

# **PICKLEBALL MANITOBA INC. SANCTIONING OF TOURNAMENTS:**

## **DEFINITION, BENEFITS AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **DEFINITION OF SANCTIONING AND OF A SANCTIONED PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT**

Sanctioning means that the Board of Directors of Pickleball Manitoba Inc. (PMI), has ensured, through discussions with a Tournament Director (thereafter named TD) and by review of the Sanction Application, that the proposed pickleball tournament to be held in Manitoba, will be conducted in accordance with all recognized and accepted rules of the sport, as set out in the International Federation of Pickleball (IFP), Official Tournament Rulebook and abide by PMI's sanctioning requirements. Other documents published by Pickleball Canada Organization (PCO) and the United States of America Pickleball Association (USAPA) may also inform a sanctioning decision by the PMI Board of Directors. A TD who agrees to meet the PMI sanctioning requirements will then have their tournament given the "SANCTIONED" designation and may proceed to host a sanctioned pickleball tournament.

### **PMI-SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT HOSTS**

PMI-sanctioned Pickleball Tournaments may be hosted by the following entities:

1. PMI may host a tournament and appoint a TD.
2. An organization, incorporated or not, whose mandate is consistent with that of PMI's, and who has a demonstrated history of conduct of their mandate, may host a tournament. In this case, the organization may appoint its own TD with or without PMI's help.
3. An individual, who may or may not be aligned and supported by a community organization, and that community organization may or may not have a demonstrated attachment to the sport of pickleball, may come forward with the idea of having a tournament. In this case, the individual may act as the TD or may appoint his own TD with or without PMI's help.

**Note**, that in all cases, **sponsorship** means that the organization is absorbing in part or in whole the cost of running the tournament.

Distribution of Net Profits of a Sanctioned Pickleball Tournament:

1. When PMI is the Tournament Organizer - 100% of net profits accrue to PMI.
2. When the Tournament Host is not PMI, the distribution of net profits shall be spelt out in a section of the Sanction Application and the sharing of such shall be mutually beneficial to both PMI and the Sanction Applicant.

### **NON-SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS AND THEIR DEFINITION**

Non-sanctioned tournaments do not fulfill sanctioning requirements and do not pay sanctioning fees. Obviously, these non-sanctioned tournaments are not eligible for all the benefits listed later. Note that PMI enthusiastically encourages non-sanctioned tournaments to promote knowledge, growth of the game, skill development, and having fun while playing pickleball. Having said that, such tournaments must be hosted on a "not for profit" basis. PMI strongly believes that any profits from a tournament should in whole or in part benefit the association which has pickleball players' interest, i.e PMI. That can only happen when a tournament is sanctioned.

## **SUPPORT FOR TOURNAMENT HOSTS AND DIRECTORS**

PMI recognizes the considerable work required in the conduct of a tournament, both sanctioned and non-sanctioned. For this reason, PMI will support Tournament Hosts and Tournament Directors in the planning and operation of their tournaments. Support may be in the form of mentoring, training, loan of equipment, coordination of referees, pre-tournament conduct of clinics, post tournament publication of results or other mutually agreed to undertakings.

## **TOURNAMENT TIERS AND ASSIGNMENT OF A TIER TO A TOURNAMENT**

Sanctioned Pickleball Tournaments conducted in Manitoba are assigned a Tier or level. Dependent on the scope and size of the tournament, a Tier may be assigned by PCO or PMI. Details on the assignment of a Tier to a Tournament are set out in Attachment: **Assigning a Tier Level to a Tournament**.

## **EVENTS OF SANCTIONED PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENTS**

Pickleball Tournaments may run events according to any of the following definitions:

Pickleball Tournaments may have any of the following competitive categories:

Women's  
Men's; and  
Mixed

and

Competitive categories may be established for any of:

Singles play or  
Doubles play

and

Competitive Categories may be established either by:

Age Class – tournaments that use various age categories to form competition brackets within competitive categories

or

Skill Level – tournaments that use the IFP, Rules for USPA/PCO Rated Tournaments to form competition brackets within competitive categories

or

A combination of Age Class and Skill Level categories are used to form competition brackets within competitive categories.

Details on events of a tournament are set out in Attachment: **Approved Age and Skill Events**.

## **BENEFITS OF SANCTIONING**

### **SANCTIONING BENEFITS FOR TOURNAMENTS:**

- **General event liability insurance** ([pdf](#)) which reduces the TD's expenses because he/she doesn't have to buy insurance
- Use of the sanctioned logo
- Free publicity listing on the PMI tournament calendar and newsletter

- Access to expertise and experience in tournament operation as well as trained and experienced referees
- Access to equipment (e.g. balls, nets)
- Matches officiated by referees in at least medal matches; PMI will endeavor to provide referees for all matches when their availability is possible.
- Public acknowledgement that your local organization supports PMI – governing body of pickleball in Manitoba

#### **SANCTIONING BENEFITS TO PLAYERS:**

- Assurance of a safe playing environment
- Assurance of fair and respectful play
- Referee officiated matches for at least medal matches
- Rating recommendations and/or reevaluation of rating for qualifying players
- Unrated players can receive a skill rating following the event
- Standardized and Approved IFP Rules and playing formats will be used

#### **SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS**

- Submit PMI Tournament Sanctioning Checklist
- Submit Sanction Fee
- Verify current PMI Membership for all players
- Use an IFP approved tournament ball
- Follow all IFP rules
- Abide by all sanctioning requirements
- Submit Results Report

#### **Sanction Process**

The TD or sponsoring club must complete and submit a **PMI TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING APPLICATION** at least 60 days prior to the scheduled event. The PMI Competitions Director will review all applications and submit them to the Board for approval.

#### **Payment of Sanction Fee**

The sanction fee determined by the tier level of tournament being put together (see **ASSIGNING A TIER LEVEL TO A TOURNAMENT**) should be received at least 2 weeks before the start of the tournament, otherwise sanctioning may be withdrawn. After receiving payment of the sanction fee, PMI will advertise the tournament on the PMI website. A “PMI Sanctioned Event” add-on may then be used in all tournament media.

After the sanctioning request has been approved by PMI and the sanction fee has been paid, the TD may advertise that they are sanctioned by PMI.

#### **Membership**

A player in all PMI sanctioned pickleball tournaments will be required to be a current member of either PMI, Pickleball Canada, USAPA or a state/provincial association before playing any match in the tournament.

### **Approved Ball**

Before a tournament is PMI sanctioned, the tournament director must declare the make and model of the ball that will be used. The ball must be listed on the IFP/USAPA list of [Approved Tournament Balls](http://ifpickleball.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/List-of-Approved-Balls.pdf) (<http://ifpickleball.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/List-of-Approved-Balls.pdf>). Until the approved ball is declared, the sanctioning status will remain as 'PMI sanctioning pending'.

### **Tournament Rules**

The TD must follow all [IFP Official Tournament Rules](#).

### **Results Reporting**

Within one week of the end of a tournament, completed results must be reported to the **PMI Competitions Director**. PMI member numbers must be included to ensure accurate identification.

## **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS**

### **Tournament Management Software**

TD's may wish to use a tournament software management system such as [pickleballtournaments.com](http://pickleballtournaments.com), which provides a comprehensive system for pickleball tournament registration and management.

### **Tournament Director Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the TD to be certain that players are competing in the correct events based on age or rating; Check document **APPROVED AGE/SKILL EVENTS**. Allowing ineligible players to compete in a bracket impacts the sanctioning. Questions about combining brackets can be addressed to: **PMI Competitions Director**. A player's age in a sanctioned tournament will be determined by the player's age on December 31 following the tournament. An exception will be made if a Manitoba Senior Games organization mandates a different date in their tournament.

### **Rating Skills**

PMI does not have a rating system but will (while not a priority of the association) endeavor, eventually, to assign a rating to unrated players based on observation by a qualified rater of the player's ability. All inquiries should be directed to the Ratings director of PMI when such a position is filled. It would be nice to have and most important for skill-level tournaments. Ratings are also important for seeding players within events. If a player is not rated they can self-rate.

The Ratings Director will reevaluate ratings of participants to a tournament after said tournament.

### **PMI Membership Forms**

Arrange for a PMI Ambassador to be available during the duration of the event to promote the sport, answer questions regarding membership for players who wish to join PMI or renew their memberships

and field any other questions from players and/or spectators. New memberships and membership renewals along with their checks must be sent to:

PMI, c/o T Calhoun, 251 Mayfield Cres, Winnipeg, MB, R3R 3L7

### **Designing Tournament Entry Forms**

Be sure to include spaces for player member number, membership expiration date, name, address, email, skill level, age, phone#, emergency contact and any other pertinent information.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Insurance Request**

PMI sanctioned tournaments are insured by a General Liability Policy. **The insurance is automatic if the tournament has been sanctioned.**

### **Non-Sanctioned Events**

PMI sanctioned tournaments that wish to offer non-sanctioned events, such as demonstrations, clinics, and co-occurring tournaments, should, if possible, offer these events on days either before or after the dates set for sanctioned tournament play.

If holding these events before or after the tournament play dates is not possible, all non-sanctioned events must be disclosed in the application process and approved by PMI before they can be publicized and held.

If the TD or organizer receives approval by PMI to conduct a non-sanctioned event with its sanctioned tournament, the director or organizer agrees and acknowledges that:

1. The event is not covered under any PMI-issued certificate of insurance unless the certificate explicitly states that it is covered;
2. Players participating in the non-sanctioned event are not covered by any PMI insurance policy unless the certificate explicitly states that they are covered;
3. The TD or organizer will communicate the above two conditions to the event participants in the disclosure materials and application forms (electronic or otherwise) furnished to them.

At the discretion of PMI, TD's and organizers who attempt to circumvent the sanctioning process in any way or who offer contemporaneous unapproved events with a PMI sanctioned tournament will not receive sanctioning approval or will have their sanctioning revoked.

### **Wheelchair Players**

In accordance with the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, PMI will not discriminate against qualified individuals (by skill level) with disabilities in the services, programs or activities it offers. Rules for wheelchair players are in the IFP Rulebook.

### **Entries**

A Sanctioned Tournament must have a minimum of 20 or more entries to be eligible for continued sanctioning the following year. (Entries are defined as one doubles team or one singles player). The tournament shall be open to all players who meet the general requirements of any tournament, such as age or skill level. Entries may be limited by geographical locations such as city, regional, provincial or national residency. Draw sizes in events may be limited because of court availability, but must take entrants in the order they are received. No preference can be given to any player or group of players in any tournament. Restrictions on tournament entries will be judged on a case-by-case basis.

### **PMI Right of Refusal**

PMI reserves the right to refuse to sanction tournaments, list tournaments on the PMI website/calendar, or accept advertising where a TD has:

- Not complied with PMI policies or rules
- Disparaged PMI
- Created deceptive or confusing forms, advertising or promotional materials wrongly implying or stating PMI involvement in the tournament or making other factual misstatements that could mislead players on significant matters. This includes duplicating major tournament names, with terms such as "National", "Regional", etc. where PMI deems the term is in direct conflict with an existing event.