approved Paddle Register.

17.17 Compliance Monitoring

The IPPA reserves the right to inspect, test, re-evaluate, suspend, or revoke approval of any paddle model if evidence suggests non-compliance with established standards.

Tournament officials may inspect paddles before or during competition and may remove from play any paddle suspected of violating equipment regulations.

17.18 Principle of Technological Fairness

The guiding principle of paddle regulation is the preservation of competitive equity. Paddle technology should enhance durability, safety, accessibility, and player experience without diminishing the importance of athletic skill and tactical execution. The IPPA therefore supports innovation that benefits athletes while maintaining a level playing field for all participants in Para Pickleball competition.

CHAPTER 18: WHEELCHAIR EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

Weight measurements shall be conducted using calibrated precision scales under standard environmental conditions. Balls falling outside the approved weight range shall not be permitted for competition use.

16.6 Hole Configuration

The Para Pickleball ball shall contain:

- **Indoor** : 26 to 28 Larger circular holes of same diameter
- **Outdoor** : 38 to 40 Smaller circular holes of same diameter

The holes shall be evenly distributed over the surface of the ball to maintain balanced aerodynamic performance. Hole placement shall promote stable flight characteristics and minimize erratic movement caused by rotational imbalance. Hole shapes shall be circular and manufactured with uniform precision.

An **Indoor Pickleball** shall contain a uniform pattern of circular perforations distributed symmetrically across the ball surface. The ball should generally incorporate 26 to 28 holes, with each hole having a nominal diameter of approximately 10.5 mm to 11.5 mm (0.41–0.45 inches). Variations within this range may be permitted provided the ball satisfies all approved performance, bounce, flight, and durability requirements established by the governing body.

16.7 Indoor and Outdoor Ball Variations

The IPPA recognizes both indoor and outdoor pickleballs, provided they comply with approved specifications.

Indoor Competition Balls

- Typically utilize 26 to 28 larger holes.
- Manufactured with slightly softer polymer formulations.
- Designed for lower wind environments and controlled indoor conditions.
- Generally, produce slower flight speeds and softer rebound characteristics.

Outdoor Competition Balls

- Typically utilize 38 to 40 smaller holes.
- Manufactured using harder, more durable materials.

- Designed to resist wind interference.
- Generally, produce faster flight characteristics and greater durability under outdoor conditions.

16.8 Surface Finish

The competition ball shall retain its original manufactured surface characteristics throughout the duration of play. The outer shell shall exhibit a consistent texture and structural profile free from unauthorized enhancements, treatments, or modifications capable of affecting aerodynamic efficiency, energy transfer, spin generation, or impact response. No participant, coach, official, or support personnel shall intentionally modify the physical condition of the ball through the use of chemical, mechanical, or material applications. Balls exhibiting evidence of tampering, artificial conditioning, or performance manipulation shall be withdrawn from service and reported to the appropriate competition authority.

16.9 Colour Requirements

The ball shall be of a single uniform colour except for approved logos, certification marks, or manufacturer identification.

Preferred competition colors include:

- Optic Yellow
- Neon Yellow
- Lime Green
- Bright Orange
- Other IPPA-approved high-visibility colors

The selected colour shall provide maximum visibility against the playing surface, background environment, lighting conditions, and athlete uniforms.

16.10 Manufacturer Identification

Every IPPA approved competition ball shall display:

- Manufacturer name, trademark or supplier identification mark.

17.13 Accessibility and Adaptive Modifications

The IPPA supports reasonable equipment adaptations that enable participation by athletes with disabilities.

Adaptive modifications may include:

- Customized Grip Geometries.
- Prosthetic Attachment Interfaces.
- Hand Retention Systems.
- Assistive Stabilization Devices.
- Approved Ergonomic Adaptations.

Such modifications shall be evaluated to ensure they improve accessibility without creating a competitive advantage beyond the athlete's functional requirements.

17.14 Prohibited Technologies

The following technologies shall not be permitted in IPPA-sanctioned competition:

- Electronic propulsion systems.
- Embedded motors or spring systems.
- Active energy storage devices.
- Magnetic acceleration systems.
- Sensor-driven performance enhancement systems.
- Artificial intelligence-assisted impact mechanisms.
- Dynamic surface modification technologies.
- Any device capable of altering performance characteristics during play.

The paddle shall remain a passive sporting implement at all times.

17.15 Environmental Durability Requirements

Approved paddles shall demonstrate acceptable performance stability across a range of environmental conditions, including variations in temperature, humidity, altitude, and normal competition exposure.

17.10 Weight Distribution and Balance Characteristics

The overall performance of a paddle is influenced not only by total mass but also by mass distribution throughout the structure.

Manufacturers may employ various balance profiles including head-heavy, head-light, or neutral configurations. However, weight distribution systems shall not utilize movable masses, adjustable balancing mechanisms, gyroscopic devices, or technologies capable of altering performance characteristics during play.

All mass properties shall remain fixed and integral to the paddle structure.

17.11 Handle Specifications

The paddle handle shall be securely attached to the paddle body and constructed to provide safe and comfortable control.

The handle may incorporate:

- Grip wraps.
- Cushioning materials.
- Moisture-management systems.
- Shock absorption technologies.

The handle shall not contain electronic components, energy-generating devices, sensors providing competitive advantage, or mechanisms capable of modifying paddle performance during play.

17.12 Vibration and Shock Management

Because many Para Pickleball Players may have limb differences, neurological conditions, upper-extremity impairments, or reduced joint tolerance, vibration control is an important equipment consideration.

Manufacturers may incorporate vibration attenuation systems, dampening layers, energy-absorbing materials, and ergonomic engineering solutions intended to improve athlete comfort and reduce repetitive stress exposure.

Such systems shall function solely for player comfort and shall not materially increase ball velocity, spin generation, or rebound efficiency.

The marking may be printed, embossed, moulded, or engraved provided it does not affect ball performance.

16.11 Bounce Performance

When tested under controlled laboratory conditions, the ball shall exhibit consistent rebound characteristics. The bounce performance shall remain within approved tolerances established by the IPPA Equipment Standards Committee.

Testing procedures may include:

- Vertical drop testing.
- Rebound height measurement.
- Impact resilience evaluation.
- Surface hardness assessment.

Consistency of bounce is essential to maintaining fairness and predictability during competition.

16.12 Aerodynamic Performance

The ball shall demonstrate stable flight characteristics under normal playing conditions. During certification testing, the ball may be evaluated for:

- Rotational stability.
- Wind resistance.
- Trajectory consistency.
- Velocity retention.
- Spin response.

Balls exhibiting excessive wobble, flutter, unpredictable drift, or unstable flight patterns may be rejected for sanctioned competition.

16.13 Durability Standards

Competition balls shall be capable of maintaining structural integrity throughout normal match play. Durability assessments may include:

- Repeated impact testing.

- Compression testing.
- Crack resistance evaluation.
- Thermal stability testing.
- Material fatigue analysis.

A ball showing visible cracks, splits, deformation, excessive wear, or structural failure shall be replaced immediately.

16.14 Environmental Performance

Approved balls shall maintain acceptable performance characteristics under a range of environmental conditions including:

- High temperatures.
- Low temperatures.
- Humidity variations.
- Indoor climate-controlled environments.
- Outdoor weather exposure.

Tournament officials may approve different ball models for specific environmental conditions while ensuring consistency throughout the event.

16.15 Competition Ball Selection

For each IPPA-sanctioned tournament, the Tournament Director shall designate the official competition ball prior to the start of the event.

The designated ball shall:

- Be announced in advance.
- Be available to participants for practice.
- Be used consistently throughout the competition category.
- Meet all applicable IPPA approval standards.

16.16 Ball Inspection and Replacement

Referees and tournament officials may inspect any ball used during competition.

- Pressurized chambers.
- Electronic assistance technologies.
- Dynamic moving components.

The paddle shall function solely through passive structural mechanics and player-generated force.

17.8 Energy Restitution Standards

To preserve competitive integrity, paddles shall be subject to performance testing designed to evaluate energy restitution characteristics.

Energy restitution refers to the percentage of impact energy returned from the paddle to the ball during contact. Excessive energy return may create disproportionate ball speeds and reduce the influence of player technique.

The IPPA Equipment Standards Committee may establish maximum allowable energy restitution values determined through laboratory impact testing, coefficient of restitution (COR) analysis, and dynamic rebound evaluation.

Paddles exceeding approved performance limits shall not be eligible for certification.

17.9 Aerodynamic and Mechanical Stability

Paddle construction shall ensure mechanical reliability throughout the duration of competitive play.

The paddle shall demonstrate:

- Structural integrity under repeated impact cycles.
- Resistance to delamination.
- Resistance to core collapse.
- Stability under environmental stress.
- Consistent mass distribution.
- Predictable swing dynamics.

Any paddle exhibiting significant structural degradation may be declared unfit for competition by tournament officials.

The paddle face represents the primary impact interface between the paddle and the ball. The face shall be manufactured using stable and durable materials capable of maintaining consistent performance characteristics throughout its intended service life.

The striking surface shall be substantially rigid and shall not exhibit trampoline-like behavior, excessive flexion, or energy amplification characteristics beyond approved limits.

Surface engineering techniques may be utilized to enhance durability and ball interaction, provided such technologies do not exceed established performance thresholds relating to spin generation, frictional interaction, or rebound response.

17.6 Surface Texture and Friction Characteristics

The paddle surface may possess engineered texturing or manufactured roughness designed to improve player control. However, the surface shall not contain materials, coatings, particles, abrasives, or protrusions capable of producing abnormal rotational effects or excessive ball manipulation.

The IPPA may establish maximum permissible surface roughness values measured through recognized metrological methods, including profilometry, friction coefficient analysis, and surface topography evaluation.

Artificially applied substances intended to increase grip, spin potential, or ball control shall be prohibited.

17.7 Core Structure and Internal Composition

The internal core serves as the primary energy management system of the paddle and may consist of polymer honeycomb structures, engineered foam systems, composite cellular matrices, thermoplastic cores, or other approved materials.

The core shall provide predictable impact response and structural stability while maintaining acceptable vibration-dampening properties.

The internal construction shall not contain:

- Spring-loaded mechanisms.
- Energy storage systems.
- Mechanical amplification devices.

A ball shall be replaced if it exhibits:

- Cracking.
- Splitting.
- Significant deformation.
- Excessive wear.
- Loss of roundness.
- Material defects affecting play.

The referee shall have final authority regarding the suitability of any ball used during a match.

16.17 Ball Approval Program

Only balls approved by the IPPA Equipment Standards or recognized international certification authorities shall be used in sanctioned competition.

Manufacturers seeking approval shall submit products for testing and certification, including evaluation of:

- Size & Weight.
- Hole configuration.
- Bounce performance.
- Durability.
- Aerodynamic behavior.
- Material safety.

16.18 Principle of Equipment Uniformity

The official pickleball is a critical component of competitive integrity. Uniform specifications ensure that athletes compete under consistent conditions regardless of venue, country, or competition level. The IPPA shall periodically review and update ball specifications in response to technological advances, scientific research, and the evolving needs of Para Pickleball athletes worldwide.

CHAPTER 17: PARA PICKLEBALL PADDLE SPECIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL

17.1 Objective

The para pickleball paddle is the primary striking implement used in Para Pickleball and plays a critical role in determining ball control, shot execution, player safety, and competitive fairness. The purpose of this chapter is to establish technical standards governing paddle design, construction, performance characteristics, and approval requirements for use in International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) sanctioned competitions. These standards are intended to preserve the skill-based nature of the sport while allowing responsible technological innovation in paddle manufacturing.

Front View

- **Overall Paddle Length:** 16.5 in (41.9 cm)
- **Paddle Width:** 7.5 in (19.1 cm)
- **Handle Length:** 5.6 in (14.2 cm)
- **Grip Circumference:** 4.5 in to 4.75 in (11.4–12.1 cm)



17.2 General Design Requirements

An IPPA-approved paddle shall be a hand-held striking device designed to propel the ball through direct player-generated force. The paddle shall be structurally sound, free from hazardous features, and suitable for repeated competitive use.

The paddle may be manufactured from composite materials, carbon fiber, fiberglass, graphite, polymer composites, advanced engineered laminates, natural materials, or other approved construction technologies. Regardless of material composition, the paddle shall not incorporate design features that fundamentally alter the intended dynamics of play or create an unfair competitive advantage.

The paddle shall consist of a handle, paddle face, internal core structure, edge construction, and any approved protective components.

17.3 Performance Philosophy

The IPPA recognizes that paddle technology continues to evolve. However, competitive outcomes shall primarily reflect athlete skill, technique, strategy, reaction time, and physical ability rather than technological superiority.

Accordingly, paddle designs shall be evaluated not only on dimensional compliance but also on their influence upon energy transfer efficiency, ball rebound behavior, spin generation potential, vibration characteristics, and overall playing performance.

No paddle shall be approved if its design materially diminishes the importance of player skill or creates performance outcomes inconsistent with the spirit of the sport.

17.4-Dimensional Specifications

The paddle may be of any shape provided it remains within the dimensional limits established by the IPPA Equipment Standards Committee.

The total paddle length, including the handle, shall not exceed the maximum dimensions prescribed by the IPPA at the time of certification.

The paddle face shall possess a continuous striking surface suitable for normal play and shall not contain openings, slots, perforations, movable striking elements, or structural features intended to manipulate ball flight characteristics.

All dimensions shall be measured using calibrated equipment under controlled testing conditions.

17.5 Paddle Face Construction

Para Pickleball Players utilizing prosthetic limbs, braces, orthotic supports, adaptive grips, or other assistive technologies shall present such devices for review when requested.

Inspection shall focus on:

- Safety of attachment systems.
- Stability during athletic movement.
- Absence of dangerous edges.
- Structural reliability.
- Compliance with approved adaptive equipment regulations.

The purpose of inspection is not to limit technological advancement but to ensure that assistive devices do not create unreasonable competitive advantages or safety hazards.

Officials shall respect athlete dignity and privacy throughout the inspection process.

21.5 Uniform and Identification Inspection

Technical Officials may inspect player uniforms to verify:

- Compliance with uniform regulations.
- Proper display of national insignia.
- Correct player identification markings.
- Appropriate sponsor placements.
- Absence of offensive or prohibited content.

Uniform inspections may occur before matches, during athlete call rooms, or at any time deemed necessary by tournament officials.

Athletes may be required to change or modify non-compliant attire before being permitted to compete.

21.6 Safety Assessment Procedures

Equipment inspections shall prioritize athlete and participant safety.

The following conditions may result in immediate rejection:

- Sharp metal edges.
- Broken wheelchair components.
- Cracked prosthetic structures.
- Loose fasteners.

- Broken components
- Structural instability
- Loose wheels
- Unsafe modifications

No component shall create an unreasonable risk to the athlete, opponents, officials, or spectators.

Tournament officials may prohibit the use of any wheelchair deemed unsafe, regardless of its compliance with other technical requirements.

18.5 Propulsion Systems

Para Pickleball competition shall be conducted using manually propelled wheelchairs. *(However, in the PP40-PP41 Assisted Class and Profound Cerebral Palsy Some players dependent on electric wheelchair may be permitted to use motorised wheelchair as per the directions of the classifier and tournament director).*

Players may generate movement through direct contact with the wheels, hand rims, push rims, or other approved manual propulsion mechanisms.

The following systems shall not be permitted during competition:

- Electric motors
- Powered propulsion systems
- Hybrid power-assist technologies
- Battery-assisted movement systems
- Electronic drive mechanisms
- Automated mobility systems

The athlete's physical effort shall remain the sole source of propulsion throughout competition.

18.6 Wheel Configuration

Competition wheelchairs may utilize two large rear wheels and one or more front caster wheels or alternative approved configurations designed for adaptive sport participation.

Wheel arrangements shall provide:

- Directional stability
- Manoeuvrability
- Safe turning performance
- Controlled stopping capability

Wheelchairs shall remain stable during rapid directional changes and aggressive court movement commonly encountered during competition.

18.7 Anti-Tip Devices

The use of anti-tip devices is strongly encouraged and is mandatory in certain classifications or developmental divisions.

Anti-tip systems shall:

- Reduce the risk of rearward overturning.
- Not create hazards for other players.
- Not damage the court surface.
- Function without providing propulsion assistance.

Tournament officials may require modification or removal of anti-tip devices that create unsafe conditions.

18.8 Seating Systems and Postural Support

Players may utilize customized seating systems designed to optimize posture, stability, comfort, and functional performance.

Permitted seating adaptations may include:

- Contoured seating systems.
- Pressure-relief cushions.
- Lateral supports.
- Pelvic stabilization systems.
- Trunk support devices.

The inspection may include:

a) Paddle Verification

Officials shall verify:

- Overall dimensions.
- Surface characteristics.
- Structural integrity.
- Edge guard condition.
- Presence of unauthorized substances.
- Manufacturer markings and model identification.

Paddles showing signs of excessive damage, delamination, cracking, loose components, or structural weakness may be rejected.

b) Ball Verification

Competition balls shall be inspected for:

- Shape consistency.
- Surface uniformity.
- Approved construction standards.
- Absence of deformation.
- Proper bounce characteristics.

Only IPPA-approved competition balls may be used in sanctioned events.

c) Wheelchair Examination

Sports wheelchairs shall be examined to confirm:

- Safe mechanical condition.
- Secure wheel attachments.
- Functional anti-tip mechanisms where required.
- Absence of dangerous protrusions.
- Compliance with wheelchair specifications.

Loose, damaged, or unsafe wheelchairs shall not be permitted until repaired.

21.4 Inspection of Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices

CHAPTER 21: TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT INSPECTION PROCEDURES

21.1 Purpose and Scope

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) recognizes that the integrity, safety, and fairness of competition depend upon the use of approved and properly maintained equipment. Technical Equipment Inspection Procedures are established to ensure that all playing equipment, assistive devices, uniforms, and competition-related accessories comply with the standards prescribed by IPPA.

Equipment inspections may be conducted before, during, and after competitions whenever deemed necessary by Tournament Officials, Technical Delegates, Referees, or Equipment Control Officers. The inspection process is designed not only to identify non-compliant equipment but also to protect athlete safety and maintain a level playing field for all participants.

All players, coaches, team managers, and support personnel shall cooperate fully with inspection procedures and provide access to any equipment requested for examination.

21.2 Equipment Control Authority

IPPA-sanctioned tournaments shall appoint an Equipment Inspection Panel consisting of one or more qualified officials responsible for verifying equipment compliance.

The Equipment Inspection Panel shall have the authority to:

- Examine paddles, balls, wheelchairs, prosthetic devices, orthotic equipment, and mobility aids.
- Conduct dimensional and weight measurements.
- Inspect for unauthorized modifications.
- Perform random spot checks during competition.
- Reinspect equipment following repairs or adjustments.
- Recommend equipment approval, conditional approval, or rejection.

The decisions of the Equipment Inspection Panel shall remain binding unless overturned by the designated Technical Jury or Tournament Appeals Committee.

21.3 Pre-Competition Inspection

Prior to the commencement of competition, para pickleball players may be required to present equipment for inspection during the official registration or accreditation process.

- Customized seating shells.

Such adaptations shall serve therapeutic, safety, or functional purposes and shall not artificially increase reach, leverage, or mobility beyond the athlete's natural functional capacity.

18.9 Footrests and Lower Limb Supports

Footrests, leg supports, residual limb supports, and related positioning devices may be used where required by the athlete's disability.

These components shall:

- Be securely attached.
- Remain within safe operating dimensions.
- Not create hazards to opponents.
- Not damage the playing surface.

Adjustable positioning systems are permitted provided they remain fixed during active play.

18.10 Wheel and Tire Standards

Wheel assemblies shall be securely mounted and maintained in proper working condition.

Tires may consist of:

- Pneumatic systems.
- Solid rubber compounds.
- Non-marking synthetic materials.
- Other approved sport wheelchair technologies.

Tire surfaces shall not contain materials capable of damaging the court or creating excessive traction beyond normal sporting use.

The use of substances intended to artificially alter tire grip, rolling resistance, or court interaction is prohibited.

18.11 Dimensions and Court Compatibility

The wheelchair shall be capable of operating safely within the standard dimensions of a regulation Para Pickleball court.

Equipment dimensions shall not interfere with:

- Normal court access.
- Opponent safety.
- Referee positioning.
- Competition operations.

The IPPA reserves the right to establish maximum dimensional limits for specific competition categories when necessary to preserve safety and competitive consistency.

18.12 Biomechanical Considerations

Wheelchair design shall support efficient and safe athlete movement while minimizing injury risk.

Manufacturers and athletes are encouraged to consider:

- Joint loading patterns.
- Upper-limb biomechanics.
- Repetitive strain reduction.
- Ergonomic positioning.
- Propulsion efficiency.
- Stability during reaching movements.

Scientific principles of sports biomechanics and adaptive engineering should guide equipment development whenever possible.

18.13 Prohibited Equipment Features

The following features shall not be permitted:

- Powered mobility systems.
- Motorized assistance devices.
- Electronic stabilization systems.
- Active suspension technologies that alter competitive performance.
- Deployable propulsion mechanisms.
- Mechanical devices providing artificial acceleration.
- Automated steering systems.
- Any technology that creates an unfair sporting advantage.

20.11 Uniform Inspection

Tournament officials may inspect uniforms before or during competition.

Players may be instructed to modify, replace, or remove any item that does not comply with these Rules.

A player refusing to comply may be declared ineligible to participate until the matter is resolved.

20.12 Authority of the IPPA

The IPPA retains exclusive authority over all matters relating to player uniforms, identification markings, sponsor recognition, and appearance standards at sanctioned competitions.

The IPPA Uniform and Branding Committee may issue supplementary regulations, technical specifications, and event-specific requirements as necessary to maintain the professional image and commercial integrity of Para Pickleball worldwide.

The IPPA acknowledges that wheelchair athletes may require adaptations to standard sportswear.

Uniform modifications may be permitted to accommodate:

- Seated playing positions
- Prosthetic attachments
- Medical devices
- Pressure-relief requirements
- Thermoregulation needs
- Disability-specific comfort and safety considerations

Such adaptations shall not provide a competitive advantage and must preserve the professional appearance of the athlete.

20.9 Religious and Cultural Attire

Players may wear religious or cultural garments provided they:

- Do not create a safety hazard.
- Do not interfere with play.
- Are respectful of competition regulations.
- Are approved by the Tournament Director where necessary.

The IPPA supports diversity and inclusion and shall make reasonable accommodations wherever possible.

20.10 Event-Issued Uniforms

For designated IPPA events, players may be required to wear event-issued apparel during opening ceremonies, medal presentations, official photographs, media appearances, and other ceremonial functions.

Failure to comply without valid justification may result in disciplinary action.

Competition wheelchairs shall function solely through athlete-generated movement and passive mechanical design.

18.14 Equipment Inspection and Verification

Prior to competition, wheelchairs may be inspected by designated officials to verify compliance with IPPA standards.

Inspection procedures may include:

- Structural safety evaluation.
- Wheel security checks.
- Tire inspection.
- Seating system assessment.
- Verification of adaptive modifications.
- Review of prohibited technologies.

Players shall cooperate fully with inspection procedures.

Any wheelchair failing inspection shall be corrected before competition participation is permitted.

18.15 Para Pickleball Equipment Modifications

The IPPA recognizes that para pickleball players possess diverse functional abilities and disability profiles. Reasonable modifications necessary to accommodate an athlete's disability are permitted provided they:

- Improve accessibility.
- Enhance safety.
- Support functional participation.
- Do not provide an unfair competitive advantage.

The IPPA Classification and Equipment Committees may review specialized adaptations on a case-by-case basis.

18.16 Maintenance Responsibilities

Athletes are responsible for ensuring that their wheelchairs remain in safe and functional condition throughout the competition.

Routine maintenance should include:

- Inspection of wheel assemblies.
- Fastener verification.
- Tire condition monitoring.
- Frame integrity assessment.
- Seating system evaluation.

Failure to maintain equipment in safe condition may result in removal from competition until corrective action is taken.

18.17 Scientific and Technological Advancement

The IPPA recognizes ongoing advances in rehabilitation engineering, adaptive sports science, biomechanics, lightweight materials, and wheelchair design. Future amendments to these standards may incorporate emerging technologies that improve safety, accessibility, injury prevention, and athlete participation while preserving the principles of competitive equity.

18.18 Principle of Functional Fairness

The fundamental objective of wheelchair regulation is to ensure that equipment serves as a mobility and participation aid rather than a source of competitive superiority. Wheelchairs should enable athletes to express their skills, athleticism, tactical intelligence, and training without introducing technological disparities that compromise fair competition. By maintaining rigorous wheelchair equipment standards, the IPPA reinforces its commitment to athlete safety, accessibility, inclusion, and the integrity of Para Pickleball competition worldwide.

Para Pickleball - Beyond Disability. Beyond Limits. Beyond Expectations

The IPPA reserves the right to establish specific logo dimensions and designated branding zones for international competitions.

20.7 Prohibited Advertising

IPPA
INTERNATIONAL
PARA PICKLEBALL
ASSOCIATION

**ADVERTISING RESTRICTIONS ON
PLAYER UNIFORMS**

THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISING SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED ON PLAYER UNIFORMS

1. TOBACCO PRODUCTS 	2. RECREATIONAL DRUGS 	3. GAMBLING OPERATORS WERE PROHIBITED BY LAW 	4. PORNOGRAPHIC CONTENT 
5. WEAPONS MANUFACTURERS 	6. HATE SPEECH OR EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS 	7. POLITICAL CAMPAIGN MESSAGES 	8. ANY CONTENT CONTRARY TO THE VALUES OF THE IPPA 

 IPPA promotes inclusion, respect, fairness and integrity.
Advertising must reflect these values.

INCLUSION. EQUALITY. OPPORTUNITY.



The following advertising shall not be permitted on player uniforms:

- Tobacco products
- Recreational drugs
- Gambling operators were prohibited by law
- Pornographic content
- Weapons manufacturers
- Hate speech or extremist organizations
- Political campaign messages
- Any content contrary to the values of the IPPA

The IPPA may reject any sponsorship that could damage the reputation of the sport.

20.8 Wheelchair Player Uniform Considerations

20.4 National Team Uniforms

Para Pickleball Players representing their country shall wear uniforms that clearly identify their National Governing Body.

National team uniforms should include:

- Country name or recognized abbreviation
- National colors, National federation logo
- IPPA-approved event insignia
- Player name and identification number where required

National flags may be displayed on the chest, sleeve, or other approved locations.

20.5 Player Names and Identification Numbers

For major international events, players may be required to display their surname and assigned player number on the back of the competition shirt.

The following standards shall apply:

- Names must be clearly legible.
- Letters shall contrast with the uniform colors.
- Nicknames may be permitted only with prior approval.
- Identification numbers shall remain visible throughout play.
- Names and numbers shall not be obscured by equipment, bags, jackets, or accessories during official introductions and competition.

The IPPA may prescribe minimum dimensions for lettering and numbering for televised events.

20.6 Sponsor and Commercial Identification

The IPPA recognizes the importance of sponsorship in the development of Para Pickleball. Players and teams may display approved sponsor logos on uniforms subject to IPPA regulations.

Sponsor identification shall:

- Not conflict with official event sponsors, Not promote prohibited products or services and Not interfere with player identification.
- Remain within approved size and placement restrictions.

CHAPTER 19: APPROVED EQUIPMENT AND ASSISTIVE DEVICES

1. Para Pickleball is founded on the principle that para pickleball players with disabilities should have equitable opportunities to participate and excel in competition. To support this objective, the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) permits the use of approved assistive technologies, adaptive equipment, and mobility aids that compensate for functional limitations and facilitate safe participation in the sport. Such equipment may include, but is not limited to, sport wheelchairs, prosthetic components, orthotic supports, adaptive paddle modifications and other disability-related aids recognized by the IPPA.
2. All equipment utilized by players shall serve a functional or accessibility purpose and must be operated in a manner consistent with the values of sportsmanship, safety, and competitive integrity. The presence of an assistive device shall not alter the essential nature of the game nor diminish the requirement that success be determined primarily through athletic ability, tactical decision-making, and player skill.
3. In wheelchair divisions, the mobility device used by a player shall be regarded as an extension of the player during play. Any contact, positioning, or movement involving the wheelchair shall be interpreted in accordance with the relevant provisions of these Rules unless otherwise specifically provided. Para Pickleball players may compete using manually operated or otherwise authorized mobility equipment provided such equipment remains structurally sound, stable, and suitable for competitive use.
4. No adaptive device, accessory, or technological enhancement shall contain features intended to generate artificial propulsion, increase striking power, improve ball control, manipulate ball behavior, or otherwise provide a performance benefit unrelated to the athlete's own physical and technical capabilities. Equipment modifications that compromise fairness, create unequal playing conditions, or interfere with the normal conduct of the match shall be prohibited.
5. The responsibility for maintaining equipment in a safe and competition-ready condition rests with the athlete. Tournament officials may examine any item of

equipment before, during, or after a match to verify compliance with IPPA regulations. Where concerns arise regarding safety, legality, or competitive equity, officials may require adjustments, impose conditions of use, or disallow the equipment entirely until compliance is achieved.

6. Recognizing the rapid advancement of adaptive sports technology, the IPPA reserves the authority to evaluate emerging devices and innovations not specifically addressed within this Rulebook. Such assessments shall consider factors including athlete welfare, accessibility, durability, competitive neutrality, and consistency with the objectives of Para Pickleball. The determination of the IPPA Rules Committee and Equipment Review Panel shall be final in all matters relating to equipment approval.
7. Through these provisions, the IPPA seeks to foster an environment where adaptive solutions remove barriers to participation while preserving the fundamental principles of fair competition. Approved equipment and assistive devices are intended to facilitate inclusion and independence, ensuring that every athlete has the opportunity to compete on equal terms and to demonstrate excellence through performance, determination, and sporting merit.

CHAPTER 20: PLAYER UNIFORMS AND IDENTIFICATION

20.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter is to establish standards for player attire, identification, branding, and appearance during IPPA-sanctioned competitions. Uniform regulations are intended to promote professionalism, player recognition, team identity, commercial consistency, and the positive image of Para Pickleball at local, national, continental, and international levels.

20.2 General Uniform Requirements

All players participating in IPPA-sanctioned events shall wear clean, presentable, and sport-appropriate attire specifically designed for sports competition. Uniforms shall be comfortable, non-restrictive, and suitable for the athlete's disability-specific requirements while maintaining a professional appearance.

Uniforms shall not contain offensive language, political statements, discriminatory messages, obscene imagery, or any content deemed inappropriate by the IPPA.

The Tournament Director may require a player to change any item of clothing that is considered unsafe, distracting, non-compliant, or detrimental to the image of the competition.

20.3 Official Competition Uniform

For team competitions, national championships, continental championships, world championships, and other designated events, all members of a team shall wear substantially identical uniforms.

The official competition uniform may consist of:

- Team jersey or shirt
- Shorts, skirts, trousers, or adaptive sportswear
- Wheelchair players leg coverings (optional)
- Headwear approved by the Tournament Director
- Sport-specific footwear where applicable
- Disability-specific adaptations approved by IPPA

Uniform designs shall maintain consistency in colour, branding, and player identification throughout the competition.

CHAPTER 24: SCORING SYSTEM (11-POINT FORMAT)

24.1 Scope

1. The 11-Point Scoring System is the standard method of scoring used in Para Pickleball competitions sanctioned by the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA). The system is designed to provide a balance between competitive fairness, match efficiency, athlete endurance, and tournament scheduling requirements.
2. Under this format, points may only be scored by the serving side. The first player or team to achieve the required winning score and satisfy the winning margin requirement shall be declared the winner of the game.
3. Under the IPPA Scoring System, only one (1) point may be awarded during any completed rally. Regardless of the nature or number of faults committed within the rally, a maximum of one point shall be credited to the side entitled to score.
4. A rally shall conclude immediately when a fault is committed, and the result of that rally shall be the award of a single point or a change of service, as applicable under the Rules of Play.
5. No rally shall result in the award of multiple points, penalty points, bonus points, or cumulative scoring. Each legally completed rally shall have only one scoring outcome.

Examples

- If the serving side wins the rally, the serving side scores **one point**.
- If the receiving side wins the rally, the receiving side gains the service opportunity but **no point is awarded** under the traditional side-out scoring system.
- If a rally-ending fault occurs, only **one point** may be awarded irrespective of any subsequent actions after the fault.

This principle ensures scoring consistency, maintains the integrity of rally-based competition, and promotes uniform application of the IPPA Rules across all sanctioned events.

24.2 Standard Game Format

A standard game shall be played to **11 points**.

The side that first scores 11 points and maintains a minimum advantage of two (2) points over its opponent shall win the game.

- Exposed Carbon Fiber Fragments (CFF).
- Dangerous protrusions.
- Equipment likely to cause injury to the athlete or opponents.

Safety assessments shall consider both direct and indirect risks, including collision hazards and equipment failure during play.

21.7 Random Equipment Audits

To preserve competition integrity, IPPA may conduct random equipment audits at any stage of a tournament.

Athletes selected for audit shall immediately present equipment upon request.

Random audits may include:

- Paddle measurements.
- Surface testing.
- Weight verification.
- Wheelchair examination.
- Prosthetic device inspection.
- Uniform compliance review.

Failure to cooperate with random audits may constitute a disciplinary violation.

21.8 Post-Match Equipment Inspection

Following a match, selected Para Pickleball Players may be directed to undergo equipment inspection.

Post-match inspections may be initiated:

- Through random selection.
- Following an equipment protest.
- Upon recommendation of match officials.
- When unusual equipment performance is observed.

Equipment shall remain under the supervision of tournament officials until inspection is completed.

If equipment is found to be non-compliant, penalties may be imposed regardless of match outcome.

21.9 Equipment Protest Procedure

Para Pickleball Players or team representatives may submit a formal protest regarding an opponent's equipment.

The protest shall:

- Be submitted in writing.
- Identify the equipment in question.
- Describe the alleged violation.
- Be accompanied by any required protest fee.

Frivolous, malicious, or unsupported protests may be rejected without further action.

The Equipment Inspection Panel shall conduct an impartial examination and issue a written determination.

21.10 Scientific Testing and Measurement

Where necessary, IPPA may employ scientific testing methods to verify compliance.

Such testing may include:

- Precision dimensional measurements.
- Digital weight analysis.
- Surface roughness evaluation.
- Material composition analysis.
- Structural integrity assessments.
- Impact and rebound testing.

Testing equipment shall be calibrated according to internationally recognized measurement standards to ensure accuracy and consistency.

21.11 Documentation and Record Keeping

All equipment inspections shall be documented.

Inspection records may include:

- Player identification – Licence Number
- Date and location of inspection.
- Equipment description.

-
- Accessibility of courts and facilities.
-
- Classification-specific requirements.
-
- Medical and safety considerations.
-
- Equipment inspection schedules.

Tournament organizers shall strive to create competition schedules that maximize athlete performance, safety, and participation opportunities.

23.12 Authority of the Tournament Organizer

The Tournament Director, in consultation with the Technical Delegate and Referee, shall have authority to determine the most appropriate competition structure for an event, provided that all participants are informed of the format before competition begins.

Any changes to the approved competition structure after the start of play shall only be made under exceptional circumstances and in the interests of fairness, athlete safety, or operational necessity.

23.13 Principle of Competitive Integrity

All match formats and competition structures adopted by IPPA shall be guided by the principles of transparency, equality of opportunity, sporting merit, and player-centered competition. Regardless of the format selected, the ultimate objective shall be to identify the most deserving competitors through fair and consistent competition while promoting the growth and development of Para Pickleball throughout the world.

- Ranking Position Matches.

These events provide additional competitive opportunities and assist in determining final tournament rankings.

23.9 Match Scheduling and Order of Play

The Tournament Director shall publish an official schedule specifying:

- Match times.
- Court assignments.
- Warm-up periods.
- Rest intervals.
- Competition rounds.

Players are responsible for reporting to their assigned court on time and shall comply with all scheduling requirements.

The Tournament Director may adjust schedules due to weather, venue conditions, athlete welfare considerations, or unforeseen circumstances.

23.10 Tie-Breaking Procedures

Where two or more players or teams are tied in group standings, the following criteria may be applied in order:

- Number of match victories.
- Head-to-head results.
- Games won versus games lost.
- Point differential.
- Points scored.
- Additional playoff or tie-break match, if required.

Tournament regulations may specify alternative tie-break procedures provided they are published in advance.

23.11 Para Pickleball Competition Considerations

Competition structures shall take into account the specific needs of Para Pickleball athletes, including:

- Appropriate rest and recovery periods.

- Inspection findings.
- Corrective actions required.
- Final approval or rejection status.

IPPA may maintain equipment compliance records for future reference, investigations, and quality assurance purposes.

21.12 Equipment Sealing and Certification

For major championships, inspected equipment may receive an official approval mark, seal, tag, barcode, or electronic verification identifier.

Once certified:

- Equipment may not be modified.
- Repairs shall require reinspection.
- Replacement equipment shall undergo separate approval procedures.

Any alteration after certification may invalidate approval.

21.13 Confidentiality and Players Rights

All inspections shall be conducted professionally, respectfully, and without discrimination.

Para Pickleball Players shall have the right to:

- Receive explanations of inspection findings.
- Request clarification regarding regulations.
- Appeal equipment decisions through established procedures.
- Have inspections conducted in a manner that preserves dignity and privacy.

Medical, adaptive, or disability-related equipment information obtained during inspections shall be treated confidentially and used solely for competition administration purposes.

21.14 Non-Compliance and Enforcement

Equipment determined to be non-compliant may be:

- Rejected from competition.
- Subject to corrective modification.

- Temporarily withdrawn pending review.
- Referred to the Technical Jury.
- Subject to disciplinary action where intentional violations are established.

Sanctions may include warnings, equipment replacement requirements, match forfeiture, disqualification, or additional penalties prescribed under IPPA regulations.

21.15 Principle of Fair Competition

The Technical Equipment Inspection Program exists to uphold the principles of fairness, athlete safety, technological integrity, and equal opportunity. All equipment used in IPPA-sanctioned competitions shall support the spirit of Para Pickleball by promoting performance through skill, training, and athletic excellence while ensuring that no athlete gains an unfair advantage through unauthorized equipment modifications or unsafe practices.

Through consistent inspection procedures and transparent enforcement, IPPA seeks to maintain confidence in the sport and provide a safe, equitable, and professionally regulated competitive environment for all participants.



- University or institutional teams.

A team match may include a combination of:

- Singles Matches.
- Doubles Matches.
- Mixed doubles Matches.
- Fundraiser Exhibition matches.

The team accumulating the required number of match victories shall be declared the winner.

23.7 Seeding and Draw Procedures

To promote competitive balance, tournaments organisers may utilize seeding systems based upon:

- IPPA World Rankings.
- Continental Rankings.
- National Rankings.
- Previous tournament performances.
- Wildcard allocations.

Seeded players shall be placed in the draw according to approved tournament procedures to minimize early-round contests between the highest-ranked competitors.

23.8 Consolation and Placement Competitions

Tournament organizers may provide additional placement matches for para pickleball players eliminated from the main draw.

Such competitions may include:

- Bronze Medal Matches.
- Third-Place Playoffs.
- Consolation Brackets.
- Classification Matches.

club championships, national circuits, professional tours, and regional Para Pickleball development programs. The participant or team finishing at the top of the standings at the conclusion of the league shall be declared the league champion, unless a separate playoff stage is prescribed by the competition regulations.

(C) League Cum Knockout Format

1. The **League-Cum-Knockout Competition Format** is a two-stage tournament system designed to combine the advantages of league play and knockout competition. This format is commonly adopted in national and international championships to ensure that participants are evaluated through multiple matches before advancing to the decisive elimination rounds.
2. In the **League Stage**, players or teams are allocated into designated pools, groups, or divisions. Each participant competes against all other participants within the same group in accordance with a round-robin schedule. Match results are recorded and points are awarded based on the competition regulations. Rankings within each group are determined by factors such as total points earned, number of matches won, head-to-head results, point differential, or other approved tie-break criteria.
3. The purpose of the league phase is to provide all participants with a minimum guaranteed number of matches while establishing a reliable competitive ranking. This stage reduces the influence of a single unfavourable result and rewards consistency, skill, and overall performance throughout the competition.
4. Upon completion of the league phase, a predetermined number of the highest-ranked participants from each group qualify for the **Knockout Stage**. The qualified participants are seeded into an elimination bracket based on their league standings or as specified in the tournament regulations. Once the knockout stage commences, competitors must win each match to remain in contention for the championship title.

23.6 Team Competitions

IPPA may sanction team-based competitions involving:

- National teams.
- Regional teams.
- Club teams.
- Franchise teams.

CHAPTER 22: BASIC RULES OF PLAY

- A. Para Pickleball is a paddle sport played between two players (singles) or four players (doubles) on a rectangular court divided by a net. The objective of the game is to score points by striking the ball over the net and into the opponent's court in a manner that prevents a legal return. The sport is inclusive of players with a wide range of disabilities, including, Standing Para Pickleball Players, Dwarf Para Pickleball Players, Wheelchair Para Pickleball Players and Intellectual Disabilities & Cerebral Palsy Para Pickleball Players where applicable, and players utilizing approved assistive or adaptive devices. All participants shall compete under the principles of fairness, safety, sportsmanship, dignity, accessibility, and equal opportunity, ensuring that every athlete has the ability to participate and excel within a competitive and inclusive sporting environment.
- B. A rally begins with a legal serve delivered diagonally into the opponent's service court. The serve must be executed in accordance with the applicable serving regulations established by the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA). Following the serve and return of serve, players may continue striking the ball until a fault occurs or the rally ends. Players shall make every reasonable effort to play the ball before it bounces more times than permitted under the applicable division rules.
- C. The game incorporates the Mandatory Bounce Rule (Double Bounce), requiring the receiving team to allow the served ball to bounce once before returning it and the serving team to allow the return of serve to bounce once before playing the ball. After these two mandatory bounces have occurred, either team may play the ball in the air (volley) or after a bounce, subject to all non-volley zone restrictions.
- D. A point shall be awarded when the opposing player or team commits a fault. Faults include, but are not limited to, hitting the ball out of bounds, failing to clear the net, volleying illegally from the non-volley zone, committing a serving violation, or otherwise violating the rules of play. IPPA Matches will be played using side-out scoring system only. A traditional scoring method in which points can only be scored by the serving player or serving team. If the receiving side wins a rally, no point is awarded; instead, the right to serve passes to the receiving side.
- E. The non-volley zone is a designated area extending from the net on both sides of the court. Players may enter this zone to play a ball that has bounced but may not volley the ball while standing in or touching the non-volley zone or its boundary.

lines. This rule is intended to promote skill, control, and strategic play near the net.

- F. Players are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and respect throughout the match. All line calls, scoring announcements, and interactions with opponents, officials, and spectators shall reflect the highest standards of sportsmanship. Deliberate misconduct, unsportsmanlike behavior, or actions that bring the sport into disrepute may result in penalties or disciplinary action.
- G. The fundamental purpose of these Basic Rules of Play is to ensure that Para Pickleball remains safe, competitive, accessible, and enjoyable for athletes of all disability classifications. While additional chapters of the IPPA Rulebook provide detailed regulations governing serving, faults, scoring, adaptive provisions, and tournament procedures, these basic rules establish the essential framework upon which every match is played.

Coin Toss and Choosing of Ends

22.1 Purpose

Prior to the commencement of a Para Pickleball match, a coin toss or another approved random selection method shall be conducted to determine the initial choice of ends, service, or receipt of service. The procedure is intended to ensure fairness and equality between the competing players or teams before play begins.

22.2 Conduct of the Coin Toss

The coin toss shall be conducted by the Referee, Umpire, or designated Match Official in the presence of the players or team representatives. One player or team shall call the coin toss while the coin is in the air. The winner of the toss shall be entitled to make the first selection from the available options.

Where a coin is unavailable, the Tournament Director may authorize an alternative random selection method, provided that the process is impartial, transparent, and acceptable to both competitors.

22.3 Options Available to the Winner of the Toss

The player or team winning the coin toss shall have the right to choose one of the following:

- a. To serve first; or

The Best-of-Three format is the official structure for all IPPA-sanctioned championships and ranking events.

23.4 Scoring Systems

IPPA competitions may utilize:

IPPA Side-Out Scoring

Only the serving side will score points. The receiving side gains the right to serve by winning a rally.

23.5 Tournament Competition Structures

(A) Single Elimination (Knock Out Format)

Under a Single Elimination format, a player or team is eliminated after one match loss.

The Single Elimination Competition Format is a tournament structure in which a player or team is immediately eliminated from championship contention upon losing a match. Competitors advance through a predetermined draw, with the winner of each match progressing to the next round and the losing player or team being removed from the main championship bracket. The competition continues through successive rounds, typically consisting of preliminary rounds, Round of 32, Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals, depending upon the number of entries. The player or team that remains undefeated throughout the bracket shall be declared the tournament champion.

(B) League Format Structure

1. A **League Structure** is a competition format in which players, teams, clubs, or national representatives compete over a series of scheduled matches during a defined season or competition period. Participants earn points based on match results, and final standings are determined by the total points accumulated throughout the league.
2. League competitions may be conducted on a single-round or double-round basis, where competitors play each opponent once or multiple times. Rankings are typically determined by match wins, points earned, point differential, and other approved tie-break criteria.
3. This format emphasizes consistency, long-term performance, athlete development, and regular competitive opportunities. League structures are commonly used for

- Women's Singles
- Men's Doubles
- Women's Doubles
- Mixed Doubles
- Fundraisers Challenge – Able Vs Differently Able
- Fundraisers Mixed – Able & Differently Able
- Team Competitions
- Open Events and Classification-Based Competitions

Tournament organizers may create additional divisions subject to IPPA approval and athlete participation requirements.

23.3 Match Formats

Matches may be conducted using one scoring and two types of match structures as specified in the tournament regulations.

a. Single Game Format

A match may consist of one game played to a IPPA 11 points Rule, such as:

- 11 points

A winning margin of two points shall normally apply.

The single-game format is particularly suitable for introductory competitions, early-round tournament play, participation-focused events, and competitions requiring efficient scheduling of numerous athletes.

b. Best-of-Three Games Format (IPPA Standard Format)

A match may be decided by the player or team winning two out of three games.

Each game will be played to:

- 11 points
- A winning margin of two points shall apply.

b. To receive first; or

c. To select the end of the court on which they wish to begin play.

The opposing player or team shall be entitled to the remaining choice. For example, if the winner of the toss elects to serve first, the opponent may choose the preferred end of the court. If the winner elects to choose an end of the court, the opponent shall choose whether to serve or receive first.

22.4 Considerations When Choosing Ends

Players may consider environmental factors when selecting an end of the court, including but not limited to:

- Wind direction and intensity.
- Position of the sun or artificial lighting.
- Court surface conditions.
- Indoor or outdoor venue characteristics.
- Spectator, camera, or venue configurations.

The selection of ends shall not be altered after the commencement of the warm-up period unless directed by the Referee for safety or operational reasons.

22.5 Wheelchair, Standing, Dwarf, Intellectual Disability & Cerebral Palsy Divisions

The coin toss procedure shall apply equally to all Para Pickleball divisions, including:

- Standing Para Pickleball.
- Dwarf Para Pickleball.
- Wheelchair Para Pickleball.
- Intellectual Disability & Cerebral Palsy Para Pickleball.
- Other recognized Para Pickleball classifications.

No player shall receive preferential treatment regarding the toss procedure based upon disability classification.

22.6 Change of Ends During the Match

Following the initial selection of ends, players shall change ends of the court in accordance with the match format and scoring regulations prescribed by IPPA. The purpose of changing ends is to minimize any advantage or disadvantage arising from environmental conditions.

Multi-Game Matches (Best-of-Three Games)

Teams shall change ends at the completion of each game. In the deciding or final game, teams shall additionally change ends when one side first reaches the midpoint of the game:

6 points in a game to 11.

The player or team that is serving at the time of the end change shall continue to serve after changing ends.

22.7 Failure to Appear for the Coin Toss

If a player or team fails to report to the court within the prescribed reporting time, the Referee may proceed in accordance with the tournament's lateness and default regulations. The coin toss may be conducted upon the arrival of the player provided the match has not been declared a default.

22.8 Authority of the Referee

The Referee's determination regarding the conduct of the coin toss, the selection process, and the recording of choices shall be final unless a clear procedural error is established before the commencement of play.

22.9 Spirit of Fair Play

The coin toss is a ceremonial and procedural component of Para Pickleball competition that reflects the principles of neutrality, fairness, and respect. All players shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner during the toss procedure and shall promptly comply with the choices and directions confirmed by the Match Officials.

CHAPTER 23: MATCH FORMATS AND COMPETITION STRUCTURES

23.1 General Principles

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) recognizes that different tournaments, championships, leagues, and promotional events may require varying competition formats to accommodate player participation, venue capacity, scheduling requirements, and competitive objectives. Accordingly, IPPA-sanctioned competitions may adopt a range of match formats and competition structures, provided that such formats are announced in advance and applied consistently throughout the event.

All competition formats shall be designed to promote fair play, competitive balance, athlete welfare, and meaningful sporting outcomes while ensuring accessibility for, Standing Para Pickleball Players, Wheelchair Para Pickleball Players, Dwarf Para Pickleball Players, Intellectual Disability & Cerebral Palsy Para Pickleball Players, and other recognized Para Pickleball classifications.

23.2 Competition Categories

IPPA COMPETITION FORMATS				
IPPA competitions may be organized in one or more of the following:				
SL. NO.	COMPETITION FORMAT	DESCRIPTION	PLAYERS / TEAM STRUCTURE	ILLUSTRATION
1	Men's Singles	A competitive event for individual male athletes.	1 Player (Individual)	
2	Women's Singles	A competitive event for individual female athletes.	1 Player (Individual)	
3	Men's Doubles	A competitive event for two male athletes as a team.	2 Players (Same Gender)	
4	Women's Doubles	A competitive event for two female athletes as a team.	2 Players (Same Gender)	
5	Mixed Doubles	A competitive event with one male and one female athlete per team.	2 Players per Team (Mixed Gender)	
6	Fundraisers Challenge – Able Vs Differently Able	A fundraisers event where able-bodied athletes compete against athletes with disabilities.	2 Players per Team (Able Vs Differently Able)	
7	Fundraisers Mixed – Able & Differently Able	A fundraisers event with a team comprising able-bodied and athletes with disabilities.	2 Players per Team (Able & Differently Able)	
8	Team Competitions	A competition format where teams comprising multiple players compete against other teams.	Multiple Players per Team (Team Event)	

IPPA competitions may be organized in one or more of the following:

- Men's Singles

- E. Wheelchair movement resulting from momentum after a shot shall not be considered a fault unless another rule is violated.
- F. Wheelchair Topple: If a player's wheelchair topples or overturns during a live rally, the rally shall immediately be stopped by the referee and replayed, provided that the overturn was accidental and not caused by reckless or deliberate actions by either player. If the referee determines that the player intentionally caused the overturn to avoid losing the rally or the player was not going to successfully return the ball legally during the fall, a fault shall be declared against that player

31.6 Dwarf Para Pickleball Rally Situations

For Dwarf Para Pickleball athletes:

- A. Standard rally rules shall apply unless specific competition regulations provide approved modifications.
- B. Players may utilize modified techniques and movement patterns appropriate to their stature.
- C. Additional bounce provisions may apply in PP40, PP41 Assisted Dwarf classifications where authorized by IPPA.

31.7 Standing Para Pickleball Rally Situations

- A. Standing Para Pickleball players shall compete under standard rally regulations. The use of prosthetic devices, orthotic supports, or approved mobility aids is permitted when authorized by classification and competition regulations.
- B. Prosthetic Equipment Failure Rule: If a player's prosthetic device breaks, detaches, or becomes unsafe during a live rally, the referee shall immediately stop play and declare a replay of the rally, provided the equipment failure was accidental and not caused by deliberate misuse or negligence.
- C. The player shall be allowed a reasonable period, not exceeding 10 minutes, to repair, replace, or adjust the prosthetic device. If the prosthetic cannot be repaired or replaced within the allotted time, the player or team shall forfeit the match unless an extension is granted by the Tournament Referee for exceptional circumstances.

31.8 Player Interference

A fault shall be declared if a player:

Examples:

- 11-4: Game won.
- 11-9: Game won.
- 11-10: Game continues.
- 12-10: Game won.
- 15-13: Game won.

If both sides reach a score of 10-10, play shall continue until one side establishes a two-point lead.

24.3 Point Scoring Principles

Points may be awarded only to the serving side when the receiving side commits a fault or fails to return the ball in accordance with the Rules of Play.

A point shall be awarded when:

- The opponent commits a fault.
- The opponent fails to return the ball before it bounces twice or thrice as per the Classification Category and Additional Bounce Rule.
- The opponent hits the ball out of bounds.
- The opponent violates the Non-Volley Zone (NVZ) regulations.
- The opponent commits a service fault.
- Any other rule violation results in loss of rally.

When the serving side loses a rally, service shall pass according to the applicable service sequence without awarding a point to the receiving side.

24.4 Winning the Game

A game is won when a player or team:

1. Reaches a minimum score of eleven (11) points; and
2. Holds at least a two-point advantage over the opposing side.

There shall be no upper scoring limit unless otherwise specified in the tournament regulations.

24.5 Match Formats

a) Single Game Match

One game to 11 points, win by 2.

b) Best-of-Three Games

The first player or team to win two games shall win the match.

24.6 Extended Play

When the score becomes tied at 10-10, the game shall enter an extended-play period.

During extended play:

- The game continues without interruption.
- Teams continue serving in normal sequence.
- The first side to establish a two-point lead wins the game.
- No special tie-break procedures shall apply unless approved by the Tournament Committee.

24.7 Official Score Announcement

Score announcements shall be made in the prescribed sequence established by these Rules. In doubles competition, the serving team's score shall be announced first, followed by the receiving team's score and the applicable server number. In singles competition, the serving player's score shall be announced first, followed by the receiving player's score.

If a player believes that an incorrect score has been announced, clarification shall be requested before the serve is executed. Once the subsequent rally has commenced, the score shall generally stand unless an error can be clearly established in accordance with the competition regulations.

The score shall be announced before each serve.

For singles competition, the server shall announce:

Server Score – Receiver Score

Example:

“8-6”

For doubles competition, the server shall announce:

Serving Team Score – Receiving Team Score – Server Number

31.3 Ball in Play

The ball remains in play when:

- It lands legally in the opponent's court.
- It contacts the net and lands legally in the opponent's court.
- It touches any court line.
- It rebounds from the net cord and continues into the proper playing area.
- It contacts a player's paddle and remains within the rules of legal contact.

31.4 Rally Faults

A rally shall immediately end if:

- A. The ball is struck out of bounds.
- B. The ball is volleyed from within the Non-Volley Zone in violation of NVZ rules.
- C. A player touches the net, net post, or opponent's court while the ball is live.
- D. The ball bounces more than once before being returned, except where an additional bounce is permitted under IPPA Para Pickleball rules.
- E. The ball is struck twice intentionally.
- F. A player catches, carries, or throws the ball.
- G. A player or equipment touches the ball before it crosses the net legally.
- H. A player's uncontrolled momentum results in entry into the opponent's court over the net or around the net post.

31.5 Wheelchair Para Pickleball Rally Situations

For Para Pickleball Players classified in Wheelchair Para Pickleball divisions:

- A. The wheelchair is considered part of the player's body.
- B. Contact between the ball and the wheelchair does not constitute a legal return.
- C. Players may use the mobility and positioning of the wheelchair to execute shots.
- D. The approved additional bounce rule may apply to designated classifications as specified by IPPA regulations.

CHAPTER 31. RALLY SITUATIONS AND RULES

A rally is the continuous sequence of play that begins when a legal serve is executed and ends when a fault is committed, the ball becomes dead, or a point is awarded. In Para Pickleball, rallies are governed by the same fundamental principles of fairness, skill, and continuous play, while recognizing the specific modifications applicable to different disability classifications.

During a rally, players may strike the ball after it has bounced or volley it before it bounces, provided all Non-Volley Zone (NVZ) regulations are respected. Players are permitted to move freely within their playing area and may use any legal stroke, provided the paddle does not make prolonged contact with the ball.

31.1 Continuation of a Rally

A rally shall continue until:

- A fault is committed by a player or team.
- The ball gets stuck in the wheelchair or the player's uniform.
- The ball lands outside the court boundaries.
- The ball fails to clear the net.
- The ball touches a permanent object before landing in the opponent's court.
- The referee stops play due to a safety, medical, or equipment issue.
- A valid let or replay is declared under applicable tournament regulations.

31.2 Legal Rally Actions

During a rally, players may:

- Execute groundstrokes, volleys, lobs, drives, drops, dinks, overheads, and defensive returns.
- Use any part of the paddle face to strike the ball.
- Reach across the net after striking the ball on their own side, provided they do not touch the net or interfere with opponents.
- Change positions with their doubles partner at any time during the rally.

Example:

"8-6-First Server"

"8-6-Second Server"

The announced score shall be considered the official score unless corrected before the next serve is executed.

24.8 Correction of Scoring Errors

If an incorrect score is announced or recorded:

- Play shall be stopped as soon as the error is identified.
- The correct score shall be determined from official records, referee observations, or other authorized means.
- Play shall resume from the corrected score.
- Points validly earned before discovery of the error shall remain valid.

A scoring error shall not invalidate rallies already completed.

24.9 Referee Responsibilities

The referee shall:

- Maintain the official score.
- Announce scores clearly and consistently.
- Confirm game-winning points.
- Resolve scoring disputes.
- Ensure accurate recording of match results.

The referee's determination of the official score shall be final unless overturned by the Match Referee under established competition procedures.

24.10 Tournament Administration

For tournament scheduling and ranking purposes, all match results shall be recorded using the official 11-point scoring format unless an alternative format has been specifically approved by the Tournament Director and published in advance. The 11-point scoring system remains the preferred competitive format for IPPA-sanctioned Para Pickleball events.

CHAPTER 25: SERVICE RULES AND PLAYER POSITIONS

25.1 General Principle

The service is the method by which a rally is initiated and shall be performed in accordance with the technical requirements established by the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA). Service regulations and player positioning requirements are intended to provide equitable competitive conditions while recognizing the functional characteristics of different Para Pickleball classifications.

All players, regardless of classification, shall occupy legal court positions before the serve and maintain compliance with the prescribed service procedures. Classification-specific modifications are intended solely to facilitate participation and shall not be interpreted as conferring a competitive advantage.

25.2 Common Service Requirements

For all Para Pickleball classifications:

- a. The serve shall be struck from behind the baseline and directed diagonally into the opponent's designated service court.
- b. The server shall not initiate the service motion until the referee has completed the official score announcement. The serve must be executed within ten (10) seconds following the completion of the score call provided both sides are ready for play; and failure to do so may result in a delay-of-game fault.
- c. The served ball shall clear the net and land within the boundaries of the correct service area. If the ball touches the net/net cord and lands within the boundaries of the correct service area without touching the surface or net post, the server shall be Re-Served.
- d. A para pickleball player shall not deliberately delay service once the score has been announced.
- e. Service shall be executed only after both sides are reasonably prepared to play.
- f. Only one point may be awarded from a completed rally.
- g. The server and receiver shall occupy the correct service positions determined by the score and service sequence.
- h. A server may bounce the ball on the playing surface one or more times before initiating the serve, provided that such actions do not unreasonably delay the game. The

struck and legally returned before a third bounce occurs. Failure to return the ball before the third bounce shall result in a fault.

8. The second bounce may occur anywhere within the player's court boundaries, including the Non-Volley Zone. The ball must remain in play and shall not be caught, carried, or allowed to come to rest before being returned.
9. When competing against a player entitled to the Additional Bounce Rule, opponents shall continue to play under the standard Rules of Pickleball and shall not be entitled to an additional bounce unless they are also classified within an eligible category. The application of this Rule shall not affect any other provisions relating to serving, volleying, scoring, court positioning, or fault determination.
10. The Additional Bounce Rule is intended to promote meaningful competition while recognizing the functional realities of specific Para Pickleball classifications. Its implementation shall be consistent with the classification standards and competition regulations established by the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA).

CHAPTER 30. RECEIVING AND RETURN OF SERVE

30.1 The receiving player shall permit the served ball to bounce once on the receiving court before making a return. A return of serve struck before the first bounce is a fault. The returned ball shall travel over the net, between the net posts, and land within the opponent's court, excluding any permanent objects. If the served ball contacts the net and lands legally in the correct service court, it remains in play and shall be returned in accordance with these Rules. (Cerebral Palsy Players are exempted from this rule)

30.2 Following a legal return of serve, the serving side shall also permit the returned ball to bounce once before striking it, thereby completing the Mandatory Bounce Rule (Two-Bounce Rule). After these two mandatory bounces have occurred, either side may return the ball by volley or after a bounce, subject to the Non-Volley Zone (NVZ) restrictions and any classification-specific provisions prescribed by the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA), including the Additional Bounce Rule applicable to designated classifications. A rally shall continue until a fault is committed or a point is otherwise awarded in accordance with these Rules. (Cerebral Palsy Players are exempted from this rule)

CHAPTER 28. MANDATORY BOUNCE RULE

28. (Two-Bounce Rule)

1. To promote balanced play between the serving and receiving sides, each rally shall begin with a Mandatory Bounce Rule, commonly known as the Two-Bounce Rule.
2. Following a legal serve, the receiving side shall allow the ball to bounce at least once before returning it. The serving side shall then also allow the return of serve to bounce at least once before striking the ball. Only after these two mandatory bounces have occurred may either side play the ball in the air or after a bounce.
3. Any player who volleys the serve or the return of serve before the required bounce has occurred shall commit a fault. This Rule applies uniformly across all categories of Para Pickleball and remains a fundamental element of rally initiation.

CHAPTER 29: ADDITIONAL BOUNCE RULE

1. The Additional Bounce Rule is a sport-specific accommodation designed to ensure equitable participation for players whose functional abilities may limit court coverage and movement efficiency. Under this Rule, eligible players are permitted to allow the ball to bounce twice on their side of the court before making a return.
2. **The Additional Bounce Rule shall apply exclusively to:**
3. Wheelchair Para Pickleball Players classified as PP51–PP57.
4. Dwarf Para Pickleball Players classified as PP40–PP41 Assisted Categories also called as PP40A and PP41A.
5. Intellectual Disabilities Para Pickleball Players classified as **PP20**
 - Profound (PP20-A)
 - Severe (PP20-B)
 - Moderate (PP20-C)
6. Cerebral Palsy Para Pickleball Players classified **PP1-PP8**
 - PP1-PP2
 - PP3-PP4
 - PP5-PP8
7. For eligible players, the second bounce is optional. The player may return the ball after either the first bounce or the second bounce. However, the ball must be

ball may also be dropped directly from the server's hand without bouncing prior to the serve.

25.3 Standing Para Pickleball Service and Position Rules

Service Position

Players competing in Standing Para Pickleball divisions shall perform the serve from a standing position using the same court dimensions and service zones applicable to the division in which they compete.

At ball contact:

- a. At least one foot shall remain in contact with the playing surface.
- b. Neither foot may touch the baseline or enter the court before the ball is struck.
- c. The server shall remain within the imaginary extensions of the sideline and centerline corresponding to the designated service area.

Player Positioning

Players may adopt any tactical position on their side of the court provided that:

- Service order is maintained.
- Receiving responsibilities are respected.
- No player obstructs the normal progression of play.

The server's partner and receiver's partner may assume strategic positions after service has been legally executed.

25.4 Wheelchair Para Pickleball Service and Position Rules

(A) Service Position

For wheelchair competition, the wheelchair shall be considered an extension of the player.

At the moment of service:

1. The rear propulsion wheels shall be positioned completely behind the baseline.
2. No propulsion wheel shall contact the baseline, centerline extension, or sideline extension.

3. Front caster wheels may extend beyond the baseline provided the propulsion wheels remain legally positioned.
4. The player shall remain seated throughout the service motion.
5. The player shall not use the feet or lower limbs to generate propulsion or additional leverage during service. No part of the player's body shall make contact with the playing surface, court boundary structures, fencing, walls, or any external structure during the execution of the service.

(B) Player Positioning

1. Players may position their wheelchairs anywhere on their side of the court, subject to service order requirements.
2. Movement and positioning shall be achieved through wheelchair propulsion only.
3. The wheelchair constitutes part of the player's body for determining positional faults, court contact, and boundary violations.

25.5 Dwarf Para Pickleball Service and Position Rules

Service Position

Players competing within Dwarf Para Pickleball classifications shall serve from the standard service area without modification to court dimensions unless otherwise approved by IPPA competition regulations.

Because of variations in stature and limb length associated with dwarfism, players may adopt serving techniques that accommodate their functional reach and balance capabilities. Dwarf PP40-41 Assisted Category may serve from inside the court but from outside the NVZ Area.

At service contact:

- a. The player shall maintain a stable and controlled body position.
- b. The serve shall be executed without the assistance of external support devices unless specifically approved under equipment regulations. Dwarf PP40-41 Assisted Category may use additional assistance as per the decision of Tournament Director.
- c. The player's position shall remain entirely behind the baseline at the moment of service contact.

Player Positioning

from different visual perspectives. Such differences shall not alter the fundamental standards governing line calls.

Reasonable accommodations may be implemented by the Tournament Director to facilitate effective officiating while maintaining competitive fairness and equal treatment for all athletes.

All participants shall uphold the principle that fair play is more important than the outcome of any individual point, game, or match.

CHAPTER 27. CARRY ON THE PADDLE RULE

27 Carry on the Paddle

1. The game of Para Pickleball is intended to be played through clean and distinct ball strikes rather than by prolonged contact between the ball and the paddle. To preserve the integrity of shot-making and maintain consistent playing standards, players shall not intentionally carry, scoop, lift, push, or throw the ball with the paddle during the execution of a stroke.
2. A legal return occurs when the ball is struck and immediately rebounds from the paddle face in a continuous motion. Brief contact resulting from the natural compression of the ball and the characteristics of the paddle surface is considered part of a normal stroke and shall not, by itself, constitute a violation. Referees shall evaluate the overall action of the paddle and ball rather than the duration of contact alone.
3. A carry shall be deemed to have occurred when the player intentionally guides or transports the ball on the paddle instead of striking it. Indicators of a carry may include a noticeable pushing motion, a prolonged directional control of the ball, or a scooping action that alters the natural rebound expected from a legal shot. The determination of whether a carry has occurred shall be based upon the referee's observation and judgment of the stroke as a whole.
4. If a carry is called by the referee, the rally shall immediately end and a fault shall be assessed against the offending player or side.
5. This Rule applies equally to Wheelchair Para Pickleball, Standing Para Pickleball, Dwarf Para Pickleball, and Intellectual Disabilities & Cerebral Palsy Para Pickleball competitions.

Common calls may include:

- "Out" – indicating the ball landed outside the court boundary.
- "Fault" – indicating a service or rule violation.
- "Replay" or "Let" – where authorized by these Rules.
- "Good" or no call – indicating the ball remains in play.

26.5 Correction of Erroneous Calls

1. An official who immediately recognizes that an incorrect call has been made shall correct the decision without delay.
2. The principles of sportsmanship require officials to acknowledge and rectify mistakes whenever possible.
3. Where an incorrect "Out" call interrupts a rally and the correction cannot reasonably restore the point, the rally may be awarded in accordance with applicable officiating procedures.

26.6 Disputed Decisions

Referees and Line officials' decisions are final. Players shall not engage in arguments regarding line decisions. The officiating authority responsible for disputes.

Repeated challenges, intimidation, harassment, or attempts to influence officials regarding line calls may constitute unsportsmanlike conduct resulting in First Warning and Ultimately Disqualification if repeated.

26.7 Spectator and External Influence

1. Spectators, coaches, assistants, support personnel, interpreters, and team officials shall not participate in line calling decisions unless specifically authorized by the Tournament Director.
2. External opinions shall not supersede the judgment of the designated officiating authority.
3. Video recordings, photographs, social media content, or unofficial electronic devices shall not be used to challenge or overturn line calls unless a tournament has formally adopted an approved video review system.

26.8 Para Pickleball Considerations

Officials shall recognize that athletes competing in Wheelchair, Standing Physical Disability, Dwarf, and Intellectual Disabilities categories may observe ball trajectories

Dwarf Para Pickleball players may utilize any legal court position and movement pattern consistent with their physical capabilities.

No restriction shall be imposed on movement style, stride length, or tactical positioning provided all standard playing rules are observed.

25.6 Intellectual Disabilities Para Pickleball and Cerebral Palsy Service and Position Rules

Service Position

Players competing in Intellectual Disabilities (PP20-B to PP20-D) Para Pickleball shall comply with the same technical service requirements applicable to other standing classifications. ID Players PP20-A & Cerebral Palsy Players (PP1-PP8) may serve from inside the Court but from outside the NVZ.

The service shall be executed:

- a. From the correct service court.
- b. In the correct serving sequence.
- c. Following the official score announcement.
- d. Into the proper diagonal receiving area.
- e. Cross the net without touching the net cord.

Competition officials may provide procedural clarification regarding score, service order, and court positions when required under approved competition protocols.

Player Positioning

- a) Players shall occupy the correct serving and receiving positions throughout the match. (ID Players PP20-A & Cerebral Palsy Players (PP1-PP8) are Exempt.
- b) Officials may assist with positional verification before service when necessary to ensure fair competition and proper administration of the match.
- c) No player shall receive coaching assistance during active rallies except as specifically authorized by classification regulations. ID Players PP20-A & Cerebral Palsy Players (PP1-PP8) are allowed coaching assistance.

25.7 Positional Integrity Across Classifications

Regardless of classification, the following actions shall constitute positional faults:

- a. Serving from an incorrect service court.

- b. Receiving from an incorrect receiving court.
- c. Failure to maintain proper service rotation.
- d. Serving before the score has been announced.
- e. Deliberately occupying an illegal position to gain an unfair competitive advantage.
- f. Unauthorized movement or equipment positioning that interferes with opponents.

When a positional fault is identified, the rally shall be stopped and the appropriate corrective action applied in accordance with the officiating procedures established by the IPPA.

25.8 Principle of Equitable Competition

The service and positioning provisions contained within this Chapter are designed to ensure that players competing in Dwarf Para Pickleball, Standing Para Pickleball, Intellectual Disabilities & Cerebral Palsy Para Pickleball, and Wheelchair Para Pickleball are able to participate under conditions that are fair, safe, inclusive, and consistent with the principles of adaptive sport. Classification-specific adaptations shall facilitate participation while preserving competitive integrity, equal opportunity, and the fundamental characteristics of Para Pickleball.

25.9 Drop Serve

The Server may initiate service using a Drop Serve. In a Drop Serve, the ball shall be released from the hand or paddle without any additional force, spin, or propulsion and shall be allowed to bounce on the playing surface before being struck. The server may permit the ball to bounce one or more times before making contact with the paddle. The location of the bounce on the playing surface shall not affect the legality of the serve, provided all other service requirements are satisfied. A Drop Serve may be executed using either a forehand or backhand stroke and is considered a legal method of service in Para Pickleball competition.

CHAPTER 26: COURT LINE CALLING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES

26.1 Scope

Accurate determination of whether a ball lands within or outside the boundaries of the court is fundamental to fair competition. The Referees, line officials and tournament personnel share responsibility for preserving the integrity of line decisions through honesty, consistency, and respect for the Rules of Play.

The objective of this chapter is to establish a uniform framework for line calling, dispute resolution, and officiating authority in all IPPA-sanctioned competitions.

26.2 Authority of Officials

Where a referee or designated line official has been appointed, their decision regarding line calls shall be final unless specifically overruled under procedures established by these Rules.

Referees and Line officials shall exercise independent judgment based upon direct visual observation and shall not be influenced by players, spectators, coaches, assistants, or external commentary. The Referees and Line officials may take help of Technology and Replay of the disputed line calls. They are authorized to change the decision of the line call after viewing the replay.

The authority of the officiating team extends to all boundary lines, Non-Volley Zone lines, service court boundaries, and any court markings relevant to play.

26.3 Principles of Ball In and Ball Out

1. A ball shall be considered "In" if any portion of the ball makes contact with any part of the applicable court line.
2. A ball shall be considered "Out" only when there is clear visual certainty that no portion of the ball contacted the line.
3. The benefit of doubt shall always Favor continuation of play rather than termination of a rally.

26.4 Communication of Line Calls

Line calls by Line officials shall be communicated immediately using clear verbal declarations and, where appropriate, approved hand signals.

A Medical Time-Out shall not be used for ordinary fatigue, strategic rest, or routine recovery.

35.5 Requesting a Medical Time-Out

A Medical Time-Out may be requested by:

- A. The player.
- B. The player's doubles partner.
- C. A coach or team official.
- D. A medical officer.
- E. The referee when observing an apparent medical concern.

The referee may suspend play immediately if athlete safety is at risk.

35.6 Medical Evaluation

During a Medical Time-Out:

- A. Qualified medical personnel may evaluate the player.
- B. Treatment necessary for safe continuation of play may be provided.
- C. The referee shall monitor the duration of the interruption.
- D. Opponents shall remain available to resume play when directed.

Medical personnel shall determine whether the athlete is fit to continue competition.

35.7 Assistive Device and Equipment Adjustments

Additional time may be permitted when an athlete requires adjustment or repair of:

- Wheelchairs.
- Prosthetic limbs.
- Orthotic devices.
- Crutches or mobility aids.
- Communication equipment.
- Other approved adaptive equipment.

- Deliberately distracts an opponent.
- Obstructs an opponent's legitimate opportunity to play the ball.
- Creates unsafe conditions during a rally.
- Uses abusive, threatening, or unsportsmanlike conduct to influence play.

31.9 Safety During a Rally

Player safety shall take precedence over all competitive considerations. Referees may stop a rally immediately if:

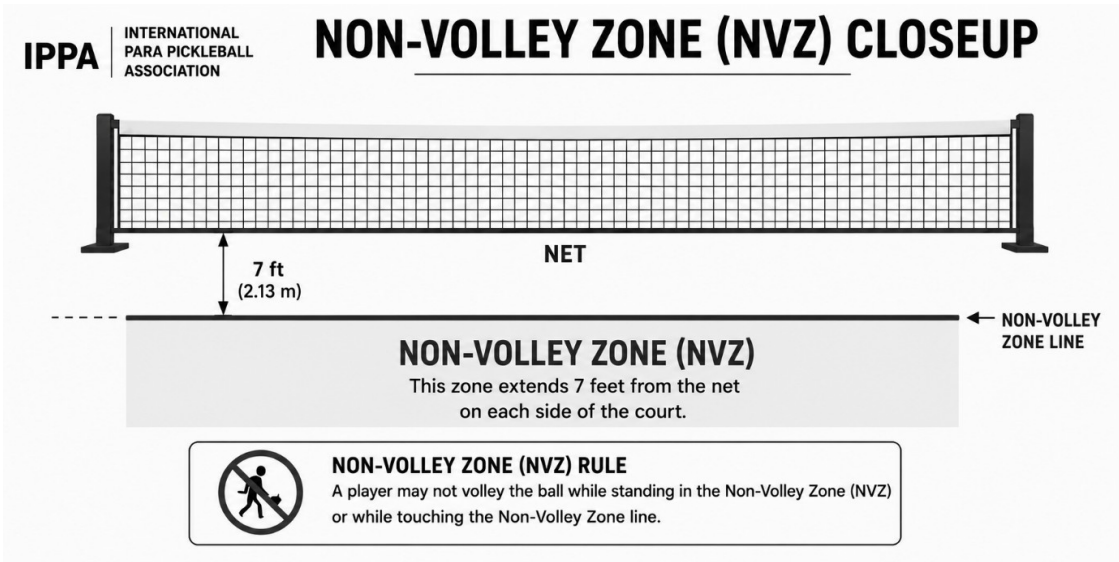
- A wheelchair overturns.
- A prosthetic device becomes detached.
- A player falls and is at risk of injury.
- Court conditions become unsafe.
- Any medical emergency arises.

When a rally is stopped solely for safety reasons and no fault has occurred, the referee may order a replay.

31.10 Principle of Fair Play

All rally situations shall be governed by the principles of integrity, equality, accessibility, and sportsmanship. Players are expected to make every reasonable effort to play the ball fairly, respect opponents and officials, and uphold the values of Para Pickleball throughout every rally.

CHAPTER 32: NON-VOLLEY ZONE (NVZ) RULES



The Non-Volley Zone (NVZ), is a designated area extending 7 feet from the net on both sides of the court. All NVZ boundary lines shall be considered part of the Non-Volley Zone. The purpose of the NVZ is to prevent players from gaining an unfair advantage by executing powerful volleys directly at the net and to encourage skill-based rally exchanges. The NVZ includes all boundary lines surrounding the zone. A player may enter the NVZ at any time; however, special restrictions apply when volleying the ball. The Non-Volley Zone (NVZ) shall be a rectangular area measuring 20 feet (6.10 m) in width and 7 feet (2.13 m) in depth, located on each side of the net. The NVZ shall be bounded by the net, the sidelines, and a line parallel to the net positioned 7 feet (2.13 m) from the net.

32.1 Definition of a Volley

A volley is the act of striking the ball in the air before it has bounced on the player's side of the court. Any shot played after the ball has bounced is not considered a volley and is therefore not subject to NVZ volley restrictions.

32.2 Basic NVZ Restriction

A player shall not volley the ball while:

- Standing within the NVZ.
- Touching the NVZ boundary line.
- Touching any surface, object, equipment, or person that is in contact with the NVZ.

A fault shall be declared immediately if any of the above conditions occur during the act of volleying.

32.3 Momentum Rule

The act of volleying includes:

- The swing toward the ball.
- Contact with the ball.
- The follow-through.
- Any momentum resulting from the volley action.

Unless otherwise specified:

- A. A time-out may only be requested when the ball is dead.
- B. A player, partner, or team representative may request the time-out.
- C. The referee shall announce the commencement and conclusion of the time-out.
- D. Play shall resume immediately upon expiration of the authorized time period.

Failure to resume play promptly may result in a delay-of-game warning or penalty.

35.3 Authorized Activities During a Time-Out

During a standard time-out, players may:

- A. Receive coaching were permitted by tournament regulations.
- B. Hydrate and recover physically.
- C. Adjust wheelchairs, prosthetic devices, braces, hearing aids, or other approved assistive equipment.
- D. Receive communication support from interpreters or escorts where authorized.
- E. Discuss tactics with doubles partners.

No activity shall provide an unfair competitive advantage or unnecessarily delay the match.

35.4 Medical Time-Outs

A Medical Time-Out (MTO) may be granted when a player experiences a medical condition requiring assessment or treatment before competition can safely continue.

Examples include:

- A. Sudden illness.
- B. Injury resulting from play.
- C. Muscle cramps or spasms.
- D. Dizziness or loss of balance.
- E. Prosthetic-related medical complications.
- F. Skin breakdown or pressure-related concerns for wheelchair athletes.
- G. Disability-related medical emergencies.

- Whether player safety requires immediate suspension of the rally.

All decisions shall be based on fairness, safety, and the spirit of the game.

34.12 Principle of Fairness and Safety

The Let, Replay, and Dead Ball provisions exist to ensure that rallies are decided by player skill rather than by accidental interference, equipment failures, or unsafe circumstances. Referees shall apply these rules impartially to protect athlete welfare, preserve competitive integrity, and uphold the values of accessibility, inclusion, respect, and fair play that define Para Pickleball.

CHAPTER 35: TIME-OUTS AND MEDICAL TIME-OUTS

Time-Outs and Medical Time-Outs are essential components of match administration in Para Pickleball. They provide athletes with opportunities to address strategic, physical, equipment-related, or medical needs while ensuring that competition proceeds in a fair, orderly, and safe manner. Referees shall administer all time-outs consistently and in accordance with IPPA regulations, with particular consideration given to the diverse needs of athletes with disabilities.

35.1 Purpose of Time-Outs

A Time-Out is a temporary suspension of play requested by a player, team, referee, or tournament official for an authorized purpose. Time-outs may be used for strategic consultation, recovery, equipment adjustment, communication support, or other approved reasons.

The primary objectives of time-outs are to:

- Protect players welfare and safety.
- Ensure fair competition.
- Allow necessary equipment adjustments.
- Provide reasonable recovery opportunities.
- Maintain the orderly conduct of the match.

35.2 Standard Time-Outs

Each player or doubles team shall be entitled to a specified number of standard time-outs during a match as determined by the tournament regulations.

If a player's momentum carries any part of the body, clothing, paddle, wheelchair, prosthetic device, or other equipment into the NVZ after a volley, a fault shall be declared, even if the ball has already become dead.

32.4 Legal Entry into the NVZ

A player may legally enter the NVZ:

- To play a ball that has bounced.
- After the completion of a rally.
- While repositioning during play, provided no volley is executed.
- To retrieve a short ball after it has bounced.

Players may stand in the NVZ for any length of time as long as they do not violate volley restrictions.

32.5 Airspace Above the NVZ

The airspace above the NVZ is not restricted. A player may reach over the NVZ or over the net to strike a legally playable ball, provided:

- No part of the player, wheelchair, clothing, paddle, or equipment touches the NVZ during the act of volleying.
- No net or net support structure is touched.

Reaching over the NVZ without physical contact is not a fault.

32.6 Wheelchair Para Pickleball NVZ Rules

For Wheelchair Para Pickleball:

- The wheelchair is considered part of the player.
- A fault occurs if wheelchair contact with the NVZ violates the act of volleying.
- Front small or caster wheels may enter or touch the NVZ during a volley were permitted under official wheelchair regulations.
- Mandatory NVZ Re-Establishment has to be done after striking a ball from within the NVZ following a bounce, the player shall re-establish both large rear wheels completely outside the NVZ before executing the next volley. Failure to do so shall

constitute a fault. This expands the existing requirement for rear-wheel positioning.

- Players must maintain control of their wheelchair and avoid dangerous encroachment into the NVZ area.

32.7 Standing Para Pickleball NVZ Rules

Para Pickleball Players using prosthetic limbs, braces, orthotic supports, or mobility devices shall be subject to the same NVZ requirements as all other players. Any assistive device in contact with the NVZ during a volley shall be treated as player contact.

32.8 Doubles Play and Partner Contact

In doubles competition, a fault shall occur if:

- A volleying player's momentum causes contact with a partner who is touching the NVZ.
- Equipment carried by either partner enters the NVZ as a result of the volley action.
- One player's actions create an NVZ violation for the team.

32.9 Equipment and Clothing Violations

The following shall be considered NVZ faults if they occur during the act of volleying:

- A paddle touching the NVZ.
- A hat, towel, glove, or clothing item falling into the NVZ.
- A prosthetic device or mobility aid contacting the NVZ due to volley momentum.
- Any equipment attached to the player making NVZ contact.

32.10 Referee Interpretation

The referee shall determine:

- Whether a volley occurred.
- Whether player momentum was related to the volley action.
- Whether NVZ contact occurred before the player's momentum had completely stopped.
- Whether an assistive device, wheelchair, or equipment caused an NVZ fault.

- A dangerous situation develops.
- A player is unable to continue play.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct requires immediate intervention.
- Match conditions become unsafe.
- Tournament officials suspend competition.

In such cases, player safety and event integrity shall take priority over the continuation of the rally.

34.9 Player-Initiated Requests

Players may request referee attention when:

- An assistive device becomes unsafe.
- Medical concerns arise.
- Court hazards are observed.
- Significant interference occurs.

A player shall not stop play independently unless an immediate safety concern exists. The referee shall determine whether a Let, Replay, or fault ruling is appropriate.

34.10 Situations Not Eligible for a Let

A Let shall generally not be granted for:

- Poor shot selection.
- Loss of balance without external cause.
- Misjudgement of the ball.
- Ordinary crowd noise.
- Personal equipment discomfort not affecting safety.
- Failure to hear partner communication.

Players are responsible for managing normal competitive conditions during a match.

34.11 Referee Authority

The referee shall have exclusive authority to determine:

- Whether a Let should be granted.
- Whether a rally shall be replayed.
- Whether the ball is dead.
- Whether external interference materially affected play.

- A wheelchair overturns or loses stability.
- A prosthetic device becomes detached.
- An assistive device malfunctions.
- A player falls and appears unable to continue safely.
- Medical equipment essential for participation becomes displaced.
- Unsafe court conditions develop during play.

When no fault has occurred and safety is the primary concern, the rally shall normally be replayed.

34.6 Equipment Failure During Play

A Let may be declared if essential equipment fails during a rally, including:

- Paddle breakage.
- Wheelchair mechanical failure.
- Prosthetic or orthotic malfunction.
- Hearing assistance device malfunction.
- Approved adaptive equipment becoming unsafe or unusable.

If the referee determines that the failure was accidental and not caused by negligence or intentional misconduct, the rally may be replayed.

34.7 External Interference

External interference occurs when an outside factor affects the natural progression of a rally. Examples include:

- Foreign objects entering the court.
- Movement of spectators causing disruption.
- Lighting failure.
- Public address announcements interfering with concentration.
- Severe weather affecting outdoor competition.
- Court maintenance issues requiring immediate attention.

Where external interference materially impacts play, a Let shall be declared.

34.8 Referee-Initiated Dead Ball

The referee may immediately declare the ball dead when:

- A serious injury occurs.

The referee's decision shall be final unless a tournament review procedure specifically permits an appeal.

32.11 Principle of the Non-Volley Zone

The Non-Volley Zone is a fundamental feature of Para Pickleball that promotes strategy, control, precision, and fair competition. All athletes shall respect the NVZ rules to preserve the unique character of Para Pickleball and ensure equal opportunities for players across all classifications.

CHAPTER 33: FAULTS AND VIOLATIONS

Faults and violations are fundamental to maintaining fairness, integrity, and orderly competition in Para Pickleball. A fault is any action or occurrence that results in the immediate end of a rally and the awarding of a point or service opportunity to the opposing side in accordance with the scoring system in use. Players, coaches, escorts, and team officials are expected to understand and comply with all technical rules, classification regulations, and standards of conduct established by the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA).

33.1 Definition of a Fault

A fault occurs when a player or team fails to comply with the rules governing service, rally play, court positioning, equipment use, or player conduct. Once a fault is declared by the referee, the rally immediately becomes dead and the appropriate score adjustment shall be made.

33.2 Common Playing Faults

The following actions shall constitute faults during play:

- A. Serving the ball into the net or outside the correct service court.
- B. Failure of the served ball to clear the net.
- C. Volleying the ball before the mandatory bounce requirements have been satisfied.
- D. Hitting the ball out of bounds.
- E. Allowing the ball to bounce more than once before returning it, except where an additional bounce is permitted under IPPA regulations.
- F. Volleying from within the Non-Volley Zone (NVZ) or committing an NVZ momentum violation.

- G. Striking the ball twice intentionally.
- H. Carrying, throwing, catching, or otherwise illegally manipulating the ball.
- I. Touching the net, net post, or opponent's court while the ball is in play.
- J. Failing to return the ball before it becomes dead.

33.3 Service Violations

Service violations occur when a player fails to execute a legal serve in accordance with IPPA service regulations. Examples include:

- A. Serving before the referee announces the score.
- B. Serving from an incorrect position.
- C. Failure to keep at least one foot or approved mobility aid in legal contact with the playing surface at the moment of service.
- D. Deliberately delaying the serve beyond the permitted time limit.
- E. Using an illegal serving action prohibited by the rules in force.
- F. Once the score has been announced by the referee or server, the serve shall be executed within 10 seconds. Failure to initiate the service motion within this period shall constitute a service fault.
- G. The server shall not intentionally impart artificial spin, rotation, or manipulation to the ball by hand, paddle, prosthetic device, wheelchair component, or any assistive equipment prior to paddle-ball contact.
- H. Once the forward service motion has commenced, the server shall complete the serve in one continuous movement. Intentionally stopping, resetting, or repeating the forward swing shall result in a service violation.

A service violation shall result in a fault against the serving side.

33.4 Non-Volley Zone Violations

The Non-Volley Zone is one of the most strictly regulated areas of the court. A fault shall be declared when:

- A player volleys the ball while standing in the NVZ.
- A player touches the NVZ line during a volley.
- Momentum from a volley causes any part of the player's body, wheelchair, prosthetic device, clothing, paddle, or equipment to contact the NVZ.
- A player gains an unfair advantage through an NVZ violation.

A **Replay** is the restarting of a rally after a Let, referee intervention, or other authorized interruption. The score, server, receiver, and player positions shall remain unchanged unless otherwise directed by the referee.

A replayed rally shall be conducted under the same conditions that existed before the interruption occurred.

34.3 Definition of a Dead Ball

A **Dead Ball** occurs when the ball is no longer in play and no further action by the players can affect the outcome of the rally. Once a ball becomes dead, subsequent shots, contacts, or actions shall have no effect on the result of the point.

The ball becomes dead immediately when:

- A fault is committed.
- A point is awarded.
- The referee calls a Let or Replay.
- The referee suspends play.
- A player is unable to continue due to injury or safety concerns.
- The ball strikes a permanent object resulting in a fault.

34.4 Situations Requiring a Let

The referee may declare a Let under the following circumstances:

- A ball from another court enters the playing area.
- A spectator, volunteer, animal, or unauthorized person interferes with play.
- Unexpected noise or external distraction significantly affects a player.
- Court equipment becomes displaced during a rally.
- The referee is uncertain whether a fault occurred and no clear determination can be made.
- Simultaneous faults by opposing teams make the outcome impossible to determine.
- Any situation where fairness requires the rally to be replayed.

The referee's judgment regarding the necessity of a Let shall be final.

34.5 Safety-Related Replay Situations

Player safety shall always take precedence over the continuation of a rally. A Let and Replay may be ordered when:

- Verbal warning.
- Technical warning.
- Fault declaration.
- Loss of rally.
- Penalty point.
- Match forfeiture.
- Referral for disciplinary action by the Tournament Committee or IPPA Disciplinary Panel.

33.11 Principle of Fair Competition

The purpose of faults and violations is not merely to penalize errors, but to preserve the integrity of competition, protect athlete safety, and ensure equal opportunities for all participants. Every athlete, regardless of classification, shall compete in accordance with the principles of fairness, respect, accessibility, inclusion, and good sportsmanship that define the spirit of Para Pickleball.

CHAPTER 34: LET, REPLAY AND DEAD BALL SITUATIONS

The concepts of **Let**, **Replay**, and **Dead Ball** are essential for ensuring fairness, safety, and proper administration of Para Pickleball competitions. These provisions allow officials to address unforeseen interruptions, external interferences, equipment failures, and safety concerns without unfairly disadvantaging either side. Referees shall apply these rules consistently to maintain the integrity of competition while protecting the rights of all athletes.

34.1 Definition of a Let

A **Let** is a temporary interruption of play in which the rally is stopped and replayed without awarding a point, fault, or service advantage to either side. A Let may be declared when circumstances beyond the control of the players prevent the rally from being completed fairly.

When a Let is called, all actions occurring after the interruption shall be disregarded, and the rally shall be replayed from the beginning.

34.2 Definition of a Replay

33.5 Equipment Violations

All equipment used during competition must comply with IPPA regulations. Violations include:

- A. Use of a non-approved paddle.
- B. Deliberate alteration of equipment to gain an unfair advantage.
- C. Use of damaged equipment that creates safety concerns.
- D. Removal or misuse of mandatory assistive devices required by classification regulations.
- E. No player shall alter, modify, or adjust the playing characteristics of a paddle, wheelchair, prosthetic device, or assistive equipment during a match in a manner that may provide a competitive advantage. Any unauthorized modification shall result in an equipment violation.
- F. Any equipment that produces repetitive, excessive, or abnormal noise capable of distracting opponents or officials, including loose wheelchair components, prosthetic parts, or accessories, shall be repaired or replaced. Failure to do so after warning shall constitute an equipment violation.
- G. If any component of a player's wheelchair, prosthetic device, paddle, or assistive equipment becomes detached during play and enters the court, the rally shall be immediately stopped. Repeated occurrences resulting from poor maintenance shall constitute an equipment violation.
- H. No adhesive, resin, wax, powder, lubricant, grip enhancer, or other substance shall be applied to paddle during a match if it alters the natural performance characteristics.
- I. Any paddle, wheelchair, prosthetic device extension, or assistive attachment exceeding the approved dimensional limits established by IPPA shall be declared illegal equipment and removed from play.
- J. No player shall wear or use communication devices, earpieces, headphones, or electronic equipment capable of receiving tactical instructions during a match, unless expressly authorized for medical or accessibility purposes.

Referees may require immediate correction of equipment violations and may impose penalties where appropriate.

33.6 Wheelchair and Assistive Device Violations

For athletes competing in Wheelchair and certain Standing Para Pickleball classifications:

- A. The wheelchair or approved assistive device shall be considered part of the player.
- B. Unsafe wheelchair contact with opponents, officials, or court equipment may constitute a fault.
- C. Deliberate use of equipment to obstruct, distract, or interfere with opponents shall be considered a violation.
- D. Any action creating an unreasonable safety risk may result in immediate sanction.

33.7 Player Conduct Violations

Para Pickleball is founded on the principles of respect and sportsmanship. The following conduct may result in warnings, technical faults, penalty points, or disciplinary action:

- A. Unsportsmanlike behavior.
- B. Verbal abuse toward opponents, officials, spectators, or volunteers.
- C. Offensive gestures or language.
- D. Deliberate distraction during play.
- E. Refusal to comply with referee instructions.
- F. Intentional delay of the match.
- G. Throwing paddles, equipment, or other objects in anger.

33.8 Coaching and Team Bench Violations

Coaches, escorts, interpreters, and team officials must conduct themselves responsibly at all times. Violations may include:

- A. Unauthorized coaching during restricted periods.
- B. Interference with match officials.
- C. Disruptive conduct from the player bench.

- D. Entering the playing area without referee permission.
- E. Attempts to influence officiating decisions improperly.

Penalties may be applied to the player, team, or official responsible.

33.9 Safety and Medical Violations

Player safety is paramount in Para Pickleball. Violations may occur when:

- A. A participant knowingly competes in an unsafe condition.
- B. A player who, in the opinion of the Tournament Medical Officer or Referee, is medically unfit, disoriented, or physically incapable of continuing play safely shall not continue competition. Refusal to comply shall constitute a Safety and Medical Violation.
- C. Required medical equipment is removed without authorization.
- D. Dangerous play places athletes at risk of injury.
- E. A player experiencing symptoms including dizziness, chest pain, loss of balance, visual disturbance, breathing difficulty, or other signs of medical distress shall immediately inform the referee or medical personnel. Deliberate concealment of a serious medical condition shall constitute a violation.
- F. A player intentionally ignores medical or referee instructions relating to safety.
- G. A player shall not request, exaggerate, or prolong a medical timeout for tactical advantage. Any attempt to misuse medical provisions shall constitute a Safety and Medical Violation.
- H. Emergency Response Obstruction Violation happens when a player, coach, team official, or spectator shall obstruct, delay, or interfere with medical personnel responding to an on-court medical emergency.

Referees may suspend play or remove a participant from competition where safety concerns exist.

33.10 Referee Authority and Penalties

The referee has the authority to identify, declare, and penalize faults and violations occurring during a match. Depending on the severity of the offense, penalties may include:

- ✓ Gender:
- ✓ Height (cm):
- ✓ Type of Dwarfism / Condition:
- ✓ Functional Limitations Observed:
- ✓ Recommended Class:
- ✓ Notes / Modifications Suggested:

Protest Form

- ✓ Players Name & Class:
- ✓ Event & Date:
- ✓ Basis for Protest:
- ✓ Supporting Documentation Attached:
- ✓ Federation Representative:
- ✓ Signature:

CHAPTER 40: DWARF/SHORT STATURE PARA PICKLEBALL CLASSIFICATION

40.1 Introduction

- A. International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) Classification System for Short Stature Para Pickleball Players, a pioneering step in advancing inclusivity and fairness in Para Pickleball worldwide.
- B. This reflects IPPA's commitment to ensuring that players with dwarfism or short stature are given equitable opportunities to compete, enjoy, and excel in the sport. By aligning our classification principles with the **World Ability Sports Federation and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** framework, we affirm our dedication to transparency, functional assessment, and the celebration of every athlete's ability.
- C. The introduction of classes **PP40, PP41, and PP40-41 Assisted** represents a thoughtful and inclusive approach to categorizing athletes based on functional ability rather than medical condition alone. This system will serve as a foundation for fair competition, talent identification, and global standardization within Para Pickleball. By implementing these principles, the IPPA strives to maintain the credibility of Para Pickleball as a sport that celebrates ability and achievement at every level. To be eligible for the **Short Stature Classification (PP40, PP41 & PP40-41 Assisted)**, players must have an officially

The referee may distinguish between equipment-related interruptions and Medical Time-Outs based on the circumstances.

35.8 Blood and Injury Procedures

If a player is bleeding or has an open wound:

- Play shall be stopped immediately.
- The affected area must be treated and properly covered.
- Contaminated clothing, bandages, or equipment must be replaced or cleaned.
- Competition shall not resume until the referee is satisfied that health and safety requirements have been met.

Player safety shall take precedence over match continuity.

35.9 Emergency Medical Situations

In serious medical emergencies, the referee may suspend the match without regard to standard time limits.

Examples include:

- Loss of consciousness.
- Seizures.
- Cardiac symptoms.
- Respiratory distress.
- Serious falls or collisions.
- Acute disability-related complications.

Emergency medical personnel shall have full authority to assess and manage the situation before play resumes.

35.10 Referee Authority

The referee shall have the authority to:

- A. Grant or deny time-out requests.
- B. Approve Medical Time-Outs.
- C. Suspend play for safety reasons.

- D. Determine when play shall resume.
- E. Refer matters to tournament medical personnel.
- F. Declare a retirement or withdrawal if a player is unable to continue safely.

All decisions shall prioritize fairness, player welfare, and competition integrity.

35.11 Match Resumption

Upon completion of a Time-Out or Medical Time-Out:

- A. Players shall return promptly to their designated positions.
- B. The referee shall confirm readiness of both sides.
- C. The score shall be announced.
- D. Play shall resume from the point at which it was interrupted.

Any unreasonable delay in resuming play may result in penalties under delay-of-game provisions.

35.12 Retirement and Withdrawal

If a player is unable to continue following a Medical Time-Out:

- A. The player may retire from the match voluntarily.
- B. Medical personnel may recommend withdrawal.
- C. The referee may terminate participation for safety reasons.

The match result shall be recorded in accordance with tournament regulations.

35.13 Principle of Para Pickleball Players Welfare

Time-Outs and Medical Time-Outs exist to protect the health, dignity, and competitive rights of all athletes. In Para Pickleball, where participants may compete with a wide range of physical, sensory, intellectual, and neurological impairments, officials shall apply these provisions with fairness, consistency, compassion, and respect. Athlete safety shall always take precedence over competitive considerations, ensuring that Para Pickleball remains an inclusive, accessible, and athlete-centered sport.

- 7) **Ataxia** – Athletes with impaired coordination of voluntary movements resulting from neurological conditions affecting balance and motor control.
- 8) **Athetosis** – Athletes exhibiting uncontrolled involuntary movements and fluctuations in muscle tone caused by neurological impairments.
- 9) **Intellectual Impairment** – Athletes with significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior originating before the age of eighteen years.

39.2 Eligibility Documentation

- A. To establish eligibility, athletes must submit medical documentation from an appropriately qualified medical professional confirming the presence of an eligible impairment and the underlying health condition. The documentation shall be reviewed by authorized classifiers who may conduct additional physical, technical, and functional assessments to determine whether the athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria established for Para Pickleball.
- B. Athletes who do not possess an IPPC-recognized Eligible Impairment, whose impairment does not result in a measurable activity limitation relevant to Para Pickleball, or whose condition is temporary in nature shall be designated as **Not Eligible (NE)** for classified Para Pickleball competition. Conditions such as chronic pain without an underlying eligible impairment, fatigue-related disorders, psychological conditions, or temporary injuries generally do not meet IPC eligibility requirements unless accompanied by an Eligible Impairment recognized within the IPC Classification Code.
- C. The Disability or Impairment Eligibility Criteria form the foundation of the Para Pickleball Classification System and ensure that participation in classified competition is reserved for athletes whose impairments have a genuine and measurable impact on sport performance. By aligning with IPC Classification principles, IPPA promotes fairness, transparency, competitive integrity, and equal opportunity for athletes with disabilities throughout the world.

Classification Cards & Forms

Sample Classification Card

Player Name	Classification Code	Status	Classifier Panel	Date	Remarks
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Player Evaluation Form

- ✓ Players ID:

Committee (IPC) Classification Code and International Standards. To be eligible for classification in Para Pickleball, an athlete must have an underlying health condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment recognized within the Para sport movement and that impairment must result in a measurable activity limitation relevant to the sport of Para Pickleball. The purpose of eligibility assessment is to ensure that para pickleball players compete on an equitable basis and that the impact of impairment on sporting performance is minimized through a structured classification system.

- B. In accordance with IPC principles, the existence of a medical diagnosis alone does not automatically qualify an athlete for Para Pickleball competition. The athlete must demonstrate that the impairment causes a permanent or long-term limitation affecting the execution of essential sport-specific activities such as court mobility, balance, coordination, wheelchair propulsion, reaching, paddle control, reaction time, movement efficiency, or other fundamental aspects of Para Pickleball performance. Eligibility is determined through the assessment of both the underlying health condition and its functional impact on sporting activities.
- C. The IPC recognizes ten Eligible Impairment Types that may qualify an athlete for participation in Para sports. These impairment types provide the foundation upon which sport-specific classification systems are developed. The ten Eligible Impairment Types are:
 - 1) **Impaired Muscle Power** – Athletes with reduced force generated by muscles due to conditions such as spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, post-polio syndrome, or similar neurological conditions.
 - 2) **Impaired Passive Range of Movement** – Athletes with permanent restrictions in joint movement resulting from injury, disease, or congenital conditions.
 - 3) **Limb Deficiency** – Athletes with total or partial absence of bones or joints resulting from congenital limb deficiency, amputation, or trauma.
 - 4) **Leg Length Difference** – Athletes with a significant difference in the length of their lower limbs due to congenital or acquired conditions.
 - 5) **Short Stature** – Athletes with reduced standing height caused by congenital conditions affecting bone and cartilage growth, such as achondroplasia and related forms of dwarfism.
 - 6) **Hypertonia** – Athletes with abnormal muscle tension and reduced ability of muscles to stretch, commonly associated with cerebral palsy, brain injury, or stroke.

CHAPTER 36: PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

36.1 General Principle

Player substitutions and withdrawals are important administrative aspects of Para Pickleball competition that ensure tournaments can proceed in an orderly, fair, and transparent manner. While Para Pickleball is primarily an individual or doubles sport, circumstances such as injury, illness, classification issues, personal emergencies, or exceptional tournament situations may require a player to withdraw from competition or, where permitted by tournament regulations, be replaced by an eligible substitute. All substitutions and withdrawals shall be governed by the principles of fairness, athlete welfare, and competitive integrity.

36.2 Player Eligibility for Substitution

A substitution may only occur when permitted by the specific tournament regulations approved by the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) or the Tournament Organizing Committee. Any substitute player must satisfy all eligibility requirements, including nationality requirements where applicable, classification status, age eligibility, membership requirements, and tournament entry conditions. A substitute shall not gain an unfair advantage through late inclusion in the competition.

36.3 Substitutions Before the Start of Competition

When a player withdraws before the commencement of the tournament or before the scheduled start of an event, the Tournament Director may approve the inclusion of a substitute player. Such substitutions should be completed before the publication of final draws whenever possible. The replacement player shall assume the position of the withdrawn player and shall be subject to all applicable tournament regulations.

36.4 Substitutions in Doubles Events

In doubles competitions, a partner who withdraws before the beginning of the first scheduled match may be replaced by another eligible player, subject to tournament

approval. The newly formed team shall comply with all classification and eligibility requirements applicable to the event.

36.5 Restrictions on Mid-Match Substitutions

Once a match has commenced, player substitutions shall generally not be permitted. Athletes who begin a match are expected to complete that match unless prevented by injury, illness, equipment failure, safety concerns, or other exceptional circumstances. Allowing mid-match substitutions could compromise the fairness and integrity of competition and is therefore prohibited except where specifically authorized under special event formats.

36.6 Voluntary Withdrawal

A player may voluntarily withdraw from a match, event, or tournament at any time. Reasons for voluntary withdrawal may include personal circumstances, family emergencies, travel difficulties, medical concerns, or other legitimate factors. A withdrawing player shall notify the referee, Tournament Director, or designated official as soon as possible to minimize disruption to the competition schedule.

36.7 Medical Withdrawals

A player may withdraw from competition for medical reasons when continuing participation would pose a risk to health or safety. Medical withdrawals may occur following an injury sustained during competition, illness, disability-related complications, or upon the recommendation of medical personnel. Athlete welfare shall always take precedence over competitive considerations, and no player shall be pressured to continue participation when medically unfit.

36.8 Withdrawal During a Match

If a player withdraws after a match has started, the match shall be awarded to the opposing player or team in accordance with tournament regulations. All points and games completed before the withdrawal shall remain part of the official record. The referee shall document the circumstances of the withdrawal and report them to the Tournament Director.

36.9 Classification-Related Withdrawals

A player may be required to withdraw from an event if classification eligibility cannot be confirmed, if classification documentation is found to be incomplete, or if a review

IPPA CLASSIFICATION REVIEW STATUS			
CODE	REVIEW STATUS	MEANING	EXPLANATION
N	New	 Initial Classification Required	Para Pickleball Player has not previously undergone an official IPPA classification assessment and requires a full evaluation.
R	Review	 Subject to Future Review	Para Pickleball Player's sport class is subject to review due to factors such as medical condition, age, adaptation to impairment, or insufficient evidence at the time of classification.
C	Confirmed	 Classification Confirmed	Para Pickleball Player's sport class has been confirmed and is not normally subject to further review, except in exceptional circumstances as determined by IPPA.
NE	Not Eligible	 Does Not Meet Eligibility Criteria	Para Pickleball Player does not meet the minimum impairment criteria or eligibility requirements for Para Pickleball as per IPPA rules.
INTERNATIONAL PARA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION www.parapickleball.org INCLUSION • EQUALITY • OPPORTUNITY			

Observation in Competition: Evaluation of a para pickleball player during live match play to confirm or adjust classification.

Review Status (N):
New or has not previously undergone IPPA classification assessment and requires full evaluation.

Review Status (R):
A temporary classification status pending further evaluation.

Confirmed Status (C):
A final, stable classification based on consistent evidence and observation.

Not Eligible Status (C):
Does not meet the minimum impairment criteria as per IPPA Rules.

CHAPTER 39: DISABILITY OR IMPAIRMENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

39.1 Eligibility

A. The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) adopts the fundamental principles of athlete eligibility established by the International Paralympic

- ✓ Provide accurate and complete personal and medical information.

- ✓ Cooperate fully during physical and technical evaluations.

- ✓ Follow the directions of classifiers respectfully.

- ✓ Refrain from any conduct intended to mislead or influence classification results.

- ✓ Report any change in physical condition that may affect classification status.

Para Pickleball Players Code of Conduct

Athletes must demonstrate:

- A. **Respect:** Toward classifiers, officials, and fellow competitors.
- B. **Integrity:** Honest participation in assessments and events.
- C. **Sportsmanship:** Upholding the spirit of fair play in all circumstances.
- D. **Commitment:** To the IPPA's values of inclusion, equality, and excellence.

Violation of the Para Pickleball Players Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action or review of classification status.

38.4 Classifier Panel:

determines that the athlete does not meet the requirements of the entered category. Such decisions shall be made in accordance with IPPA Classification Rules and shall be communicated respectfully and transparently to the athlete concerned.

36.10 Withdrawal Due to Code of Conduct Violations

Tournament officials may require a player to withdraw or may disqualify a player from further participation due to serious breaches of conduct, including unsportsmanlike behavior, abuse of officials, violent conduct, cheating, classification fraud, anti-doping violations, or actions that damage the reputation of the sport. Such actions shall be subject to disciplinary procedures established by IPPA.

36.11 Impact on Tournament Results

The treatment of withdrawals and substitutions shall be determined by the tournament format. In knockout competitions, a withdrawal may result in a walkover to the opposing player or team. In league or round-robin competitions, results may be recorded according to the specific regulations governing the event.

36.12 Referee and Tournament Authority

The referee and Tournament Director shall have the authority to approve substitutions where permitted, record withdrawals, verify eligibility requirements, and make administrative decisions necessary to preserve the fairness and orderly conduct of the tournament. Their decisions shall be based on the applicable rules, competition regulations, and the best interests of the sport.

36.13 Principle of Fair Competition and Player Welfare

The rules governing player substitutions and withdrawals are designed to balance competitive integrity with the practical realities faced by athletes, particularly those competing in Para Pickleball. Officials shall administer these provisions with fairness, consistency, dignity, and compassion, recognizing that unforeseen circumstances may affect participation. The ultimate objective is to protect athlete welfare while ensuring that all competitions remain credible, transparent, and equitable for every participant.

CHAPTER 37: MATCH COMPLETION AND RESULTS

37.1 Purpose and Scope

The completion of a match and the accurate recording of results are fundamental responsibilities within Para Pickleball competition. Match results determine progression in tournaments, allocation of ranking points, qualification for future events, and official statistical records. All match outcomes shall be determined in accordance with the Rules of Play, Tournament Regulations, and decisions of the appointed match officials. The procedures outlined in this chapter are intended to ensure consistency, transparency, and fairness across all levels of competition.

37.2 Completion of a Match

A match shall be considered complete when one player or team has satisfied the winning conditions prescribed for the event format and the referee has officially declared the match concluded. A match may also be completed through retirement, withdrawal, disqualification, walkover, or forfeiture in accordance with tournament regulations. Once a match has been declared complete, the result shall become part of the official tournament record.

37.3 Winning a Match

A player or team shall be declared the winner when they achieve the required number of games or points established by the competition format. Depending on the tournament regulations, matches may be conducted under:

- A. Best-of-One Game Format.

- B. Best-of-Three Games Format.

- C. Traditional Side-Out Scoring Format.

The winner shall be the player or team that first satisfies the prescribed victory conditions while complying with all applicable rules.

3. Integrity:

Classifiers are trained professionals who follow transparent procedures and uphold the integrity of the sport. Their assessments are conducted objectively, ensuring respect, accuracy, and fairness in every decision.

38.2 Role of the Classifier

The IPPA Classifiers are responsible for evaluating and assigning para pickleball players to the appropriate class in accordance with IPPA classification standards. Their primary role is to ensure that classification decisions are made fairly, consistently, and in line with the general principles of the **World Ability Sports Federation and International Paralympic Committee (IPC)**.

Core Responsibilities

- A. Conduct physical, technical, and observation assessments of para pickleball players.

- B. Maintain complete confidentiality of all personal and medical information.

- C. Apply classification criteria accurately, without bias or external influence.

- D. Record and report classification decisions clearly and promptly to the organizing committee.

- E. Participate in continuing education programs to maintain certification and knowledge of evolving standards.

Professional Conduct

Classifiers must:

- A. Treat all players with dignity and respect.

- B. Avoid any conflict of interest.

- C. Maintain neutrality and transparency throughout the process.

- D. Adhere to the **IPPA Classifier Code of Conduct** and uphold the integrity of Para Pickleball classification worldwide.

38.3 Para Pickleball Players Responsibilities

Athletes seeking classification are required to:

38: INTRODUCTION TO PARA PICKLEBALL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

38.1 Introduction

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA), under the leadership of Raghu Kumar Raghavelu, has developed a comprehensive Para Pickleball Classification System to ensure fair, equitable, and meaningful competition for players with disabilities. The classification framework serves as the foundation of Para Pickleball by grouping players according to the functional impact of their impairments rather than solely on medical diagnosis. By establishing clear sport classes and eligibility criteria, IPPA seeks to create an environment where players can compete on a level playing field and where sporting excellence is determined by skill, strategy, fitness, preparation, and performance.

This classification system provides guidance to players, classifiers, coaches, technical officials, and event organizers regarding the eligibility requirements, classification procedures, sport classes, and assessment standards applicable to Para Pickleball. The framework has been specifically designed to address the functional demands of para pickleball, including mobility, balance, coordination, reach, wheelchair movement, paddle control, and court positioning. This system reflects internationally recognized classification principles while adapting them to the unique characteristics of Para Pickleball.

The philosophy of classification in Para Pickleball is grounded in three core principles:

1. **Fairness:**

Classification aims to minimize the impact of impairment on competition outcome by grouping athletes with comparable activity limitations together.

2. **Inclusion:**

The IPPA recognizes and values every athlete's right to participate. Classification provides pathways for athletes of all functional levels to engage meaningfully in the sport.

37.4 Match Conclusion Procedures

At the conclusion of a match, players shall demonstrate sportsmanship and respect toward opponents, officials, and spectators. Following the final point:

- A. The referee shall announce the match result.
- B. The final score shall be verified.
- C. Players may acknowledge opponents and officials in an appropriate manner.
- D. Any disputes concerning the score shall be raised immediately before the result is formally recorded.

The referee's official score announcement shall serve as the authoritative match result unless corrected through an approved review process.

37.5 Retirement During a Match

If a player or team is unable to continue after the match has commenced due to injury, illness, equipment failure, disability-related complications, or other legitimate reasons, the match shall be recorded as a retirement. The opposing player or team shall be declared the winner. The score at the time of retirement shall be recorded together with the official notation indicating retirement.

37.6 Withdrawal Before a Match

A player or team that withdraws before the scheduled commencement of a match shall normally forfeit that match. The opponent shall be awarded a walkover victory unless tournament regulations provide otherwise. Such results shall be recorded separately from victories achieved through actual match play.

37.7 Walkovers and Forfeitures

A walkover occurs when a player or team is unable or unwilling to start a scheduled match. A forfeiture occurs when a player or team loses the right to continue participation due to rule violations, misconduct, failure to appear, or failure to comply with tournament requirements. In both situations, the referee or Tournament Director shall record the official result and notify the relevant competition authorities.

37.8 Disqualification Results

A player or team may be disqualified for serious breaches of conduct, anti-doping violations, classification fraud, safety violations, or other offenses defined by IPPA regulations. When a disqualification occurs, the Tournament Committee shall determine the appropriate treatment of results, ranking points, and advancement within the competition structure.

37.9 Incomplete or Interrupted Matches

In exceptional circumstances, a match may be suspended or interrupted due to:

- A. Medical emergencies.
- B. Severe weather conditions.
- C. Venue-related issues.
- D. Power failures.
- E. Safety concerns.
- F. Force majeure events.

When an interrupted match cannot be completed immediately, tournament officials shall determine whether the match will resume later, restart entirely, or be resolved under special competition regulations.

37.10 Recording of Official Results

- A. The referee shall ensure that the following information is accurately recorded:
- B. Names of players or teams.
- C. Classification categories.
- D. Match score.
- E. Method of victory.
- F. Any retirement, withdrawal, walkover, forfeiture, or disqualification.
- G. Relevant disciplinary actions, if applicable.

Official match records shall form part of the tournament archive and may be used for rankings, statistics, qualification purposes, and historical documentation.

37.11 Ranking Points and Statistical Records

Where ranking systems are in operation, points shall be awarded according to the applicable tournament regulations. Match results may contribute to:

- A. National Rankings.
- B. Continental Rankings.
- C. IPPA World Rankings.
- D. Athlete performance statistics.
- E. Tournament seedings.

Only officially completed and verified results shall be eligible for ranking and statistical purposes.

37.12 Appeals Concerning Results

Players or teams who believe that a result has been recorded incorrectly may submit an appeal in accordance with the tournament's protest and appeals procedures. Appeals shall normally relate to administrative or recording errors rather than referee judgment decisions made during play. Tournament officials shall review all valid appeals promptly and fairly.

37.13 Responsibility of Match Officials

Referees, scorekeepers, and Tournament Directors share responsibility for ensuring the accuracy of match results. They shall verify scores, maintain proper records, resolve administrative discrepancies, and ensure that official results are communicated to players and tournament management in a timely manner.

37.14 Principle of Accuracy, Integrity and Fair Play

The recording and reporting of match results represent the official outcome of athletic competition and must therefore be conducted with the highest standards of accuracy and integrity. All participants, officials, and organizers share responsibility for ensuring that results reflect the true outcome of play. Through transparent and consistent procedures, Para Pickleball upholds the principles of fairness, credibility, accountability, and respect for every athlete's performance and achievement.

recognized form of dwarfism or a comparable condition resulting in reduced standing height.

Eligibility is based on the following key criteria:

- D. **Verified height measurements** taken in a standing position without footwear.
- E. **Permanent and non-progressive** nature of the condition (e.g., Achondroplasia, Spondyloepiphyseal Dysplasia, Pseudoachondroplasia).
- F. **Functional limitation** in court reach, stride length, or leverage that materially affects performance in Pickleball.

40.2 Short Stature

A condition characterized by significantly reduced height caused by skeletal dysplasia or other recognized medical conditions.

The commonly referenced eligibility thresholds for **PP40** are:

Category	Maximum Standing Height	Maximum Arm Length
Male PP40	130 cm	59 cm
Female PP40	125 cm	57 cm

The commonly referenced eligibility thresholds for **F41** are:

Category	Maximum Standing Height	Maximum Arm Length
Male PP41	145 cm	66 cm
Female PP41	137 cm	63 Cm

40.3 Skeletal Dysplasia

A group of medical conditions affecting bone and cartilage growth, often resulting in short stature and limb differences.

40.4 Proportionate Short Stature

A condition in which all body parts are reduced in size proportionally.

40.5 Disproportionate Short Stature

CHAPTER 43: INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY & CEREBRAL PALSY CLASSIFICATION

43.1 Introduction

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) recognizes that athletes with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) and Cerebral Palsy (CP) may experience unique challenges affecting learning, coordination, balance, movement control, decision-making, and sport-specific performance. To ensure fair and meaningful competition, IPPA has established a dedicated classification framework for athletes with Intellectual Disabilities and Cerebral Palsy, based on the principles of the IPC Athlete Classification Code and internationally recognized classification practices.

The purpose of classification is not to determine the medical diagnosis of an athlete but to evaluate how the impairment impacts the athlete's ability to perform the fundamental activities required in Para Pickleball. Through classification, athletes are grouped into sport classes with comparable functional abilities so that competition outcomes are determined primarily by skill, training, fitness, tactics, and mental preparation rather than the degree of impairment.

IPPA recognizes both Intellectual Disability and Cerebral Palsy divisions as essential components of its commitment to inclusive sport and equal opportunities for athletes with disabilities worldwide. As part of the classification process, classifiers may undertake match observation during sanctioned competitions by assessing the following sport-specific performance indicators:

A condition in which certain body segments are shorter relative to the rest of the body.

40.6 Functional Reach

The effective distance an athlete can reach while maintaining balance and control during play.

40.7 Modified Movement Pattern

A movement technique naturally adopted by dwarf para pickleball players with short stature to maximize court coverage and shot execution.

CHAPTER 41: STANDING PARA PICKLEBALL CLASSIFICATION

41.1 Introduction

- A. Standing Para Pickleball is a competitive division of Para Pickleball designed for players with eligible upper and lower-limb physical impairments who are able to play while standing, with or without the use of prosthetic devices, orthoses, or other assistive equipment. The classification system ensures that players compete against others with similar levels of functional ability, thereby minimizing the impact of impairment on sporting performance and promoting fair competition. The Standing Para Pickleball division recognizes the athletic potential of individuals with upper and lower limb deficiencies, amputations, muscle weakness, restricted joint movement, leg length differences, and other eligible lower-limb impairments.
- B. The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) has established the Standing Para Pickleball Classification System to provide a structured pathway for players who have sufficient balance and mobility to compete in a standing position. The system focuses on the functional impact of the impairment rather than solely on medical diagnosis. Para Pickleball Players are assessed based on how their impairment affects movement patterns, court coverage, balance, agility, speed, directional changes, and the ability to execute sport-specific skills required in pickleball.

- Special serving position requirements for wheelchair players.

-
- Larger recommended playing space around the court for safe movement.

-
- Recognition of the wheelchair as part of the athlete.

-
- Specific fault provisions related to wheelchair play.

42.8 Final Remarks

The Wheelchair Para Pickleball Classification System is an essential component of fair and meaningful competition. By grouping players according to their functional abilities rather than medical diagnoses, IPPA ensures that competitive outcomes are determined by skill, strategy, fitness, and athletic excellence. Through a transparent and evidence-based classification process, Wheelchair Para Pickleball continues to provide athletes with mobility impairments an inclusive pathway to participate and excel at national, regional, and international levels.

- Trunk stability
- Balance control
- Coordination
- Functional movement patterns

3. Technical Court Assessment

Athletes perform sport-specific activities such as:

- Serving
- Returning serves
- Forehand and backhand strokes
- Wheelchair propulsion
- Directional changes
- Net approaches
- Defensive recovery movements

The player's ability to execute these skills assists classifiers in determining the most appropriate sport class.

42.6 Wheelchair as Part of the Player

Under recognized Wheelchair Pickleball regulations, the wheelchair is considered part of the player's body. Any contact involving the wheelchair is treated similarly to body contact for purposes of applying the rules of play. This principle is fundamental to officiating and classification assessment.

42.7 Classification and Competition Rules

Wheelchair players compete under standard pickleball rules with specific modifications designed to accommodate wheelchair use. The most significant modification is the **Additional Bounce Rule**, which allows a wheelchair player to let the ball bounce twice before returning it. The second bounce may occur anywhere on the playing surface and surrounding playable area. This adaptation recognizes the additional movement requirements associated with wheelchair mobility.

Additional wheelchair-specific provisions include:

- C. Standing Para Pickleball celebrates athleticism, independence, resilience, and sporting excellence. The classification structure enables players with different types of physical impairments to compete fairly while preserving the integrity and competitiveness of the sport. Standing Para Pickleball continues to grow internationally and forms an important pillar of the global Para Pickleball movement.
- D. **Note:** Above Knee Amputees (AKA) Single or Double Amputee shall be classified as SLA-AK and DLA-AK Para Pickleball Category.
- E. **Note:** Below Knee Amputees (BKA) Single or Double Amputee shall be classified as SLA-BK and DLA-BK Para Pickleball Category.
- F. **Note:** Para Pickleball Player with Standing Upper Limb Disability (S-ULD) shall all participate in one class named S-ULD or Standing-Upper Limb Disability.

41.2 Objectives of Standing Classification

The objectives of the Standing Para Pickleball Classification System are:

1. To ensure fair and equitable competition among players with physical impairments.
2. To group players according to the functional impact of their impairment.
3. To minimize the influence of disability on competition outcomes.
4. To provide a transparent and evidence-based classification process.
5. To encourage participation by players with upper and lower-limb impairments worldwide.
6. To create a pathway for regional, continental, and world-level championships for standing para pickleball players.
7. To support the long-term development and potential recognition of Para Pickleball within the international para-sport movement.

The classification system designed by Raghu Kumar Raghavelu is player-centered to ensure sporting performance is determined by training, skill, tactics, fitness, and mental preparation rather than the degree of disability.

41.3 Eligible Players

Standing Para Pickleball is intended for players with permanent and verifiable upper and lower-limb impairments that result in a measurable limitation in sport performance.

Eligible impairments may include:

- A. Single-leg Amputee Below the Knee (SLA-BK)
- B. Double-leg Amputee Below the Knee (DLA-BK)
- C. Single-leg Amputee Above the Knee (SLA-AK)
- D. Double-leg Amputee Above the Knee (DLA-AK)
- E. Bilateral lower-limb impairments where standing play remains possible.
- F. Upper Limb Disability or Standing Upper Limb Disability (SULD)
- G. Unilateral lower-limb impairments where standing play remains possible.
- H. Congenital limb deficiencies.
- I. Leg length discrepancy.
- J. Joint ankylosis or significant restriction of movement.
- K. Muscle weakness caused by neurological or musculoskeletal conditions.
- L. Partial foot amputations affecting balance and propulsion.
- M. Other permanent lower-limb impairments approved by the IPPA Classification Committee.

Players must possess sufficient balance and functional mobility to safely compete in a standing position throughout a match. Players whose impairment significantly restricts standing mobility may instead be allocated to Wheelchair Para Pickleball classifications following assessment by certified classifiers.

41.4 Standing Para Pickleball Sport Classes

The IPPA Standing Para Pickleball Classification System currently recognizes the following sport classes:

(A)PP42 – Severe Standing Lower-Limb Impairment

Players in these classes often exhibit advanced tactical play and greater court movement capabilities.

PP56 – PP57 Minimal Impairment Wheelchair Classes

Players possess near-normal upper-body function and excellent wheelchair control but require a wheelchair due to lower-limb impairments. Above knee SLA may opt to play or be classified under PP56-PP57 Classes.

Typical Characteristics:

- Excellent trunk control.
- High wheelchair speed and agility.
- Strong reach capacity.
- Efficient recovery and positioning.

These athletes generally demonstrate the highest functional performance among wheelchair competitors.

42.5 Functional Assessment Process

Classification evaluation consists of several stages:

1. Medical Assessment

The classifier reviews:

- Medical diagnosis
- Surgical history
- Neurological reports
- Prosthetic or orthotic requirements
- Evidence confirming a permanent eligible impairment

2. Physical Assessment

Athletes are evaluated for:

- Muscle strength
- Range of motion

classes. Athletes play or compete sitting in a wheelchair and typically have a high cervical spinal cord injury (C5–C6 level) or an equivalent impairment.

Typical Characteristics:

- Minimal or no lower limb function.
- Limited trunk control.
- Reduced balance during reaching and rotation.
- Restricted court coverage.

Para Pickleball Players in this class generally experience the highest level of activity limitation within Wheelchair Para Pickleball.

PP52 – PP53 Moderate-Severe Impairment Classes

Athletes possess some trunk movement and balance but continue to experience significant functional limitations affecting mobility and stroke production.

Typical Characteristics:

- Partial trunk control.
- Limited lateral reach.
- Reduced acceleration and recovery movement.
- Moderate wheelchair manoeuvrability.

These players can generate greater court coverage than PP51 athletes but still face substantial impairment during competition.

PP54 – PP55 Moderate Impairment Classes

Players demonstrate improved trunk stability and greater functional independence in wheelchair movement. *Above the Knee Double Leg Amputee (DLA-AK) may opt to play or be classified under PP54-PP55 wheelchair classes.*

Typical Characteristics:

- Good sitting balance.
- Enhanced rotational movement.
- Improved stroke power generation.
- Better directional mobility.

PP42 is allocated to players with the greatest level of activity limitation within the standing division who play competing without prostheses. Severe hip joint restriction, Hip ankylosis (fused hip), Severe knee joint restriction, Knee ankylosis (fused knee), Significant congenital limb deficiency, Severe lower-limb muscle weakness, Major joint instability affecting mobility. Comparable impairments resulting in substantial limitation of balance, acceleration, and court movement.

Para Pickleball Players in PP42 generally experience the greatest difficulty with rapid directional changes, explosive movement, and court coverage while remaining capable of competing in a standing position.

(B) PP43 – Moderate Standing Lower-Limb Impairment

PP43 is allocated to players with moderate functional limitations affecting lower-limb performance. PP43 is a standing field-event classification for players with bilateral lower-limb impairments competing without prostheses, where both lower limbs meet the minimum impairment criteria. The functional loss is primarily located in the **feet, ankles, and/or lower legs**.

Examples may include:

1. Moderate muscle weakness.
2. Bilateral congenital lower-leg deficiencies
3. Significant loss of ankle or knee function.
4. Moderate congenital limb deficiency.
5. Comparable impairments affecting movement efficiency and stability.

Athletes in PP43 demonstrate greater mobility than PP42 players but continue to experience noticeable impairment affecting pickleball performance.

(C) PP44 – Minimal Standing Lower-Limb Impairment

PP44 is allocated to players with the least severe eligible impairment within the standing division. Players compete without a prosthesis and have a unilateral lower-limb impairment where the impairment in only one limb meets the minimum impairment criteria. Functional loss is seen in one foot, ankle and/or lower leg.

Examples may include:

1. Mild lower-limb deficiency.
2. Mild joint restriction.
3. Leg length discrepancy.
4. Partial foot amputation.
5. Other impairments producing measurable but lesser functional limitations.

Players in PP44 typically demonstrate high levels of mobility while still meeting minimum impairment criteria established by the IPPA.

(D)S-ULD – Standing Upper Limb Disability

S-ULD is a clubbed upper-limb class designed for para pickleball players with upper limb deficiency, impaired muscle power, or impaired passive range of movement affecting the arms and also includes Severe unilateral brachial plexus injury, Severe shoulder weakness or paralysis in one arm, Congenital absence of one upper limb, Unilateral above/below-elbow amputation.

41.5 SLA-BK and DLA-BK are Below the Leg Amputee Classification

Below-Knee Amputee (Transtibial Amputation)

1. A **Below-Knee Amputee (BKA)**, medically known as a **transtibial amputee**, is an individual who has undergone amputation of the lower limb below the knee joint while retaining the knee. Because the knee joint remains intact, para pickleball players generally have better balance, mobility, and control during movement compared to above-knee amputees.

Characteristics:

- Amputation occurs between the knee and ankle.
- Natural knee joint is preserved.
- Greater walking and running efficiency with a prosthesis.
- Better stability, agility, and energy conservation.
- Commonly classified in standing para sports according to the level of functional impairment.

- Bilateral Lower Limb Amputations above the knee
- Severe Lower Limb Muscle Weakness
- Spina Bifida
- Poliomyelitis Residual Paralysis
- Multiple Limb Deficiencies
- Neurological Conditions affecting mobility
- Other permanent impairments resulting in wheelchair dependence

Athletes must provide appropriate medical documentation and undergo classification assessment before being assigned a sport class.

42.3 Principles of Wheelchair Classification

Wheelchair Para Pickleball classification focuses on the athlete's functional ability to perform sport-specific activities, including:

- Wheelchair propulsion and acceleration
- Court mobility and directional changes
- Balance and trunk control
- Reach and stroke execution
- Recovery after movement
- Ability to maintain stability while playing shots
- Endurance during rallies and match play

Classification is conducted by trained classifiers who evaluate both medical evidence and practical on-court performance.

42.4 IPPA Wheelchair Sport Classes

To ensure fair competition, IPPA recognizes the following wheelchair classifications:

PP51 – Severe Impairment Class

Players in PP51 have very limited trunk stability and significant impairment of both lower limbs. Players often require upper-body support to maintain balance while performing strokes and wheelchair movements. PP51 is a seated classification for para pickleball players with the most severe upper and lower limb impairments among the PP51–PP57

2. SLA-BK (Single Leg Amputee-Below the knee) is a specialized standing category created for players with unilateral lower-limb amputation who compete using a prosthesis or other approved assistive device. Classified as SLA-BK.
3. DLA-BK (Double Leg Amputee-Below the knee) is a specialized standing category created for players with Bilateral lower-limb amputation who compete using a prosthesis or other approved assistive device.
4. The SLA-BK & DLA-BK category recognizes the unique functional characteristics of below the knee single and double-leg amputee players and is conducted as a separate event category when sufficient participation exists. Where participation numbers are limited, players may be clubbed from PP42, PP43, PP44 and SLA-BK & DLA-BK categories based on functional assessment and tournament regulations.

CHAPTER 42: WHEELCHAIR PARA PICKLEBALL CLASSIFICATION

42.1 Introduction

Wheelchair Para Pickleball is a specialized discipline of Para Pickleball designed for players with permanent lower-limb impairments that significantly limit walking, running, balance, or court mobility. It provides an opportunity for athletes with varying levels of physical disabilities to participate in competitive pickleball using a sports wheelchair while ensuring fair competition through a structured classification system. The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) has developed Wheelchair Para Pickleball classifications in alignment with the principles of the IPC Athlete Classification Code, which emphasizes that Players should compete based on how their impairment affects sports performance rather than on medical diagnosis alone.

The primary objective of classification is to minimize the impact of impairment on competition outcomes and ensure that success is determined by skill, fitness, strategy, and training. Classification groups players with similar functional abilities together, creating a level playing field while preserving the competitive integrity of the sport.

42.2 Eligible Impairments for Wheelchair Para Pickleball

Players may be eligible for Wheelchair Para Pickleball if they have a permanent impairment that substantially affects lower-limb function and requires the use of a wheelchair during competition. Eligible impairments may include:

- Spinal Cord Injury (Paraplegia or Tetraplegia)
- Unilateral Lower Limb Amputations above the knee

SLA-AK and DLA-AK are Above-Knee Amputee Classifications

Above-Knee Amputee (Transfemoral Amputation)

1. **SLA-AK (Single Leg Above-Knee Amputee):** A player with a unilateral transfemoral amputation, where one lower limb is absent through or above the knee joint.
2. **DLA-AK (Double Leg Above-Knee Amputee):** An athlete with bilateral transfemoral amputations, where both lower limbs are absent through or above the knee joints.
3. **Above-Knee Amputee (Transfemoral Amputation):** A Para Pickleball player with a unilateral or bilateral lower-limb deficiency resulting from an amputation through or proximal to the knee joint, who competes while wearing one or more prosthetic limbs, with the impairment significantly affecting balance, propulsion, directional changes, and court mobility during play.

41.6 Classification Assessment Process

All Standing Para Pickleball players must undergo an official classification evaluation before participating in sanctioned IPPA competitions.

The evaluation process generally consists of:

Medical Assessment

The player must provide medical documentation confirming the nature, diagnosis, and permanence of the impairment.

Physical Assessment

Classifiers evaluate:

- Muscle strength
- Joint range of motion
- Balance
- Limb deficiency
- Functional mobility
- Stability during movement

Technical Assessment

Players perform sport-specific activities including:

- Court movement
- Directional changes
- Serving
- Returning serves
- Volleying
- Transition movements
- Agility drills

Observation in Competition

Classifiers may observe the players during actual match play to determine how the impairment affects performance under competitive conditions.

Following assessment, the player is assigned a sport class and classification status according to IPPA regulations.

41.7 Principles of Fair Competition

The Standing Para Pickleball Classification System is based on internationally accepted classification principles used throughout the para-sport movement. The purpose is not to evaluate the severity of a disability in general life but rather to determine how the impairment impacts pickleball performance.

Classifiers consider factors such as:

- Movement efficiency.
- Court coverage capability.
- Balance during dynamic play.
- Ability to change direction rapidly.
- Stability during shot execution.
- Recovery after movement.
- Functional use of prosthetic devices.

The classification outcome reflects the competitive impact of the impairment rather than medical diagnosis alone.

41.8 Clubbing of Standing Classes

In tournaments where participation numbers are insufficient to conduct separate medal events, organizers may combine or "club" sport classes.

Examples may include:

- PP42 and PP43 combined.
- PP43 and PP44 combined.
- PP42, PP43, and PP44 combined.
- SLA/DLA (BK) integrated into the most appropriate standing class.
- SLA/DLA (AK) integrated into the most appropriate standing class.

Clubbing decisions shall be made by the Tournament Classification Committee in accordance with IPPA regulations while ensuring competitive fairness and player safety.

Rally Cognition Assessment (RCA): Measures how effectively an athlete reads the rally, anticipates ball trajectory, and makes appropriate tactical decisions.

Court Awareness Index (CAI): Evaluates spatial awareness, including positioning relative to the non-Volley Zone, sidelines, baseline, and doubles partner.

Stroke Coordination Score (SCS): Assesses the consistency and coordination of forehands, backhands, volleys, dinks, and serves under match conditions.

Movement Recovery Index (MRI): Measures how quickly an athlete regains a balanced and ready position after each stroke, reflecting functional mobility specific to pickleball.

Match Adaptability Rating (MAR): Evaluates the players ability to adjust strategy, positioning, and shot selection in response to changing match situations.

43.2 Intellectual Disability (ID) in Para Pickleball

An Intellectual Disability is characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior, including conceptual, social, and practical skills, with onset occurring before the age of 18 years. Intellectual Disability affects an individual's ability to process information, learn new skills, solve problems, communicate effectively, and make decisions during sporting activities.

In Para Pickleball, intellectual impairment may influence:

- Understanding of game tactics and strategy.
- Processing speed and reaction time.
- Decision-making under pressure.
- Learning and retention of technical skills.
- Communication during doubles play.
- Ability to adapt to changing match situations.

Players must provide evidence of a diagnosed intellectual disability supported by psychological and educational assessments conducted by qualified professionals. Classification panels may review IQ assessments, adaptive behavior evaluations, educational records, and other supporting documentation to determine eligibility.

43.3 IPPA Intellectual Disability Sport Classes

CHAPTER 46: IPPAR or IPPA WORLD RANKING SYSTEM

46.1 Introduction

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) World Ranking System is the official para pickleball player ranking framework used to measure competitive performance in sanctioned Para Pickleball tournaments worldwide. The ranking system provides a transparent, objective, and merit-based method for evaluating athletes and determining their standing within the international Para Pickleball community.

The primary purpose of the ranking system is to reward consistent performance in recognized competitions and to provide a fair basis for tournament seeding, qualification standards, players selection, and recognition of sporting excellence. Ranking systems are widely used across international sports to ensure fair competition and identify the world's leading players.

46.2 Objectives of the IPPA World Ranking System

The IPPA World Ranking System shall:

- Recognize players performance in sanctioned competitions.
- Establish official World Rankings for all Para Pickleball classifications.

PP20-A – Profound Intellectual Disability

Para Pickleball Players in this class demonstrate very significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior.

Characteristics:

- Requires substantial support in daily living.
- Limited understanding of complex game concepts.
- Significant assistance may be required during competition.
- Reduced ability to process tactical instructions.

PP20-B – Severe Intellectual Disability

Athletes possess severe limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive skills but can participate in structured sporting activities with guidance.

Characteristics:

- Limited independent decision-making.
- Difficulty understanding advanced tactics.
- Requires frequent coaching support.
- Reduced learning speed for new technical skills.

PP20-C – Moderate Intellectual Disability

Para Pickleball Players demonstrate moderate limitations but are capable of learning and applying sport-specific skills.

Characteristics:

- Understands basic game rules.
- Can participate independently during matches.
- Requires simplified tactical instruction.
- Developing strategic awareness.

PP20-D – Mild Intellectual Disability

- Order a new classification evaluation.
- Refer the matter to an independent review panel.

The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding unless otherwise provided under IPPA regulations.

45.7 Confidentiality and Ethical Standards

All information obtained during protests, reviews, and appeals shall be treated as confidential.

Classifiers, officials, medical personnel, and committee members must:

- Protect athlete privacy.
- Avoid conflicts of interest.
- Maintain professional conduct.
- Ensure impartial decision making.

Any attempt to falsify medical information, intentionally misrepresent impairment, or improperly influence classification outcomes may result in disciplinary action, suspension, or loss of eligibility.

45.8 Emergency Classification Reviews During Competitions

In exceptional circumstances, the Chief Classifier may initiate an urgent review during a sanctioned competition if substantial evidence indicates that an athlete's classification may be inaccurate.

Such reviews shall be conducted with minimal disruption to competition while preserving fairness for all participants.

45.9 Final Remarks

The Classification Protest, Review, and Appeal system is an essential safeguard within the IPPA Classification Framework. By providing structured mechanisms to address classification concerns, the system protects athlete rights, promotes transparency, and strengthens confidence in Para Pickleball competition. Through fair and independent review processes, IPPA ensures that athletes compete in the most appropriate sport classes, preserving the integrity, equality, and spirit of Para Pickleball worldwide.

An Appeal differs from a Protest because it challenges whether the classification procedures were properly followed rather than disputing the classifiers' technical judgment.

An appeal may be submitted when there is evidence of:

- Procedural error.

- Administrative error.

- Conflict of interest.

- Failure to apply classification regulations correctly.

- Violation of athlete rights during the evaluation process.

Appeals do not normally challenge the classifiers' professional assessment of impairment unless procedural irregularities affected the outcome.

45.6 Appeal Procedures

The appeal process generally includes:

Step 1 – Submission

The appellant submits a written appeal to the IPPA Classification Appeals Committee within the prescribed deadline.

Step 2 – Preliminary Review

The Appeals Committee reviews the submission to determine whether valid grounds for appeal exist.

Step 3 – Investigation

Relevant documents, reports, and classification records are examined. The committee may seek statements from classifiers, athletes, team representatives, or medical experts.

Step 4 – Decision

The Appeals Committee may:

- Dismiss the appeal.
- Uphold the original decision.

Para Pickleball Players possess the highest level of independent functioning within the Intellectual Disability division.

Characteristics:

- Understands rules and match procedures.
- Capable of tactical planning.
- Can compete with minimal support.
- Demonstrates effective skill acquisition and game awareness.

43.4 Cerebral Palsy (CP) Para Pickleball

- A. Cerebral Palsy is a group of neurological disorders caused by abnormal brain development or injury to the developing brain. It affects movement, posture, balance, muscle tone, and coordination. Cerebral Palsy is non-progressive, meaning the brain injury does not worsen over time, although symptoms may change throughout life. The severity of Cerebral Palsy varies significantly among individuals. Some athletes may have mild coordination difficulties, while others may experience severe impairment affecting multiple limbs and trunk control.
- B. Players with Cerebral Palsy shall be classified based not only on their medical diagnosis, but primarily on their functional abilities and the extent to which the impairment affects sport-specific performance in Para Pickleball.

(C) Note: Players with Cerebral Palsy may compete sitting on a wheelchair if their impairment significantly limits independent walking or running, balance and lower-limb function required for standing play and Safe and effective movement on the court.

In Para Pickleball, Cerebral Palsy may affect:

- Balance and stability.

- Coordination of upper and lower limbs.

- Running and directional changes.

- Stroke execution and timing.

- Reaction speed.

-
- Muscle control and endurance.

Eligible Neurological Impairments

Athletes with the following conditions may be considered for CP classification where they produce comparable activity limitations:

-
- Cerebral Palsy.
-
- Traumatic Brain Injury.
-
- Stroke (with permanent impairment).
-
- Acquired Brain Injury.
-
- Other non-progressive neurological conditions producing similar functional limitations.

Eligibility is determined through medical documentation and classification assessment.

IPPA Cerebral Palsy Sport Classes

PP1 – Severe Coordination Impairment

Para Pickleball Players exhibit severe impairment affecting balance, coordination, and movement control.

Characteristics:

-
- Significant movement limitations.
-
- Severe spasticity or involuntary movements.
-
- Limited court mobility.
-
- Requires substantial adaptation during play.

PP2 – Moderate-Severe Impairment

Para Pickleball Players demonstrate significant impairment but possess greater functional movement than PP1 athletes.

Characteristics:

- Reduced balance and stability.

- A National Governing Body (NGB).
- An IPPA Member Federation.
- The IPPA Classification Committee.
- Tournament Classification Officials when sufficient evidence exists.

A protest must be supported by:

- Written justification.
- Relevant medical or functional evidence.
- Documentation indicating why the assigned class may be incorrect.

The protest should be submitted within the timeframe specified by the tournament regulations or classification rules.

Upon acceptance of a protest:

1. The athlete shall be informed of the protest.
2. A new Classification Panel shall be appointed.
3. The athlete will undergo reassessment.
4. The new panel will make an independent classification decision.

The decision of the Protest Panel shall replace the previous classification decision.

Athlete-Initiated Review Request

Players who believe their classification no longer accurately reflects their impairment may request a review.

Such requests must include:

- Updated medical documentation.
- Evidence of functional changes.
- Relevant reports from healthcare professionals.

The Classification Committee shall determine whether sufficient grounds exist to conduct a new evaluation.

45.5 Classification Appeal

- Protection of competition integrity.
- Evidence-based decision making.
- Consistency with international Para sport classification standards.

A protest or appeal shall never be used to gain a competitive advantage but only to correct a genuine concern regarding classification accuracy or procedural compliance.

45.3 Classification Review

A Classification Review is conducted when there is reason to believe that an athlete's functional ability has changed or that additional information has become available since the original evaluation.

A review may be initiated when:

- An athlete experiences a significant medical change.
- Surgery, injury, rehabilitation, or recovery alters functional ability.
- Growth and development affect a junior athlete's impairment profile.
- New medical evidence becomes available.
- The Classification Committee determines that reassessment is necessary.

During the review process, the athlete may undergo a complete re-evaluation including medical documentation review, physical assessment, and observation in competition.

Following the review, the athlete's sport class may be:

- Confirmed.
- Modified to a different class.
- Assigned a review status.
- Declared ineligible if eligibility criteria are no longer met.

45.4 Classification Protest

A Classification Protest is a formal request questioning the accuracy of an athlete's sport class assignment.

A protest may be submitted by:

-
- Limited running capability.
-
- Restricted agility and directional change.

PP3 – Moderate Impairment

Para Pickleball Players have moderate activity limitation affecting movement and coordination.

Characteristics:

- Functional independent mobility.
-
- Noticeable coordination deficits.
-
- Reduced movement efficiency during rallies.

PP4 – Mild-Moderate Impairment

Para Pickleball Players display mild neurological impairment affecting sport performance.

Characteristics:

- Good functional mobility.
-
- Mild balance limitations.
-
- Effective participation with some movement restrictions.

PP5 – Mild Impairment

Para Pickleball Players demonstrate mild spasticity, ataxia, or coordination impairment.

Characteristics:

- Independent movement.
-
- Mild reduction in agility.
-
- Minor impact on stroke execution.

PP6 – Minimal Impairment

Para Pickleball Players possess near-normal functional abilities with observable neurological impairment.

Characteristics:

- Good balance and mobility.

- Slight coordination limitations.

- Minimal effect on competitive performance.

PP7 – Unilateral Involvement

Para Pickleball Players have neurological impairment primarily affecting one side of the body.

Characteristics:

- Asymmetrical movement patterns.

- Reduced strength or coordination on one side.

- Adapted stroke mechanics.

PP8 – Minimal Eligible Impairment

Para Pickleball Players meet the minimum impairment criteria while maintaining high functional ability.

Characteristics:

- Excellent mobility.

- Minor coordination deficits.

- Competitive performance close to able-bodied athletes.

43.5 Classification Evaluation Procedures

Para Pickleball Players seeking classification in the ID or CP categories undergo a comprehensive evaluation process that may include:

(A) Medical Assessment

Review of:

- Diagnostic reports.
- Neurological evaluations.

- Confirmed (C): Classification is unlikely to change.
- Review (R): Athlete requires future reassessment due to potential changes in functional ability, growth, rehabilitation, or medical condition.
- New (N): Initial classification pending confirmation through competition observation.

CHAPTER 45: CLASSIFICATION PROTESTS, REVIEWS AND APPEALS**45.1 Introduction**

The integrity and credibility of the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) Classification System depend upon the accuracy, consistency, and fairness of classification decisions. While classifiers are trained to make objective and evidence-based evaluations, situations may arise where a classification decision requires reconsideration or formal review. To safeguard players rights and maintain confidence in the classification process, IPPA has established procedures for Classification Protests, Reviews, and Appeals.

These procedures ensure that players, teams, and governing bodies have access to a transparent mechanism for addressing concerns regarding classification outcomes while preserving the fairness of competition.

45.2 Principles of the Protest and Appeal System

The Classification Protest and Appeal process is based on the following principles:

- Fairness and impartiality.
- Athlete rights and due process.
- Transparency and accountability.

- Limb deficiency characteristics.
- Coordination and balance.
- Mobility and movement efficiency.
- Wheelchair propulsion ability (for wheelchair athletes).
- Functional reach and stroke mechanics.
- Ability to change direction and recover position.
- Stability during serving, returning, and rally situations.

The assessment may include standardized tests, observation exercises, and sport-specific movement evaluations.

3. Observation in Competition

Following the physical assessment, classifiers may observe the athlete during training sessions or actual competition.

Observation allows classifiers to evaluate:

- Court movement patterns.
- Functional use of prosthetic devices or assistive equipment.
- Competitive performance under match conditions.
- Impact of fatigue on functional abilities.
- Consistency between clinical assessment findings and actual gameplay.

The observation stage ensures that the assigned classification accurately reflects the athlete's functional performance in Para Pickleball competition.

44.4 Classification Outcomes

Upon completion of the evaluation, the Classification Panel may assign:

- A Sport Class identifying the athlete's competition category.
- A Sport Class Status indicating the level of review required.

Possible status categories include:

- Psychological assessments.
- Educational records.
- Functional medical history.

(B) Functional Assessment

Evaluation of:

- Coordination.
- Balance.
- Muscle control.
- Range of movement.
- Reaction speed.
- Sport-specific movement patterns.

(C) Technical Assessment

Observation during:

- Serving.
- Returning serves.
- Groundstrokes.
- Court movement.
- Net play.
- Match simulation.

(D) Observation in Competition

Classifiers may observe para pickleball players during sanctioned competition to confirm that the assigned class accurately reflects the athlete's functional abilities in a competitive environment. This approach is widely used throughout Para sport classification systems.

(E) Promoting Fair and Meaningful Competition

The Intellectual Disability and Cerebral Palsy Classification System enable players with cognitive and neurological impairments to participate in Para Pickleball within a fair, transparent, and evidence-based framework. By evaluating how an impairment affects sport performance rather than relying solely on medical diagnosis, IPPA ensures that para pickleball players compete against others with comparable functional abilities. This classification model strengthens competitive integrity, promotes athlete confidence, and advances the mission of providing inclusive sporting opportunities for individuals living with disabilities across the world.

CHAPTER 44: CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION PROCEDURES

44.1 Introduction

Classification evaluation is the formal process used to determine the appropriate sport class and sport class status of a Para Pickleball athlete. The objective of classification is to ensure that competition outcomes are determined by athletic skill, fitness, strategy, and performance rather than by the degree of impairment. The evaluation process is designed to provide a fair, transparent, consistent, and evidence-based assessment of every athlete seeking eligibility within the International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) Classification System.

All classification evaluations shall be conducted by trained and accredited classifiers appointed by the relevant National Governing Body (NGB), Regional Para Pickleball Committee, or the IPPA Classification Committee.

44.2 Purpose of Classification Evaluation

The classification evaluation process aims to:

- Verify that the athlete has an eligible impairment or disability.
- Assess the nature and extent of functional limitations affecting pickleball performance.

- Determine the most appropriate sport class.
- Ensure fair and equitable competition among athletes with similar activity limitations.
- Protect the integrity and credibility of Para Pickleball competitions.

44.3 Stages of Classification Evaluation

The classification process generally consists of three stages:

1. Medical Documentation Review

Before attending a classification evaluation, athletes must submit relevant medical documentation issued by qualified healthcare professionals. Documentation may include:

- Medical diagnosis reports.
- Surgical records.
- Amputation certificates.
- Neurological assessment reports.
- Radiological imaging where applicable.
- Functional mobility reports.
- Intellectual disability assessment documentation where required.

The Classification Panel reviews the submitted evidence to determine whether the athlete meets the minimum eligibility requirements for Para Pickleball participation.

2. Physical and Functional Assessment

The athlete undergoes an individual assessment conducted by certified classifiers. The evaluation focuses on the impact of the impairment on pickleball-specific activities rather than solely on medical diagnosis.

Areas commonly assessed include:

- Muscle strength and power.
- Joint range of motion.

All officials must demonstrate competence and professionalism throughout the event.

47.13 Athlete Uniforms and Equipment

Athletes shall wear:

- A. Appropriate sports attire.
- B. Approved footwear.
- C. Visible competition numbers where required.

Paddles and balls shall comply with IPPA equipment standards.

The Referee may inspect equipment before or during competition.

Non-compliant equipment may be removed from play.

47.14 Medical and Safety Requirements

Every IPPA-sanctioned tournament shall provide:

- Medical station.
- First aid facilities.
- Ambulance access.
- Emergency evacuation procedures.
- Safeguarding procedures.
- Accessible facilities for athletes with disabilities.

Athlete safety shall always take precedence over competition schedules.

47.15 Anti-Doping Regulations

All players, coaches, and support personnel shall comply with the anti-doping rules adopted by IPPA and consistent with internationally recognized anti-doping principles.

Athletes may be subject to:

- In-Competition Testing.
- Out-of-Competition Testing.
- Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) requirements.

-
- Provide tournament seeding criteria.
-
- Assist National Governing Bodies in team selection.
-
- Support qualification pathways for Regional and World Championships.
-
- Encourage players participation in international competitions.
-
- Promote competitive balance and sporting integrity.

46.3 Eligible Tournaments

Only results achieved in IPPA-sanctioned tournaments shall be eligible for World Ranking Points.

Para Pickleball tournaments will be sanctioned exclusively by the IPPA and designated with a Platinum, Gold, or Silver label. They shall be categorized into three levels based on the following criteria:

1. Participation & Competitor Criteria

Total Countries Participating:

- **Platinum:** Minimum of 12 international countries represented.
- **Gold:** Minimum of 8 international countries represented.
- **Silver:** Minimum of 4 countries or a minimum of 8 States / Union Territories / Provinces in IPPA Sanctioned National Championships / Tournaments conducted in their respective countries.

2. Player Hospitality & Financial Incentives

Cash Prizes & Purse:

- Tournament Prize Money with mandated equal payout across all adaptive classifications.
- Tournament match fees or participation fees paid to players.
- Transportation, Accommodation, Food provided for the players.

3. Safety & Operational Standards

Safety & Medical Standards:

- On-site Sports Medicine Physician, dedicated physical therapists/masseuses for standing, dwarfs, ID & CP, wheelchair athletes, and a fully equipped ambulance stationed on standby.
- On-site certified athletic trainers, physiotherapists, and an advanced first-aid station setup.
- Dedicated first-aid responders with an automated external defibrillator (AED) present at the main desk.
- Random in-competition anti-doping testing complying fully with WADA/IPC-recognized protocols.
- General compliance signature required upon player registration check-in

4. Media, Budget, & IPPA Administration

Social Media & Broadcast Budget:

- Multi-camera live broadcast streaming (with professional commentary), a dedicated PR team, and a designated media budget.
- High-definition single-camera streaming on major social media platforms with basic digital marketing campaigns.
- Localised social media updates, basic tournament graphics, and post-match photo archives.

5. IPPA Sanctioning Fees:

- Premium administrative fee payable to the IPPA.
- Mid-tier administrative fee payable to the IPPA.
- Standard administrative fee payable to IPPA.

6. Venue & Technical Facilities

Playing & Venue Infrastructure:

- High Quality dedicated, permanently lined, indoor/covered courts featuring high-performance sports surfaces.
- High Quality dedicated, permanently lined, outdoor courts featuring high-performance sports surfaces.

Matches shall generally be played under the official IPPA Rules of Play.

Standard formats include:

Best of Three Games

- Games to 11 points.
- Win by 2 points.

Championship Finals

- Best of Three or Best of Five Games as determined by the tournament regulations.

Rally Scoring Events

Where approved by IPPA, rally scoring formats may be used.

Any modifications shall be published before the start of competition.

47.12 Officials and Technical Personnel

Each sanctioned tournament shall appoint:

➤ Tournament Director

Responsible for overall event management.

➤ Technical Delegate

Represents IPPA and ensures compliance.

➤ Referee

Responsible for officiating standards.

➤ Umpires

Conduct matches according to IPPA Rules.

➤ Classification Personnel

Conduct athlete evaluations and reviews.

➤ Medical Personnel

Provide emergency and medical support.

League-Cum-Knockout

Players advance from preliminary groups into elimination rounds. Used in events such as the IPPA World League, combining league matches with knockout finals.

The Organizers/Tournament Director shall determine the appropriate format based on participation levels.

47.9 Clubbing of Categories - Players

Where insufficient entries are received, the Tournament Committee may combine categories.

Examples include:

- PP40 and PP41
- PP42 and PP43
- PP43 and PP44
- Adjacent age groups
- Adjacent classification groups

Clubbing shall only occur when competitive fairness can be maintained.

The decision to club events rests with the Technical Delegate and Tournament Director.

47.10 Seeding and Draw Procedures

Para Pickleball Players shall be seeded using:

1. IPPA World Rankings.
2. Continental Rankings.
3. National Rankings.
4. Tournament Committee recommendations.

The highest-ranked players shall be separated in the draw to promote competitive balance.

Random draw procedures shall be transparent and documented.

47.11 Match Scoring System

- Elite broadcast-quality LED lighting meeting a minimum of **400 to 1000+ lux** across all competition courts.
- Standard club lighting or outdoor natural lighting (strictly daylight play hours only) meeting **400+ lux**.
- High-capacity, dedicated ADA-compliant para-athlete accessible, wheelchair-accessible restrooms and roll-in showers located close to the courts.

7. Officials & Referees:

- 100% of matches refereed by IPPA-Certified International Referees, alongside a dedicated on-site Technical Director and Classification Panel.
- Certified referees mandated for all Main Draw, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final matches.
- Certified referees mandated exclusively for Medal matches (Gold/Bronze rounds); volunteer court monitors utilized for early qualifiers.

8. Platinum Label Events

Highest-ranking International competitions which may include:

- IPPA World Para Pickleball Championships
- Continental Championships (Asia, Europe, Americas, Africa, Oceania)
- IPPA World Cup
- IPPA World League
- IPPA Sanctioned Leagues

9. Gold Label Events

- IPPA Sanctioned International Open Championships
- IPPA Sanctioned Regional Championships
- IPPA Sanctioned Multi-Nation Para Pickleball Events
- IPPA Grand Prix Events & Para Pickleball Leagues

10. Silver Label Events

- National Championships recognised by IPPA

- International Invitation Tournaments recognised by IPPA
- Development Series Events recognised by IPPA

11.Ranking Period

The IPPA World Ranking shall operate on a rolling 52-week cycle.

Ranking points earned by a player remain valid for twelve (12) months from the date of the tournament verified every quarter. A player shall hold his/her ranking for a minimum of 3 months. At the conclusion of the 12-month period, those points shall expire automatically. This rolling ranking principle is consistent with international ranking systems used in many global sports.

12.Best Results Principle

To encourage quality performance rather than excessive participation, only a player's best six (6) tournament results achieved during the ranking period shall be counted towards the Official IPPA World Ranking.

The ranking calculation shall include the following:

- Best Platinum Label tournament results
- Best Gold Label tournament results
- Best Silver Label tournament results

13.World Ranking Points Table

Position	Platinum Label	Gold Label	Silver Label
Champion	3000	2000	1000
Runner-Up	2400	1600	800
Semi-Finalist	1800	1200	600
Quarter-Finalist	1200	800	400
Round of 16	800	500	250
Round of 32	400	250	125
Participation	100	50	25

- Women's Doubles

C. Mixed Doubles

D. Team Competitions

E. League Competitions

The Organizing Committee shall specify event categories in the tournament prospectus.

47.7 Age Categories

Unless otherwise specified, the following age divisions may be offered:

Category	Age Requirement
Junior	Under 18 Years
Open	18 Years and Above
Masters	35 Years and Above
Veterans	50 Years and Above
Senior Citizens	60 Years and Above

Para Pickleball players may compete in higher age categories if permitted by tournament regulations.

47.8 Tournament Draw Formats

IPPA recognizes several competition formats:

Single Elimination

Players are eliminated after one loss.

League Format

A competition structure in which each player or team competes against all other players or teams within their group or division, earning points based on match results. The player/s or team/s with the highest accumulated points at the end of the league stage is declared the winner or advances to the next round.

- PP42
- PP43
- PP44
- PP-SLA (BK) or Simply SLA-BK
- PP-DLA (BK) or Simply DLA-BK
- PP-SLA (AK) or Simply SLA-AK
- PP-DLA (AK) or Simply DLA-AK

(D) Standing Upper Limb Disabilities

- PP-SULD or Simply S-ULD

(E) Wheelchair Categories

- PP51–PP57

Classification may include:

- Medical Assessment
- Physical Assessment
- Functional Testing
- Observation in Competition

The classification panel shall have authority to review or modify a player's classification when necessary.

47.6 Competition Events

IPPA tournaments may include:

A. Singles

- Men's Singles
- Women's Singles

B. Doubles

- Men's Doubles

14.Doubles Ranking Calculation

For doubles events:

- Each player receives the full ranking points earned for the finishing position.
- Rankings are maintained individually rather than as fixed partnerships.
- Players may compete with different partners without affecting previously earned points.

Separate rankings shall be maintained for:

- Men's Doubles
- Women's Doubles

15.Singles/Doubles Ranking Calculation

Separate World Rankings shall be maintained for:

- Men's Singles
- Men's Doubles
- Women's Singles
- Women's Doubles
- Wheelchair Singles/Doubles
- Standing Para Singles/Doubles
- Dwarf/Short Stature Singles/Doubles
- Intellectual Disability Singles/Doubles
- Cerebral Palsy Singles/Doubles

Players shall only earn points within the classification category in which they compete.

16.Classification-Based Rankings

Because Para Pickleball includes multiple disability classifications, IPPA shall maintain separate rankings for each approved sport class for Men & Women. If a player changes

their Category or Sport Class in accordance with the Rules of Play and Classification Regulations, all previously earned Ranking Points shall remain valid and continue to be counted towards the player's overall ranking. Examples include:

1. PP40 (Dwarf or Short Stature)
2. PP41 (Dwarf or Short Stature)
3. PP40-41 Assisted (Dwarf or Short Stature)
4. PP42 (Standing Lower Limb Disabilities)
5. PP43-44 (Standing Lower Limb Disabilities)
6. S-ULD (Standing Upper Limb Disabilities)
7. SLA-BK (Standing Lower Limb Disabilities)
8. DLA-BK (Standing Lower Limb Disabilities)
9. SLA-AK (Standing Lower Limb Disabilities)
10. DLA-AK (Standing Lower Limb Disabilities)
11. PP51 (Wheelchair Classes)
12. PP52-PP53 (Wheelchair Classes)
13. PP54-PP55 (Wheelchair Classes)
14. PP56-PP57 (Wheelchair Classes)
15. PP20-A – Profound Intellectual Disability
16. PP20-B – Severe Intellectual Disability
17. PP20-C – Moderate Intellectual Disability
18. PP20-D – Mild Intellectual Disability
19. PP1-PP2 (Cerebral Palsy Classes)
20. PP3-PP4 (Cerebral Palsy Classes)
21. PP5-PP6 (Cerebral Palsy Classes)

- Anti-doping compliance declaration.
- Accessibility compliance report.

IPPA reserves the right to approve, reject, suspend, or withdraw tournament sanctioning if the event fails to comply with IPPA standards.

47.4 Players Eligibility

To participate in an IPPA-sanctioned tournament, a player shall:

1. Hold a valid nationality recognized by the player's National Governing Body.
2. Meet IPPA classification eligibility requirements.
3. Be registered through the designated tournament registration system.
4. Agree to comply with IPPA rules and regulations.
5. Meet all anti-doping obligations.
6. Be medically fit to participate.

Players competing in international competitions must possess a valid IPPA Players Identification Number and classification status where applicable.

47.5 Classification Requirements

All players competing in IPPA competitions shall compete within their approved classification categories.

Recognized classifications include:

(A) Intellectual Disability & Cerebral Palsy

- PP20 Series (A, B, C & D)
- PP1-PP8 Series

(B) Dwarf / Short Stature

- PP40
- PP41
- PP40-41 Assisted

(C) Standing Lower Limb Disabilities

C. Platinum Label Events

Platinum Label Events are premier international tournaments meeting the highest standards of technical operations, classification management, officiating, athlete services, transportation services, accommodation, food and international participation. Like the World Para Pickleball Championships.

D. Gold Label Events

Gold Label Events are international tournaments meeting the highest standards of technical operations, classification management, officiating, athlete services, and international participation.

E. Silver Label Events

Silver Label Events are approved tournaments conducted by National Governing Bodies or Organizing Committees that comply with IPPA technical standards and provide ranking opportunities.

F. Recognized Events

Recognized Events are developmental competitions approved by IPPA for athlete participation and promotion of the sport but may carry reduced ranking status.

47.3 Tournament Sanctioning Requirements

Any organization seeking to conduct an IPPA-sanctioned competition shall submit a formal sanction application to IPPA.

The application shall include:

- Proposed event title.
- Dates and venue details.
- Organizing committee structure.
- Technical officials list.
- Medical and emergency plans.
- Classification arrangements.
- Competition schedule.
- Budget and funding plan.

22. PP7–PP8 (Cerebral Palsy Classes)

This ensures fair comparison among players with similar functional abilities.

Note: Above Knee Double Leg Amputee (DLA-AK) may be classified under Wheelchair PP54-PP55 if the player opts to play in the Wheelchair Category and Above knee Single Leg Amputee (SLA-AK) may be classified under Wheelchair PP56-PP57 if the player opts to play in the Wheelchair Category.

17. Tournament Seeding

World Rankings shall be used as the primary method for tournament seeding.

The highest-ranked players shall receive preferential seeding positions to:

- Prevent top players from meeting in early rounds.
- Promote balanced tournament draws.
- Reward consistent performance.

Where rankings are unavailable, the Tournament Technical Committee may use discretionary seeding based on International Results Profile.

18. Publication of Rankings

IPPA shall publish updated World Rankings:

- Quarterly on the official IPPA website taking into consideration Platinum, Gold and Silver Label tournaments.
- Announced prior to major championships.

Published rankings shall include:

- Players name.
- Country.
- Classification.
- Ranking points.
- Ranking position.

19. Tie-Break Procedures

If two or more players have identical ranking points, rankings shall be determined by:

1. Highest number of Platinum Label points.
2. Best finish in a World Championship.
3. Highest number of tournament victories.
4. Head-to-head results.
5. Most recent tournament performance.

Final Remarks

The IPPA World Ranking System serves as the official measurement of international competitive performance in Para Pickleball. Through a transparent points-based structure, rolling ranking period, classification-specific rankings, and recognition of elite tournament achievements, the system rewards excellence, encourages participation, and provides a fair pathway for players seeking success at the highest level of Para Pickleball competition. The ranking framework strengthens the credibility of the sport and supports the continued growth of Para Pickleball throughout the world.

CHAPTER 47: IPPA COMPETITION / TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

47.1 Introduction

The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) Competition and Tournament Regulations establish the framework governing all sanctioned Para Pickleball competitions conducted under the authority of the IPPA. These regulations ensure that all tournaments are organized in a fair, transparent, safe, and professional manner while maintaining consistency across national, regional, continental, and world-level competitions.

The regulations apply to all IPPA-sanctioned events, including World Championships, Regional Championships, Platinum Label Events, Gold Label Events, Silver Label Events, Recognized Events, and the IPPA World League. They define standards for athlete eligibility, tournament formats, classifications, officiating, rankings, safety requirements, anti-doping compliance, and event administration.

The primary objectives of these regulations are:

1. To provide equal competitive opportunities for athletes with disabilities.
2. To ensure that competitions are conducted according to approved technical standards.
3. To protect the integrity of Para Pickleball.
4. To promote athlete welfare and safety.
5. To support the development of an internationally recognized competition pathway.

47.2 Categories of IPPA Competitions

The IPPA recognizes the following categories of tournaments:

A. IPPA World Championships / World League

The World Championships represent the highest level of international Para Pickleball competition and are conducted every four years or as determined by the IPPA Executive Board. Players qualify through national selections, rankings, wild cards, or qualification events approved by IPPA.

The **WORLD LEAGUE (WL)** in para pickleball sport was conceptualized and designed by Raghu Kumar Raghavelu (& Villowo International) who is the present Secretary General of International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA). The **IPPA World League** is a premier international franchise-based Para Pickleball competition organized by the International Para Pickleball Association. Designed as a high-profile Gold Label event, the league brings together top classified and ranked Para Pickleball athletes from around the world, promoting excellence, inclusion, and professional competition. The IPPA World League aims to elevate Para Pickleball globally while creating sustainable opportunities for athletes with disabilities through elite competition and international exposure.

B. Regional Championships

Regional Championships are conducted once in two years and should be conducted in:

- Asia
- Africa
- Americas
- Europe
- Oceania

These championships serve as continental qualification and ranking events.

These standards ensure that all players receive fair, professional, and internationally consistent officiating and classification services throughout the competition.

50.9 Classification Panels

- A. Classification Panels are responsible for determining player eligibility and assigning sport classifications that ensure fair competition among players with comparable levels of functional ability. The classification process is one of the most important components of Para Pickleball because it directly affects players participation and competitive balance.
- B. An IPPA Classification Panel shall normally consist of a minimum of two qualified classifiers, a medical classifier and others like physiotherapists, occupational therapists, sports physicians, rehabilitation specialists, sport scientists, or technical classifiers trained and accredited by IPPA. Whenever possible, panels should include professionals possessing expertise relevant to the athlete's impairment type and competitive requirements.
- C. The primary responsibility of the Classification Panel is to evaluate players according to the IPPA Classification Code and determine whether they meet the eligibility criteria for participation in Para Pickleball. This evaluation may involve medical documentation review, physical assessments, functional movement analysis, observation during training, and observation during competition. The panel shall assess factors such as muscle strength, joint range of motion, coordination, balance, limb deficiency, wheelchair functionality, neurological impairments, intellectual impairments, and other impairment-specific criteria relevant to Para Pickleball participation.
- D. Following evaluation, the Classification Panel shall assign an appropriate sport class and classification status. Athletes may receive a Confirmed Status, Review Status, or other classification designation as specified within the IPPA Classification Rules. Classification decisions shall be based solely on objective evidence and professional assessment and must not be influenced by nationality, team affiliation, competition results, or external pressure.
- E. Classification Panels must maintain strict confidentiality regarding athlete medical information and assessment records. All personal information obtained during classification evaluations shall be handled in accordance with applicable privacy, data protection, and ethical standards. Only information necessary for competition administration shall be disclosed to relevant tournament officials.

Any anti-doping violation may result in sanctions, suspension, disqualification, forfeiture of results, or additional disciplinary action.

47.16 Protests and Appeals

Players or teams may submit protests regarding:

- Eligibility.
- Classification.
- Match administration.
- Rules interpretation.

All protests shall:

1. Be submitted in writing.
2. Include supporting evidence.
3. Be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
4. Be filed within the specified time limit.

Appeals shall be considered by the designated Appeal Jury whose decision shall be final unless further review is permitted under IPPA regulations.

47.17 Rankings and Tournament Results

- A. Results from sanctioned tournaments may contribute toward the IPPA World Ranking System.
- B. Ranking eligibility depends upon tournament sanction status, classification compliance, minimum competition standards and participation requirements.
- C. Only IPPA Sanctioned Tournaments meeting the International Para Pickleball Association technical standards may award official ranking points.

47.18 Awards and Recognition

Organizers may present:

- a. Gold Medal / Champion Award.
- b. Silver Medal / Runner-Up Award.
- c. Bronze Medal Awards.

- D. Team Championships.
- E. Fair Play Awards.
- F. Best Emerging Player Awards.
- G. Most Valuable Player Awards.

Awards shall be presented in a dignified and inclusive manner respecting all para pickleball players.

47.19 Final Remarks

The IPPA Competition and Tournament Regulations provide the foundation for the fair, safe, and professional conduct of Para Pickleball worldwide. Through standardized competition structures, classification integrity, player-centered policies, and international technical standards, IPPA ensures that players compete on equal terms and that success is determined by skill, preparation, strategy, and sportsmanship. These regulations support the continued growth of Para Pickleball and reinforce IPPA's commitment to excellence, inclusion, and global development of the sport.

CHAPTER 48: EVENT SANCTIONING AND HOSTING REQUIREMENTS

48.1 Introduction

IPPA sanctioning provides official recognition to tournaments and allows participating players to earn eligibility, rankings, records, and championship qualifications in accordance with IPPA regulations. Sanctioned events must uphold the principles of fairness, inclusivity, athlete welfare, accessibility, and sporting excellence.

48.2 Eligibility for Event Sanctioning

Applications for event sanctioning may be submitted by:

- National Governing Bodies (NGBs) affiliated with IPPA.
- Regional Para Pickleball Committees recognized by IPPA.
- Local Organizing Committees approved by their National Governing Body.
- Educational institutions, sports clubs, disability organizations, or event management companies operating under the supervision of an IPPA-recognized authority.

At all sanctioned competitions where player classification is conducted, the Classification Panel shall consist of:

- Chief Classifier – 1
- Medical Classifier – Minimum 1
- Technical Classifier – Minimum 1
- Additional Classifiers as required

Accordingly, an IPPA Classification Panel shall normally comprise **a minimum of three accredited officials**, including:

1. Chief Classifier
2. Medical Classifier
3. Technical Classifier

For World Championships and Continental Championships, IPPA recommends a panel of **3 to 5 Classifiers** representing expertise in physical impairments, wheelchair sports, neurological conditions, intellectual disabilities, and Para sport functional assessment.

The Classification Panel shall independently evaluate player eligibility, conduct physical and technical assessments, assign sport classes, determine classification status, review classification protests, and ensure compliance with the IPPA Classification Code.

50.8 Officials-to-Court Ratios

To maintain high officiating standards, IPPA recommends the following minimum staffing ratios:

- 1 Referee per Match
- 4–8 Line Judges per Championship Match
- 1 Court Supervisor per 4–8 Courts
- 1 Chief Referee per Tournament
- 1 Technical Delegate per Tournament
- 1 Classification Panel per 50 Players Requiring Classification
- 1 Medical Officer per Competition Venue

- Minimum: **4 Line Judges**
- Preferred: **6 Line Judges**
- Championship Finals: **8 Line Judges**

Each Line Judge shall be assigned responsibility for specific boundary lines, including:

- Baselines
- Sidelines
- Non-Volley Zone lines
- Service Court boundaries when necessary

Line Judges shall communicate their decisions using approved hand signals and verbal calls where required. Their decisions may be accepted by the Referee unless the Referee clearly observes an error or possesses conclusive evidence to overturn the call.

50.6 Recommended Officiating Structure for Major Events

For World Championships, Continental Championships, Regional Championships, and other premier IPPA events, the recommended officiating panel per championship court shall consist of:

Position	Number Per Match
Referee	1
Assistant Referee / Scorekeeper	1
Line Judges	4-8
Court Supervisor	Shared
Video Review Official (if available)	1
Medical Officer	Shared
Technical Delegate	Shared

This structure ensures consistency, accuracy, player safety, and compliance with international officiating standards.

50.7 Classification Panel Composition

- However, in Regions and Countries which do not have an IPPA Affiliated Organisation, the IPPA shall directly or in partnership with another Company or Organisation conduct IPPA Sanctioned Events.

The granting of sanction status remains the sole authority of the IPPA Executive Board or its designated Competition Committee.

48.3 Sanction Application Requirements

Organizations seeking to host an IPPA-sanctioned event shall submit a formal application along with the prescribed fee within the prescribed timeline established by IPPA. The application shall include:

- A. Proposed event title and category.
- B. Competition dates and venue details.
- C. Tournament format and schedule.
- D. Expected number of athletes and participating nations.
- E. Classification categories to be offered.
- F. Medical and emergency response plan.
- G. Accessibility compliance report.
- H. Budget and financial plan.
- I. List of key officials and organizing committee members.
- J. Anti-doping and safeguarding compliance declarations.

Incomplete applications may be returned for revision or rejected.

48.4 Venue and Accessibility Standards

The host organization must ensure that the venue meets IPPA technical and accessibility requirements. The venue shall provide:

- A. Regulation-size pickleball courts and approved playing surfaces.
- B. Safe player movement areas and spectator zones.
- C. Wheelchair-accessible entrances, pathways, restrooms, and seating.
- D. Adequate lighting and ventilation.

- E. Athlete warm-up and practice facilities.
- F. Emergency exits and safety signage.
- G. Accessible parking and transportation access where possible.

All facilities must promote equal participation opportunities for athletes with disabilities.

48.5 Technical and Competition Requirements

Hosts shall conduct competitions in accordance with the current IPPA Rules and Regulations. The organizing committee shall appoint:

- Tournament Director.
- Technical Delegate.
- Certified Referees and Umpires.
- Classification Personnel where required.
- Medical and First Aid Personnel.
- Volunteer and Athlete Services Teams.

Official match schedules, draws, results, and rankings must be managed using approved competition procedures.

48.6 Medical, Safety and Athlete Welfare

Every sanctioned event shall have:

- Qualified medical personnel on-site.
- First aid facilities and emergency medical equipment.
- Ambulance access or emergency transport arrangements.
- Hydration and athlete welfare provisions.
- Safeguarding measures for vulnerable participants.
- Risk management and incident reporting procedures.

Athlete safety shall take priority over all competition considerations.

48.7 Financial and Administrative Responsibilities

match from commencement until completion. The Referee shall be responsible for enforcing the Rules of Para Pickleball, announcing scores, ruling on faults, monitoring player conduct, managing time-outs, recording results, and ensuring the safety of all participants.

- B. For major international competitions including the IPPA World Para Pickleball Championships, Continental Championships, Regional Championships, Gold Label Events, and Platinum Label Events, the following officiating structure is recommended:

- **1 Referee per Match**
- **1 Scorekeeper or Assistant Referee per Match (optional)**
- **4 to 8 Line Judges per Match depending on court configuration**
- **1 Court Supervisor for every 4 courts**
- **1 Chief Referee for the entire competition**
- **1 Technical Delegate overseeing the event**

Where referee resources are limited, a single certified Referee may officiate the match without line judges. However, IPPA strongly recommends the use of line judges for medal matches, semifinals, finals, and all major international events.

50.5 Line Judges

Line Judges are appointed to assist the Referee in determining whether a ball lands inside or outside the designated court boundaries. Their primary role is to provide accurate observations and support fair decision-making during competition. Line Judges shall remain impartial at all times and perform their duties according to IPPA officiating standards.

For international competitions, the following deployment is recommended:

Singles Matches

- Minimum: **4 Line Judges**
- Preferred: **6 Line Judges**
- Championship Finals: **8 Line Judges**

Doubles Matches

- A. Referees are entrusted with enforcing the Rules of Para Pickleball during competition and ensuring that matches are conducted fairly, safely, and consistently. Referees represent the authority of the sport on the court and are responsible for maintaining order, resolving disputes, interpreting rules, and protecting the integrity of competition.
- B. The Chief Referee serves as the head of the officiating team and is responsible for assigning referees, monitoring officiating performance, conducting pre-event briefings, and ensuring consistent rule interpretation throughout the tournament. The Chief Referee works closely with the Technical Delegate and Tournament Director to address officiating issues and resolve appeals arising from match situations.
- C. Match Referees are assigned to individual courts and are responsible for controlling the match from commencement until its conclusion. Their duties include conducting pre-match inspections, verifying player identities, confirming equipment compliance, announcing scores, monitoring service procedures, ruling on faults, determining line calls where line judges are not present, managing time-outs, and recording match results. Referees must remain alert and attentive throughout the match and must apply the rules without favouritism or prejudice.
- D. In Para Pickleball competition, referees are also responsible for ensuring compliance with disability-specific regulations. This includes monitoring wheelchair movement rules, verifying the legality of athlete assistance devices, enforcing provisions relating to service modifications where applicable, and ensuring that athletes compete within the conditions approved by their classification status. Referees must be sensitive to the unique needs of athletes with disabilities while simultaneously preserving the principles of fair competition.
- E. Line Judges may be appointed for major competitions to assist in determining whether balls land in or out of the court boundaries. Where available, Video Review Officials may support the officiating team through approved technological systems. Regardless of technological assistance, the final authority for match control remains with the designated Referee and Chief Referee as outlined in IPPA regulations.

50.4 Referee Appointments Per Match

- A. For all IPPA sanctioned competitions, every official match shall be supervised by a designated Referee who shall have complete authority over the conduct of the

The host organization shall be responsible for:

- Payment of applicable sanction fees.
- Venue and equipment costs.
- Officials' expenses and operational costs.
- Event insurance where required by law.
- Accurate financial reporting when requested by IPPA.

The host shall also maintain all event records, registrations, and competition documentation for audit and verification purposes.

48.8 Event Monitoring and Compliance

IPPA may appoint a Technical Delegate or Event Representative to monitor compliance with sanction requirements. Failure to comply with approved standards may result in:

- Warnings or corrective actions.
- Withdrawal of sanction status.
- Suspension of ranking points.
- Restrictions on future hosting opportunities.

48.9 Conclusion

IPPA Event Sanctioning and Hosting Requirements ensure that all recognized competitions maintain consistent international standards of quality, accessibility, safety, and fairness. By meeting these requirements, event organizers contribute to the growth of Para Pickleball while providing athletes with a professional competition environment that reflects the values and objectives of the International Para Pickleball Association.

programs are therefore essential components of the IPPA Technical Officials Development Framework.

50.2 Technical Officials

- A. Technical Officials are responsible for the overall management, supervision, and administration of competitions conducted under IPPA jurisdiction. They ensure that all tournament activities are carried out in accordance with IPPA Rules, Regulations, Competition Manuals, Classification Codes, and Event Hosting Standards. Technical Officials operate both on and off the field of play and play a critical role in maintaining consistency across national, regional, and international competitions.
- B. The principal Technical Official at an IPPA event is the Technical Delegate (TD). The Technical Delegate serves as the official representative of IPPA and has overall authority regarding the technical conduct of the competition. The Technical Delegate supervises tournament operations, reviews compliance with sanctioning requirements, oversees court standards, confirms competition schedules, coordinates with the Tournament Director, and ensures adherence to all applicable regulations. The Technical Delegate may issue directives, resolve technical disputes, approve modifications necessitated by unforeseen circumstances, and make final decisions on matters not specifically addressed within the Rules.
- C. Supporting the Technical Delegate are Assistant Technical Delegates, Competition Managers, Chief Referees, Court Supervisors, and Event Coordinators. These officials collectively manage athlete registration, match scheduling, court assignments, equipment inspections, results verification, ranking submissions, and operational logistics. They also ensure that medical services, accessibility requirements, anti-doping procedures, and emergency response plans are fully implemented throughout the competition period.
- D. Technical Officials are expected to maintain complete neutrality and must avoid any actual or perceived conflicts of interest. Officials shall not participate in decisions involving athletes, teams, or organizations with whom they have personal, financial, or professional relationships that may compromise impartiality. Any potential conflict must be disclosed immediately to the Technical Delegate or the IPPA Technical Committee.

50.3 Referees and Match Officials

CHAPTER 49: CLUBBING POLICY (MERGING OF CLASSES/CATEGORIES)

49.1 Introduction

- A. The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) recognizes that the growth and sustainability of Para Pickleball depend on providing meaningful competition opportunities for athletes across all disability classifications. While the classification system is designed to ensure fair and equitable competition by grouping players according to the nature and extent of their impairments, there are circumstances where a particular classification, age division, gender category, or event may attract an insufficient number of participants to conduct a viable competition. To address such situations, Raghu Kumar Raghavelu created a system named “Clubbing” and IPPA adopted this structured Clubbing Policy, also known as the Merging of Classes/Categories Policy. The purpose of this policy is to maintain competitive opportunities for players while preserving the fundamental principles of fairness, safety, integrity, and sporting excellence.
- B. Clubbing refers to the process of combining two or more classification categories, divisions, age groups, or gender-based events into a single competitive event when the number of entries does not meet the minimum participation requirements established by the tournament regulations. The policy is designed to prevent event cancellations, reduce player disappointment, improve tournament scheduling efficiency, and maximize participation in developing regions where players numbers may still be limited. Clubbing shall only be implemented when it is deemed necessary by the Tournament Director, Classification Committee, and Technical Delegate, and shall be carried out according to established guidelines to ensure that no player gains an unreasonable competitive advantage.
- C. The IPPA acknowledges that Para Pickleball is a rapidly developing sport with varying participation levels across countries and regions. In emerging Para

players have access to competition opportunities and that Para Pickleball continues to grow in an inclusive, sustainable, and player-centered manner. Through careful application of this policy, IPPA seeks to balance competitive fairness with practical event management while upholding the values of inclusion, equality, respect, and sporting excellence.

CHAPTER 50: TECHNICAL OFFICIALS, REFEREES AND CLASSIFICATION PANELS

50.1 Introduction

- A. The successful conduct of any International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) sanctioned competition depends upon the professionalism, competence, impartiality, and integrity of its Technical Officials, Referees, and Classification Panels. These individuals serve as the guardians of fair play, athlete safety, competition integrity, and the consistent application of the Rules of Para Pickleball. Their collective responsibility extends beyond merely enforcing regulations; they ensure that every athlete, regardless of disability, nationality, gender, age, or competitive level, is provided with an equal opportunity to compete under fair and standardized conditions.
- B. As Para Pickleball continues to expand globally, the role of qualified technical personnel becomes increasingly important. Technical Officials oversee the administration and operation of tournaments, Referees enforce the rules during competition, and Classification Panels determine athlete eligibility and sport class allocation. Together, these officials form the foundation of a credible and internationally recognized competition system. Their decisions directly influence athlete participation, tournament outcomes, rankings, records, and the overall reputation of the sport. Therefore, all officials serving at IPPA-sanctioned events must demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, ethical conduct, objectivity, and technical expertise.
- C. IPPA recognizes that Para Pickleball presents unique officiating requirements due to the diversity of impairments represented within the sport. Officials must possess not only a thorough understanding of the Rules of Pickleball but also specialized knowledge of Para Pickleball classifications, adaptive playing conditions, wheelchair regulations, player assistance provisions, and disability-specific competition considerations. Continuous education and certification

Pickleball nations, some classifications may have only a small number of players, making it difficult to conduct separate competitions for every impairment category. Clubbing therefore serves as a practical competition management tool while supporting the long-term objective of expanding player participation and creating sufficient numbers to eventually hold separate events for all classifications.

49.2 Objectives of the Clubbing Policy

- A. The primary objective of clubbing is to ensure that every eligible para pickleball player has an opportunity to participate in meaningful competition regardless of the number of entries received in a particular category. Rather than cancelling an event due to low participation, clubbing enables players to compete against others with similar functional abilities while maintaining the spirit of competitive fairness. The policy also assists event organizers in managing venue schedules, officiating resources, medal events, and operational costs more efficiently.
- B. Another important objective is athlete development. Athletes in newly established classifications often require regular competitive exposure to improve their skills and gain tournament experience. Clubbing allows these athletes to continue participating in sanctioned competitions and accumulating ranking points even when participation numbers are insufficient within their own class. Furthermore, clubbing encourages greater interaction between athletes across neighbouring classifications and contributes to the growth of Para Pickleball communities at national, regional, and international levels.
- C. The policy also supports event sustainability. Tournament organizers invest significant resources in court preparation, officiating, medical support, classification services, and event management. Maintaining competition opportunities through clubbing ensures that these resources are utilized effectively while preserving the overall quality of the tournament. At the same time, the policy protects athlete interests by ensuring that no event is cancelled without first considering all reasonable clubbing options.

49.3 Circumstances Under Which Clubbing May Be Applied

- A. Clubbing may be applied whenever a category does not achieve the minimum number of participants required under IPPA tournament regulations. Unless otherwise specified in the event prospectus, a minimum of four athletes or teams is generally recommended to conduct an independent medal event. When entries

fall below this threshold, the Tournament Committee may consider merging the category with another classification, division, or event that possesses comparable functional characteristics.

- B. Clubbing may occur within the same impairment group, such as combining neighbouring dwarf wheelchair classifications or standing classifications. For example, PP42 and PP43 athletes may be merged when participation levels are low and the Classification Committee determines that the functional differences between the classes are not substantial enough to compromise competitive integrity. Similarly, PP40 and PP41 Short Stature categories may be combined when athlete numbers are insufficient to conduct separate competitions.
- C. In exceptional circumstances, age categories may also be merged. Junior, Open, Masters, and Senior divisions may be clubbed if participation levels are low and athlete welfare considerations permit such a combination. Likewise, gender-based events may be merged into mixed-gender competitions when approved by the Tournament Committee and accepted by participating players. Doubles events may also be combined where necessary, provided the resulting competition structure remains fair and manageable.

49.4 Principles Governing Clubbing Decisions

- A. All clubbing decisions shall be guided by the principles of fairness, functional equivalence, safety, transparency, and athlete welfare. Functional ability shall be the most important factor considered when determining whether two classifications may be merged. The Classification Committee shall assess whether athletes from different classes possess sufficiently comparable movement capabilities, balance, coordination, mobility, strength, or wheelchair functionality to compete within the same event.
- B. Safety considerations shall always take precedence over competitive convenience. Classifications with substantially different functional profiles shall not be merged if doing so could create an unreasonable risk of injury or place athletes at a significant competitive disadvantage. Similarly, athletes with intellectual impairments shall not automatically be merged with athletes possessing physical impairments unless specific competition formats have been approved by the IPPA Technical Committee.
- C. Transparency is essential throughout the decision-making process. Athletes, coaches, team managers, and National Governing Bodies must be informed of any

proposed clubbing arrangements before the commencement of competition. Whenever possible, clubbing decisions should be published during the final entry confirmation stage to allow participants adequate time to prepare. Any objections or appeals relating to clubbing decisions shall be reviewed by the Technical Delegate whose decision shall be final.

49.5 Methods of Clubbing and Medal Allocation

- A. When classifications are merged, the Tournament Committee may choose from several competition formats depending on participation levels. In some situations, players may compete together in a single combined event with one set of medals awarded based on overall finishing positions. In other cases, players may compete in a combined draw while medals are awarded separately according to classification.
- B. Where appropriate, a factor-based system may be introduced to account for differences in functional ability between classifications. Such systems may be developed by the IPPA Technical Committee based on statistical analysis, competitive data, and classification expertise. ***However, whenever possible, direct competition without adjustment factors is preferred to preserve the simplicity and spectator appeal of the sport.***
- C. For ranking purposes, athletes participating in a clubbed event shall remain eligible to receive ranking points. The allocation of ranking points shall be determined according to the official IPPA World Ranking System and may take into account the size and classification composition of the merged event. The Tournament Director shall ensure that all ranking data accurately reflects the players' original classifications.

49.6 Review and Future Development

- A. The IPPA Clubbing Policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure that it continues to meet the evolving needs of the sport. As athlete participation increases globally, the need for clubbing is expected to decrease, allowing more classifications to be contested independently. National Federations are encouraged to develop athlete recruitment and development programs aimed at increasing participation across all classifications, thereby reducing reliance on merged events.
- B. The ultimate objective of the IPPA is to provide separate and fully competitive events for every recognized classification whenever participation numbers permit. Until such time, clubbing remains an essential mechanism for ensuring that all

Long-Term CSR, ESG & Brand Visibility, with year-round media exposure, documentary storytelling, digital campaigns, community outreach programmes, and measurable social impact through the IPPA Academy for People Living with Disabilities.



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50.10 Professional Standards, Ethics and Accreditation

- A. All Technical Officials, Referees, and Classifiers operating under the authority of IPPA shall adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism, and accountability. Officials shall treat athletes, coaches, volunteers, spectators, and fellow officials with respect and dignity at all times. Discrimination, harassment, abuse of authority, bias, intimidation, corruption, or unethical conduct shall not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- B. IPPA shall establish education, certification, and accreditation programs to ensure that all officials possess the competencies required to perform their duties effectively. Officials may be certified at National, Regional, Continental, and international levels depending upon their qualifications, experience, performance evaluations, and continuing education achievements. Periodic reassessment and professional development shall be required to maintain accreditation status.
- C. The IPPA Technical Committee shall maintain official registers of accredited Technical Delegates, Referees, and Classifiers and may suspend, revoke, or restrict accreditation where an official fails to meet required standards. Complaints concerning official conduct shall be investigated through established disciplinary procedures, ensuring fairness, transparency, and due process.
- D. Through the combined efforts of Technical Officials, Referees, and Classification Panels, IPPA ensures that Para Pickleball competitions are conducted according to the highest international standards. Their expertise and dedication safeguard athlete welfare, preserve competitive integrity, promote consistency across tournaments, and contribute significantly to the continued growth and credibility of Para Pickleball worldwide.

CHAPTER 51: ANTI-DOPING RULES AND COMPLIANCE

51.1 Introduction

- A. The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) is committed to protecting the integrity of sport, preserving fair competition, and safeguarding the health and rights of athletes through the implementation of a comprehensive Anti-Doping Program. The IPPA Anti-Doping Rules are established in accordance with the principles and requirements of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the World Anti-Doping Code, International Standards, and applicable national anti-doping regulations. These rules apply to all players, athlete support personnel, coaches, trainers, medical personnel, team officials, administrators, and any other individuals participating in activities governed by IPPA.
- B. The fundamental purpose of anti-doping is to protect the player's right to participate in clean sport. Doping undermines the values of honesty, excellence, respect, courage, determination, inspiration, equality, and fair play. It threatens athlete health, damages public confidence in sport, and creates an uneven competitive environment. IPPA therefore adopts a zero-tolerance approach toward doping and any conduct that compromises the integrity of competition.
- C. All players participating in IPPA-sanctioned competitions, including local, national, regional, continental, and world championship events, are subject to anti-doping regulations. Compliance with these rules is a condition of participation. Athletes are personally responsible for ensuring that no prohibited substance enters their body and that no prohibited method is used, regardless of intent, negligence, knowledge, or fault.
- D. The Anti-Doping Program of IPPA shall be based upon the principles of education, prevention, testing, investigation, intelligence gathering, results management, sanctions, appeals, and rehabilitation. Every stakeholder within the Para Pickleball community shares responsibility for maintaining a clean and ethical sporting environment.

51.2 Definition of Doping and Anti-Doping Rule Violations



Exclusive Three-Year City Franchise Rights to own and operate an official IPPL team representing your city, while championing disability inclusion through sport.

Professional Team Development & League Participation, including access to international and Indian para-athletes, coaching support, player drafts, branding opportunities, and participation in the annual Indian Para Pickleball League.



Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) established under the World Anti-Doping Code. Athletes and athlete support personnel must understand that anti-doping violations extend beyond the mere presence of a prohibited substance in an athlete's sample.

The following constitute Anti-Doping Rule Violations:

(A) Presence of a Prohibited Substance

The presence of a prohibited substance, its metabolites, or markers in an athlete's sample constitutes an anti-doping rule violation. Athletes are strictly liable for any prohibited substance found in their body. It is not necessary to demonstrate intent, fault, negligence, or knowing use for a violation to be established.

(B) Use or Attempted Use

The use or attempted use of a prohibited substance or prohibited method by an athlete constitutes a violation regardless of whether the use is successful or results in performance enhancement.

(C) Evading, Refusing, or Failing to Submit to Testing

Any athlete who evades doping control, refuses sample collection, or fails to comply with testing procedures without compelling justification commits an anti-doping rule violation.

(E) Whereabouts Failures

Athletes included in Registered Testing Pools may be required to provide accurate whereabouts information. Repeated failures to file accurate information or be available for testing may constitute a violation.

(E)Tampering

Tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control procedures, including sample collection, documentation, laboratory processes, or investigations, is prohibited.

(F) Possession

Possession of prohibited substances or prohibited methods without legitimate therapeutic justification constitutes a violation.

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The fact that a substance was prescribed by a physician, recommended by a coach, obtained legally, or purchased over the counter does not excuse an athlete from responsibility if that substance is prohibited.

51.4 Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

IPPA recognizes that some players may require prohibited substances or methods for legitimate medical treatment. In such circumstances, athletes may apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE).

A TUE permits an athlete to use a prohibited substance or method when:

- The athlete has a clearly diagnosed medical condition.
- Failure to treat the condition would significantly impair health.
- No reasonable therapeutic alternative exists.
- The treatment does not produce performance enhancement beyond a return to normal health.
- The necessity is not caused by prior non-therapeutic use of a prohibited substance.

Applications must be supported by comprehensive medical documentation and submitted to the appropriate TUE Committee. Approval must normally be obtained before competition participation unless emergency or retroactive provisions apply under applicable regulations.

Para Pickleball Players competing in international competitions shall comply with international TUE recognition procedures as established by WADA and the relevant Anti-Doping Organization.

51.5 Doping Control and Testing Procedures

IPPA may conduct in-competition and out-of-competition testing through authorized Anti-Doping Organizations. Testing may occur at any time and at any location without advance notice.

Athletes selected for testing must report immediately to the Doping Control Station unless otherwise authorized by the Doping Control Officer. Athletes have the right to be accompanied by a representative and, where necessary, an interpreter.

The doping control process generally includes:

1. Player Notification
2. Verification of Identity
3. Selection of Collection Equipment
4. Sample Collection
5. Sample Division into A and B Samples
6. Documentation and Chain of Custody Procedures
7. Laboratory Analysis
8. Results Management

All samples shall be analyzed only by laboratories accredited or approved under WADA International Standards. Samples may be stored and reanalyzed for a period permitted under the World Anti-Doping Code, allowing future detection of substances that may not have been identifiable at the time of collection.

Refusal to cooperate with testing procedures may be treated as an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

51.6 Player Rights and Responsibilities

Players possess both rights and responsibilities within the anti-doping system.

Athlete rights include:

- Fair and respectful treatment during testing.
- Confidential handling of personal information.
- Representation during sample collection.
- Access to results management procedures.
- The right to request B Sample analysis.
- The right to a fair hearing and appeal.
- Access to education and anti-doping information.

Player responsibilities include:

independent Appeals Committee or Judicial Panel that was not involved in the original decision. The Appeals Body may uphold, modify, reduce, overturn, or return the matter for further review based on the evidence presented. Decisions of the Appeals Body shall generally be final and binding unless further rights of appeal are specifically provided under IPPA regulations or applicable international sporting frameworks.

- E. To ensure that its governance framework remains current and responsive to the evolving needs of the sport, IPPA reserves the authority to amend, revise, update, or replace its rules, regulations, policies, classification codes, competition procedures, and disciplinary provisions from time to time. Amendments may be proposed by the IPPA Executive Board, Technical Committee, Classification Committee, Legal Committee, Regional Committees, or Member National Federations. All approved amendments shall be officially published and communicated to stakeholders prior to implementation. Unless otherwise specified, amended regulations shall take effect on the date determined by the IPPA Executive Board. Through these disciplinary, appeals, and amendment procedures, IPPA seeks to ensure accountability, transparency, consistency, and good governance while protecting the integrity and future development of Para Pickleball worldwide.



ensure a safe and respectful environment for athletes, officials, coaches, volunteers, and stakeholders, IPPA has established comprehensive Disciplinary Regulations governing conduct both on and off the field of play. These regulations apply to all individuals and organizations participating in or affiliated with IPPA-sanctioned activities, including athletes, coaches, team managers, referees, classifiers, technical officials, administrators, National Governing Bodies, and event organizers.

- B. Any conduct that undermines the principles of fair play, player welfare, competition integrity, or the reputation of Para Pickleball may be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary offences may include, but are not limited to, unsportsmanlike behavior, abusive language, harassment, discrimination, cheating, match manipulation, violence, intimidation, misconduct towards officials, falsification of documents, classification fraud, anti-doping rule violations, corruption, conflicts of interest, breach of safeguarding policies, unauthorized participation, or failure to comply with IPPA rules and regulations. Individuals are expected to conduct themselves with dignity, respect, and professionalism at all times and to uphold the values of inclusion, equality, and mutual respect that define the Para Pickleball movement.
- C. When an alleged violation occurs, IPPA may initiate disciplinary proceedings through its designated Ethics, Disciplinary, or Judicial Committee. The accused individual or organization shall be informed of the alleged violation and provided with an opportunity to respond to the charges. Investigations may include the collection of written statements, documentary evidence, video recordings, witness testimony, technical reports, and any other relevant information. All disciplinary matters shall be handled fairly, impartially, and confidentially, with due regard for the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. Depending on the nature and severity of the offence, sanctions may include warnings, reprimands, fines, suspension from participation, removal from office, disqualification of results, forfeiture of awards, withdrawal of accreditation, or permanent expulsion from IPPA activities.
- D. IPPA recognizes the right of all affected parties to challenge disciplinary decisions through a structured appeals process. Any player, official, coach, organization, or other participant who believes that a decision was made in error or that proper procedures were not followed may submit an appeal within the timeframe prescribed by the applicable regulations. Appeals shall be reviewed by an

- Knowing and complying with Anti-Doping Rules.
- Taking responsibility for all substances entering their body.
- Informing medical personnel of their anti-doping obligations.
- Cooperating with testing procedures.
- Maintaining accurate whereabouts information when required.
- Avoiding association with sanctioned individuals.
- Ensuring that medications and supplements are checked before use.

The principle of Strict Liability applies, meaning athletes remain responsible for prohibited substances found in their samples regardless of intent or negligence.

51.7 Results Management and Sanctions

When an Adverse Analytical Finding or other evidence suggests a potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation, a formal results management process shall be initiated.

The player shall be notified and provided an opportunity to respond. The player may request B Sample analysis and may present explanations, evidence, or defences permitted under applicable rules.

Potential consequences include:

- Disqualification of results.
- Forfeiture of medals, prizes, ranking points, and awards.
- Suspension from competition.
- Periods of ineligibility.
- Financial sanctions where applicable.
- Public disclosure of sanctions following final decisions.

The duration of sanctions depends on factors including:

- Nature of the violation.
- Substance involved.
- Degree of fault.

- Intentional or unintentional conduct.
- Aggravating or mitigating circumstances.
- Cooperation with investigations.

Multiple violations may result in substantially increased sanctions, including lengthy periods of ineligibility or lifetime bans in severe cases.

51.8 Education, Prevention, and Compliance

IPPA recognizes that education is one of the most effective tools for preventing doping. Therefore, all athletes, coaches, officials, classifiers, medical personnel, and administrators are encouraged to participate in anti-doping education programs.

Educational initiatives may include:

- Anti-doping awareness seminars.
- Online learning modules.
- Competition briefings.
- Athlete outreach programs.
- Clean sport campaigns.
- Supplement risk awareness programs.
- TUE education workshops.
- Integrity and ethics training.

National Federations affiliated with IPPA shall cooperate with National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs), Regional Anti-Doping Organizations (RADOs), and WADA-recognized institutions to promote compliance with anti-doping requirements.

Para Pickleball players participating in IPPA World Championships, Continental Championships, and other major events may be required to complete anti-doping education programs as a condition of eligibility.

51.9 Cooperation with Anti-Doping Organizations

IPPA shall cooperate fully with WADA, National Anti-Doping Organizations, Regional Anti-Doping Organizations, Major Event Organizations, National Paralympic Committees, and other competent anti-doping authorities.

This cooperation may include:

- Intelligence sharing.
- Testing coordination.
- Results management.
- TUE recognition.
- Investigations.
- Educational programs.
- Compliance monitoring.
- Research initiatives.

All stakeholders are expected to support anti-doping efforts and assist in protecting the integrity of Para Pickleball.

51.10 Commitment to Clean Sport

IPPA affirms its unwavering commitment to clean sport and the protection of athletes competing fairly and honestly. Every para pickleball player has the right to participate in competition free from doping, manipulation, and unethical conduct. Through adherence to the World Anti-Doping Code, implementation of robust testing and education programs, and cooperation with international anti-doping authorities, IPPA seeks to preserve the credibility, integrity, and future development of Para Pickleball worldwide.

The fight against doping is a collective responsibility shared by athletes, coaches, officials, classifiers, administrators, medical personnel, National Federations, and the broader sporting community. By embracing the principles of clean sport, respect, fairness, accountability, and excellence, the Para Pickleball movement can continue to grow while maintaining the highest standards of sporting integrity.

CHAPTER 52: DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS, APPEALS AND AMENDMENTS

- A. The International Para Pickleball Association (IPPA) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, sportsmanship, fairness, and professionalism throughout all aspects of Para Pickleball. To protect the reputation of the sport and