



## **TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

All brackets with 6 or more players/teams will be double elimination, 2/3 to 11, win by 2. Brackets with 5 or less players/teams will be Round Robin as follows:

- Three players/teams..... Double Round Robin .....1 to 15 ..... win by 2
- Four players/teams..... Round Robin..... 2/3 to 11 ..... win by 2
- Five players/teams ..... Round Robin ..... 2/3 to 11 ..... win by 2

Tournament Balls: Franklin X-40 Outdoor Ball

Check your player profile on [PickleballTournaments.com](https://PickleballTournaments.com) to make sure your “TEXT” phone number is correct. We will be using text messaging to alert you of your bracket start and when you are to report to play. **CHARGE YOUR CELL PHONE AND BRING IT WITH YOU!**

**NOTE:** If you are scheduled to play at the beginning of any day, you will **receive a text message early** in the morning stating that your bracket has started. Don't worry, we are just starting the brackets so we can print out the first round score sheets. You will also **receive a second text message** that indicates you should report to the tournament desk or to your court. Please don't be alarmed, we have just assigned the first matches of the day their court assignments. Your play will start as shown on schedule with regards to the first matches of the day.

**NOTE:** Please remember that you must **check-in every day** either at the player checkin desk or via the PT.com player app.

Please go to [PickleballTournaments.com](https://PickleballTournaments.com) and our tournament to see the schedule for playing. Brackets will be posted at midnight on day of play. Please note that the **schedules are subject to change up until the first match of the day.**

**Please plan to check-in at least 30 minutes before your scheduled start time.** You must check in each day that you play. If you decide to drop out of an event such as singles, please do us and the other players in your bracket a favor by calling us and letting us know that you are dropping out of the bracket. The check-in desk will open at 7:00 A.M. each morning except Thursday which will be communicated as we get closer to the tournament. In addition, if courts are available and everyone has checked in, we may begin subsequent brackets earlier than scheduled. Opening ceremonies will take place approximately 30 minutes prior to the first matches of the day.



You will be notified via text when your bracket is starting.

**PLEASE NOTE: First brackets of day will receive a text possibly several hours prior to bracket play time. Please don't panic. We are starting the day and these brackets have to be started to allow us to print out first round scored sheet. Do not report to Tournament Desk upon arrival for as you will be briefed during the opening ceremonies. You may also receive a second text stating you should report to the tournament desk or court to begin play. Don't' be alarmed, again, we are starting the day. The first matches of the day will begin at assigned times as listed on PickleballTournaments.com.**

Once notified, except for the first bracket of the day, please report to Tournament Desk area for a pre-match briefing. Your court assignments will be texted to you and will be posted on the TV on the day of each event. Once you receive a notice to report, should you be notified to report to the tournament desk, send one player from your team to the tournament desk to pick up a ball or a ball and a score sheet. The first team member to report for your match to the tournament desk will receive a ball with the second team's representative to receive a ball and the scoresheet. This indicates to the tournament desk that both teams have been notified and are reporting to their assigned courts. You have 10 minutes from the time written on your score sheet to start match play. We will be using a distributive court assignment system; courts are only posted as they become available for play. You must play on the assigned court or be subject to forfeiture of your match.

### **COURT MONITORS**

There will be a court monitor in each isle to assist in the following:

- Locating an official in event of a question.
- Providing replacement balls.
- Making sure matches start on-time.
- Making sure that at end of match, the winning team returns the clipboard and scoresheet to tournament desk in a timely fashion.

Court monitors are NOT refereeing and will not answer rules questions. Players are asked to resolve any dispute on the courts and play the point over if necessary. If resolution is not possible over a rule question, notify the Court Monitor who will ask the Tournament Desk to find an official of the tournament to make a ruling.



**END OF MATCH** – Circle the winning team and write the scores by the team name. Return the clipboard, scoresheet and the balls to the tournament desk.

**WINNER DETERMINATION AND MEDAL AWARDS** Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded to each discrete skill/age group, even if they are competing in a combined bracket. So, more than one set of medals will be awarded for each combined bracket. Gold medal matches will be referred if referees are available. All “Opportunity Bracket” matches, and all Bronze medal matches are 1 Match to 15 Win by 2. Winners and Medal Awards will be determined in accordance with USA Pickleball rules.

**FOOD VENDOR & PLAYER SNACKS/WATER**

Player snacks will be provided while they last in the hospitality tent.

Food vendor will be available for lunch **Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday**. Hamburgers / Cheeseburgers, Hot Dogs and Brisket plus chips and drink for \$7.00 will be available. All players will receive one Food Voucher redeemable at the food vendor.

**ALL 2022 USA PICKLEBALL RULES APPLY**

**Participants:** It is your responsibility to have read this document. Brackets will be posted the day of play. **Remember, that brackets are subject to change until each event starts.** **Check your brackets now!**

*Schedule: Please review the schedule each evening before your event play day. If any start time changes happen to your bracket after midnight or your bracket play day, we will notify you by text.*

**Bracket orientation:** This will be done for all brackets except the first brackets of the day. The first brackets/matches should report to your court and be warmed up and ready to start at either 10:00 a.m. on Thursday or 8:00 a.m. Friday – Sunday. (The bracket orientation for the first brackets of the day will be included in the opening ceremonies.) Topics covered in the pre-match briefing include:

1. Checking player paddles
2. Reminding players of their line calling responsibilities and appeal procedure
3. Explaining valid hindes
4. Informing players of the match format
5. Being sure that the starting server bands are visible
6. Indicating the method used to determine the serving and receiving teams and side selection



7. Reminding players that the winning team is responsible for returning the scoresheet and balls to the tournament desk. Please do not leave the tournament desk until the desk attendant has verified the scoresheet information and has released you.

**Warm up:** When you receive the text regarding your court assignment, one member from your team must report to the tournament desk. The first player (team) reporting will get one warm up ball. The second player (team) will get the clipboard, scoresheet and a second warmup ball. Your warmup will last 10 minutes from the time the first player left the tournament desk. If you are NOT on court in the allotted time, we will make a FINAL announcement over the PA system for you to report to your court. The first game in your match is forfeited if you are not on court ready to play in ten minutes, the entire match (2 out of 3 games to 11) will be forfeited if you are not on court ready to play in 15 minutes. Avoid forfeits by being on time!

**Starting server bands:** Starting server bands will be provided and must be worn by each starting server so it is visible by opponents and the referee, no exceptions. Failure to do so will result in a match forfeit.

**Water Bottles and Bags:** Players (and referees) are permitted to have towels, water, or sports drink bottles on the court. Bags are not allowed on the courts.

**Referees and Rules:** You must be familiar with the [USA Pickleball 2022 Rules](#)

We anticipate refereeing "Gold Metal" matches depending on referee availability.

1. *Under the 2022 Rules, a served ball that touches the net and lands in the correct service court, remains in play. Additionally, the drop serve is permitted and the other rules changes relating to the timing of the serve apply.*
2. *Paddles will be visually inspected. It is the PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY to ensure their paddle is on the USA Pickleball Approved Paddle List. The approved paddle list is available at <https://equipment.usapickleball.org/paddle-list/>.*
3. *Players are responsible for calling all the lines on their end of the court. In the event of a non-refereed game, players are also responsible for calling service foot faults, NVZ foot faults, and short serves. If there is a referee, they will call service foot faults, NVZ foot faults, and short serves. Please make all "out" calls promptly, loud, and clear... even if they are obvious.*
4. *In referred matches, any player may appeal a call to the referee at the end of a rally and before the next serve occurs. If there is a dispute on a line call, you*



*may ask the referee to make a ruling. The referee will only make a ruling if they clearly saw the ball, otherwise the original call stands.*

- 5. Referees or server, if no referee, will check to make sure that all players are ready, or should be ready, before calling the score.*
- 6. Any team may call one of their time-outs after the score is called, but not after the server has struck the ball.*
- 7. After the score is called, the serving team has 10 seconds to serve the ball. Failure to do so results in a fault.*
- 8. The server may not serve the ball until the entire score is called. Serving before the completion of the score being called results in a fault. Serving before the score has begun to be called is a replay.*
- 9. Prior to the serve, any player may ask the referee if they are the correct server, the correct receiver, in the correct position or ask the score.*
- 10. In officiated matches, the referee will pay close attention to each player's serve so be sure that your serve complies with the USA PICKLEBALL Rule Book requirements.*
- 11. HINDERS and BALLS ON COURT: **UNLESS IT IS A SAFETY ISSUE, the referee will not automatically stop play due to a possible ball in the playing area.** Matches with/without referees Players may call "hinder" or "ball on court" the moment they are distracted by a ball/player/object coming onto their playing area. Hinder calls deemed to be valid by the referee, if refereed, will result in a replay.*
- 12. Each team has two 1-minute timeouts per 11- point or 15-point game.*
- 13. There is a maximum of a 2-minute break between games.*
- 14. In games to 15, or in the third game of a 2-out-of-three match, teams have 1 minute to change ends of the court. This is a referee time-out and players may hydrate and talk with their partner and receive coaching from others during the changing of ends.*
- 15. Please always exhibit good sportsmanship. Any action deemed by the referee to be unsportsmanlike will result in a technical warning (TW) or a technical foul (TF). A TW and a TF will result in a game forfeit. Two technical fouls will result in a match forfeit. Profanity is prohibited and Verbal Warnings for profanity may be issued, but only once per match. Additional profanity warrants a TW or TF.*
- 16. After the serve, any carry, or double hit, must be unintentional and be part of one continuous motion.*



17. Any action that results in the presence of blood is an automatic (referee) timeout at the end of the rally. Play will resume after any needed medical attention and clean-up of the blood.
18. Any player sustaining a head injury will not be permitted to resume play with no exceptions. In accordance with the USA Pickleball Concussion Protocol, such a player must be immediately removed from play and not permitted to return until a written release from a licensed healthcare professional is provided to the tournament director.
19. Requests for medical timeouts are granted by the referee and medical personnel or the Tournament Director will be summoned to assess if the need is valid. If medical personnel (or the TD) determine that the request is NOT valid, the player or team will be charged a timeout, if available, and issued a technical warning. If a standard time-out is not available, a technical foul will be issued.
20. *Players may request the Head Referee/Tournament Director to your court to challenge a referee's decision or ruling. IF YOU LOSE THE CHALLENGE, AN ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL WARNING AND LOSS OF 1 TIME-OUT WILL BE ASSESSED. If you have no time-outs remaining, a Technical Foul shall be assessed. In certain situations, this may result in a match forfeit.*
21. If you have any questions, please ask your referee or the Head Referee before the start of your match.

#### **TOURNAMENT COVID GUIDELINES**

- If you have not been vaccinated, masks are recommended.
- Six-foot social distancing is recommended.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often. (Hand sanitizer will be available)
- **Please bring your own refillable water bottle. There will be food, snacks and beverages for purchase.**