

SINGAPORE PICKLEBALL NOVICE 2026



RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Rules

- 1.1 The tournament shall be governed in accordance with the General Rules and Regulations of the Singapore Pickleball Novice 2026 set out herein, the SPA Sanctioned Tournament Structure and Tournament Participant's Code of Ethics (**Appendix A**).
- 1.2 Tournament is open to residents of Singapore i.e. Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and Valid Pass Holders who are Singapore Pickle-Ball Association (SPA) Individual Members and Members of SPA Affiliates only. Subscription to SPA Individual Membership may be done via the SPA website – SingaporePickleball.com.sg. Visitors on Short Term Visit Pass shall pay the full registration rate.
- 1.3 Completion and submission of the official waiver and indemnity form is mandatory for participation. Parental consent is required for youths 18 years and under.
- 1.4 We shall be adopting the 2025 edition of the USA Pickleball (USAP) Official Rulebook.
- 1.5 Scoring system shall follow the SPA Rally Scoring System. Player may refer to **Appendix B** for Rally Scoring Rules.
- 1.6 We shall be using USA Pickleball approved **Franklin X-26 (Blue)** for this tournament.
- 1.7 Any queries can be emailed to Singapore Pickleball (SPA) at tournaments@singaporepickleball.com.sg.

2. Tournament Registration

- 2.1 Registration shall be on SPA website only – SingaporePickleball.com.sg
- 2.2 For registration of Doubles events, please note that details of both players are required.
- 2.3 After registration, there shall be no refunds whatsoever.
- 2.4 There shall be no transfer of registrations across divisions.
- 2.5 Registrants/Team Managers shall be solely responsible in ensuring the commitment of their playing partners. Before the Registration Locked Date, substitution of up to one (1) player in Doubles teams shall be allowed. If both players need to be replaced, it shall be deemed a withdrawal and there shall be no refunds whatsoever. Substitution for Singles shall not be allowed.
- 2.6 For the Team Challenge, Team Managers have up to the Registration Locked Date to finalise their members.
- 2.7 After the Registration Locked Date, there shall be no more changes to the players. Players/Teams affected for whatever reason shall have to forfeit.
- 2.8 If there are any duplicated partners within a Doubles Division after Registration Locked Date, one of the teams shall face expulsion from the division, with no refund whatsoever.
- 2.9 Falsified registrations shall be immediately deemed incomplete even if registration fees are paid. There shall be no refund and the slot shall be reopened for public registration again.

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- 2.10 All forms of change request deviating from the registration information submitted shall be subjected to an administrative charge of \$10.50. All change requests shall be addressed to tournaments@singaporepickleball.com.sg. Whatsapp requests shall not be admissible.

3. Event Details

Venue	<p>Community Auditorium, Our Tampines Hub</p> <p>Note - Tournament venue is an air-conditioned, timber floored multi-purposed sports hall with multiple court lines, Non-Volley Lines shall be marked with removable vinyl court tapes.</p>	
Dates / Time	31 Jan, 1 Feb, 7 Feb, 8 Feb 2026 / 8:30am to 10pm	
Registration Dates	Opening	10 Dec 2025
	Closing (when new registrations will no longer be accepted, or when specific divisions are filled, whichever earlier).	7 Jan 2026
	Registration Locked Date (when no more changes will be accepted)	16 Jan 2026
<p>Registration Fee (3rd party service charges applies)</p> <p>Singapore Citizens and Residents who are not members of SPA Affiliates shall require a valid subscription to SPA Individual Membership for participation. Membership information can be found on the SPA Website. Note that processing for a new application is at least one (1) week.</p>	<p><u>SPA Individual Members or Members of SPA Affiliates Only</u> \$70 per player per division (Open, Masters, Seniors)</p> <p><u>Singapore Citizens, Residents of Singapore – SPA Individual Membership Requirement waived</u> \$45 per player per division (Youth)</p> <p><u>Foreign Visitors on Short Term Visit Pass</u> \$85 per player per division (Open, Masters, Seniors) \$60 per player per division (Youth)</p> <p><u>Team Challenge:</u> \$350 per Team</p> <p>Each participant will receive one complimentary event T-shirt for the entire tournament, regardless of the number of divisions signed up.</p>	
Eligibility	<p>Only for Novice Players - defined as players with Pickleball playing experience of 2 years or less and shall not have medalled in any Pickleball Competitions (individual divisions, excluding team divisions) that is open to public registration, local or overseas by the time of registration opening.</p> <p>Ineligible participants shall be disqualified immediately regardless of progress in the tournament. Any feedback or queries on a player's eligibility may be sent to tournaments@singaporepickleball.com.sg.</p> <p>Note – Medalists and podium winners refer to the same group of athletes who finish in the top 3 positions.</p>	
Participant Briefing	Briefing Slides will be sent out by 23 Jan 2026.	

4. Venue Address

Venue	Address
Community Auditorium Our Tampines Hub	Level 3 1, Tampines Walk, Singapore 528523

5. Tournament Age Groups

Age Group (based on Year of Birth)	Description
Open	13 years and above (born in 2013 or earlier)
Masters	35 and above (born in 1991 or earlier)
Senior	50 years and above (born in 1976 or earlier)
Youth 18U	10 to 18 years (born between 2008 and 2016, inclusive)
Youth 14U	10 to 14 years (born between 2012 and 2016, inclusive)

6. Division Details

There are a total of 15 divisions and 1 team challenge division, played over the stated period. Their respective maximum capacities are detailed in the table below, on a first-come-first-served basis. There shall be no waiting list. Depending on the final registration numbers and court schedule, Organiser may at their own discretion increase or decrease the participation capacities.

Division Capacity					
Age Group	Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles	Mixed Doubles	Men's/Boy's Singles	Women's/Girls Singles
Open	36 pairs	32 pairs	40 pairs	68	32
Masters				64	16
Senior	42 pairs	32 pairs	32 pairs	40	
Youth 18U				20	18
Youth 14U				16	16

Division Acronym					
Age Group	Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles	Mixed Doubles	Men's/Boy's Singles	Women's/Girl's Singles
Open	OMD	OWD	OXD	OMS	OWS
Masters				MMS	MWS
Senior	SMD	SWD	SXD	SMS	
Youth 18U				18U BS	18U GS
Youth 14U				14U BS	14U GS

7. Tournament Schedule

- 7.1 The tentative tournament schedule is given under **Appendix C** herein.
- 7.2 Schedule shown is tentative, subjected to changes due to final participation numbers. Interested participants are advised to check that their schedule is clear for all competition dates.

8. General Tournament Format

- 8.1 Round 1 shall be Group Play in Round Robin format; and Round 2 onwards, shall be Single Elimination format.
- 8.2 Round Robin Groups shall be arranged by closed chance draws. The Tournament Committee reserves the rights to move players to even out the Groups, or according to SPA Ranking Points from the year before.
- 8.3 If a Division has 4 or less entries, the Division shall be withdrawn, and the participants receive full refunds.
- 8.4 Only the top 2 performers in the individual Round Robin groups shall proceed to play Single Eliminations in Round 2. All other players in the group shall be eliminated.
- 8.5 The Organisers and Tournament Committee shall have the right to modify the Divisions and Match Format.
- 8.6 The first player/team to reach the stated points below shall be the winner,

Matches	Number of Games per Match	Rally Scoring
Group Play Round Robin Round of 32, Round of 16	1	21 points with deuce at 20-20. After which win by 2 consecutive points. Maximum point shall be 30 points.
Quarterfinals, Semi-finals and Finals	Best of 3	15 points with deuce at 14-14. After which win by 2 consecutive points. Maximum point shall be 21 points.

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- 8.7 In the Group Play, all players/teams shall play each other in Round Robin format. Group Winners are determined by the number of matches won. If two or more teams are tied, ties shall be resolved comparing won/loss differential in the following order,
- 1st Tie Breaker – Comparing Overall Match Differential (where applicable)
 - 2nd Tie Breaker – Comparing Overall Game Differential
 - 3rd Tie Breaker – Comparing Overall Point Differential
 - 4th Tie Breaker – Winner of the Head-to-Head Match
 - 5th Tie Breaker – Chance Draw
- 8.8 Matches shall be played “follow on”, e.g. the round robin and single elimination matches will play on, one after another.
- 8.9 Only Semi-finals and Medal Matches shall be Officiated. Therefore, for all other matches being non-officiated, players shall track and call their own scores in accordance to guidelines spelt out in the Official Rulebook.
- 8.10 Tournament Committee may at their sole discretion assign or add officials to officiate any match. This can be done before the match commences, and during the match.

9. Novice Team Challenge

In addition to the individual divisions, this tournament shall have a Novice Team Challenge.

- 9.1 This Division shall have capacity for a total of 48 Teams.
- 9.2 Each Team shall consist of minimum 6 members, maximum 8, of which 3 Male and 3 Female players shall be fielded to play in the Team Matches.
- 9.3 The age group for this Team Challenge shall be Open.
- 9.4 The Team may submit different match line ups for different team matches.
- 9.5 For every Team Match, any team member shall play once only.
- 9.6 Each Team Match shall consist of the following doubles matches,
- :
- Men's Doubles
 - Women's Doubles
 - Mixed Doubles
- 9.7 Proceeders from the Round Robin Group Play shall be based on total points scored, not team matches won, i.e. with the highest cumulative points scored. This shall be the sum of every point a team scores in every doubles match of all its Round Robin matches

Similarly at the Elimination Round, Team Match wins shall be based on total points scored, not number of doubles matches won.

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9.8 In the event of a tie,

- 1st Tie Breaker – Comparing Overall Point Won/Loss Differential
- 2nd Tie Breaker – Winner of Head to Head Match
- 3rd Tie Breaker – Chance Draw

9.9 If a Team is unable to fulfil one of the doubles matches, the Team Match shall be deemed incomplete, and a walkover, i.e. 21-0 or 15-0 shall be recorded accordingly to the match format.

9.10 The team line up shall be submitted to the organisers 15 mins before the scheduled match for records and reference only, using the prescribed form. The Team Manager and players shall be solely responsible in ensuring the right players are fielded according to the submitted lineup.

9.11 Team Managers shall share and introduce their line up to their opponents before the Team Match commencement.

9.12 Fielding the wrong players will result in forfeiture of the affected double(s).

9.13 Team Names once registered cannot be changed.

9.14 Team Managers registering for the Team(s) are reminded to exercise discretion when choosing their Team Name(s) to strive for name uniqueness. Teams from the same club shall be clearly identifiable, e.g. ABC Team 1, ABC Team 2, ABC Team 3 etc.

9.15 Organisers shall append a number to identical/similar team names, e.g. Pickerbola1, Pick-a-Bola2 and PickleBolah3.

9.16 Round Robin Groups shall be arranged by closed chance draws. Teams from the same club, only if named clearly as mentioned in 9.14 shall be drawn into different Round Robin Groups, then followed by the other teams.

10. Prize Money and Medals

Medals (Gold, Silver & Bronze) shall be awarded for all the Divisions listed.

There shall be no Prize Money for winners in this tournament except for Team Challenge.

11. Supplementary Rules

11.1 The tier level for this Tournament shall be Tier 3.

11.2 The skill level for this Tournament shall be **Intermediate**.

11.3 Players may use any USA Pickleball approved paddle that are posted on the USAP website. Players are to note that paddles falsely marked with USAP Approval markings shall not be allowed in the Tournament and shall be subjected to non-approved paddle rules as spelt out in the USAP Official Rules. Players are advised to keep a screenshot of their paddle approval listing from the USA Pickleball Approved Paddle List.

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- 11.4 Apparels and/or clothing (shirt and shorts) of similar colour to ball shall not be allowed.
- 11.5 Late Reporting:
 - 11.5.1 10 mins – 1st Game Forfeit of Multiple Game Match / Match Forfeit for Single Game Match (applicable to Team Challenge as well).
 - 11.5.2 15 mins – Match forfeit for Multiple Game Match (applicable to Team Challenge as well).
- 11.6 The Organisers and Tournament Committee reserve the right to amend the rules and regulations or schedule the fixtures of the tournament as deemed fit. Participants shall be informed before the competition, and such decisions shall be final.
- 11.7 Any protest shall be made in writing accompanied by a protest fee of \$150.00 and must be lodged in person to the Organisers.
- 11.8 The Prize Presentation Ceremony shall be held with the conclusion of each Division. All prize winners or nominated personnel must be present in neat attire (no singlet, slippers and sandals) to receive the prize. Failing which, the Organisers reserves the right not to award the medal, prize money (if any) and trophy to the winner.
- 11.9 All media or photographs taken in the Tournament by the Organisers will belong to the Singapore Pickle-Ball Association and may be used for general publicity for the further promotion of the sport.
- 11.10 Marketing Consent - all registrants shall note that their contact details as listed with the tournament registration may be shared with Event Sponsors, and they may be contacted by means of post, voice calls and/or electronic transmission via email/messaging app, sms/mms.

Appendix A

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANT'S CODE OF ETHICS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pickleball was created to be a fun, competitive, and highly social sport. It embodies an ethic of good sportsmanship that includes respect, fair play, and graciousness in winning and losing. We hope all players in Singapore will help promote these foundational values and maintain a positive environment for all.
- 1.2 Ethics refers to the generally accepted norms of right or wrong behaviour, often based on universal values. Ethics is not about legality nor is it meant to be legalistic.
- 1.3 Athletes during Tournament, due to the strong pressure to win, and exposure to the public, are potentially vulnerable to various forms of ethical issues and concerns.
- 1.4 In order to maintain fair and reasonable standards of conduct by participants and players, to protect their respective rights, the rights of the public and the integrity and image of sport and that of pickleball, the Singapore Pickle-Ball Association has drawn up the Code of Ethics set out herein.

2 RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL

- 2.1 Treat and respect everyone equally, regardless of race, language, religion, culture, gender or physical ability.
- 2.2 Shall not use objectionable language directed at another person.
- 2.3 Shall not use profanities of any sort (audible or visible) for any reason.
- 2.4 Shall not argue aggressively with officiating team, opponents or spectators that disrupts in the flow of play.
- 2.5 Shall not make taunts, threats or challenges of any nature toward or against any person.
- 2.6 Shall not use ethnic, religious, racial, sexist or homophobic slurs.

3 INTEGRITY IN ACTIONS AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- 3.1 Protects the image of Pickleball and Sports in general, such as avoiding making a scene in public view.
- 3.2 Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others.
- 3.3 Not disrupt the flow of play, e.g. taking time between rallies unnecessarily, repeatedly appealing line calls, challenging the referee's interpretation of a rule to lose the challenge subsequently, requesting for medical time out without a valid medical condition, etc.
- 3.4 Not abuse the ball, purposely breaking or stepping on the ball.
- 3.5 Shall not portray unsportsmanlike behaviour, such as making repeated questionable "OUT" calls that, upon appeal, are overruled by the Officiating Team.
- 3.6 Always exhibiting "Best Effort", that not deliberately playing down, defaulting, forfeiting or not giving best effort in matches, whether for their own benefit or otherwise.

4 SAFETY

- 4.1 Consider the safety of other participants, spectators and general public in the same venue space.
- 4.2 Shall not aggressively or recklessly throw a paddle, or striking a ball in frustration or anger, with negligent disregard of the consequences.
- 4.3 Shall not strike any other person, damage or vandalise venue property and fixtures.
- 4.4 Shall not get into fights, or cause injury to player, official or spectator at any time during the tournament.
- 4.5 Shall not spit or cough on a person.

5 PROHIBITIONS

- 5.1 Consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly not allowed in the venue.

6 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CIVIC-MINDEDNESS

- 6.1 Dispose waste in proper manner and keep the tournament venue clean.
- 6.2 Shall not damage or vandalise venue property and fixtures.

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*Appendix B*SPA RALLY SCORING SYSTEMIntroduction

In Rally Scoring, points are awarded for every rally. The side that wins the rally, scores a point as well as the right to serve. The first side that reaches the game point wins the game. Each side shall have only one serve before Side Out.

In any game of Doubles, after Side Outs, when serve is won back after a rally for any side, the server will be alternated from their previous server.

There shall be only ONE time out of 60 seconds per side, per game.

Before the Game

- Chance Draw to determine side to serve/choose ends.
- In Doubles, both sides Starting Server and Starting Receiver shall wear the Starting Server ID

Singles

- As long as the side holds serve, after scoring each point the server will alternate serving from the right/even and left/odd sides of the court.
- If the side's score is even (0, 2, 4 ...), the serve must be made from the right/even serving area and be received in the right/even service court by the opponent.
- If the side's score is odd (1, 3, 5 ...), the serve must be made from the left/odd serving area and be received in the left/odd service court by the opponent.
- When the receiving side wins a rally, a point is scored and the serve is passed to them. The subsequent serve is then made from the service court with reference to the score.
- The side to reach the game point first wins the game.

Doubles

- As long as the side holds serve, after scoring each point the server will alternate serving from the right/even and left/odd sides of the court. There is no restriction on the position of the partners of the correct server and receiver as long as they are on their respective team's side of the net. They can be positioned on or off the court.
- If the side's score is even (0, 2, 4 ...), the serve must be made from the right/even serving area and be received in the right/even service court by the opponent.
- If the side's score is odd (1, 3, 5 ...), the serve must be made from the left/odd serving area and be received in the left/odd service court by the opponent.
- When the receiving side wins a rally, a point is scored and the serve is passed to them. In Doubles, the receiving side never change their service courts.
- The side to reach the game point first wins the game.

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Appendix C – Tentative Schedule (Intentionally Left Blank)