



## **Player Briefing Document**


### **2025 Myoflex® National Pickleball Championships**

### **Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**Co-Tournament Directors:** Ted Fardoe & Don Flatt

**Head Referee:** Alan Thomson

**Referee Coordinator:** Pat Drummond

 *It is your responsibility to read this document thoroughly.*

---

#### **General Player Responsibilities**

Players are also expected to be familiar with the **2025 USA Pickleball – Global Pickleball Federation Official Rulebook**. Sportsmanship is central to the tournament. Athletes are expected to play with best effort at all times, showing respect for their opponents, officials, and the game. Unsportsmanlike behavior may result in a verbal warning, a technical warning, or even ejection from the event.

---

#### **Paddle Regulations**

All players must ensure that their paddle is on the **USA Pickleball Approved Paddle List** before competing. The approved list can be found on the USA Pickleball equipment site (<https://equipment.usapickleball.org/paddle-list/>) and it is the responsibility of each competitor to confirm compliance. Only paddles that have been tested and approved by USA Pickleball are permitted for play. Players should note that some manufacturers emboss logos on their paddles without undergoing official testing, which means that not all branded paddles meet the standard. For this reason, competitors must be able to show proof of paddle approval on a mobile device during the pre-match referee briefing. If a paddle is found to be unapproved during play, the player or team using it will forfeit the match.

---

#### **Player Position Errors**

Referees will confirm correct player positions before calling the score. If a rally begins with a position error and the rally is completed, the result of the rally stands. If a player stops play before the return of serve due to a position error, the rally is replayed. However, if the stoppage occurs after the return of serve, or if no actual error is found, the stoppage will be considered a fault.

---

### **Line Calls**

Players are responsible for calling the lines on their end of the court, while referees will call service foot faults, non-volley zone foot faults, and short serves. Line calls must be made loudly and immediately after the ball has landed. If no call is made, the referee will assume that the ball is in. It is important to note that “out” calls made while the ball is still in the air are considered player communication only, not an official line call.

---

### **Serves**

Once the referee has called the score, players have **ten seconds** to serve the ball. Serving before the referee completes the score call is a fault. The server may not apply spin manipulation to the ball with the hand before striking it and drop serves must be released naturally without added motion. If the referee calls the wrong score, players must correct the error before the return of serve. Challenges made after the rally begins will not be honored.

---

### **Timeouts**

Each team is allowed two timeouts per game, with each timeout lasting one minute. There will be a two-minute break between games, and one minute to switch ends in a deciding game. Medical timeouts may last up to fifteen minutes but require validation by tournament medical staff. Improper requests may result in penalties. If a player is bleeding, play will be stopped and a mandatory timeout taken until the issue is addressed and the court is cleaned.

---

### **Technical Warnings and Fouls**

Unsportsmanlike conduct, including profanity, intentional misplays, or excessive arguing, may result in penalties. Referees may issue a **verbal warning**, a **technical warning**, or a **technical foul**. A technical foul results in either a point or game penalty. If a player receives both a technical warning and a technical foul in the same match, they will forfeit a game. Two technical fouls in a match will result in an immediate forfeit of the match.

---

### **Appeals and Head Referee Challenges**

Players may appeal to the **Head Referee** if they disagree with a rule interpretation. Judgment calls, however, cannot be appealed. If the Head Referee upholds the original decision, the player loses a timeout and receives a technical warning. If no timeouts remain, a technical foul will be assessed. If the Head Referee overturns the decision, the point may be replayed without penalty.

---

### **Double Hits and Carry Balls**

A double hit is legal if it occurs during one continuous motion. However, if the ball is caught or carried on the paddle face before being struck, it is considered a fault.

---

### **Hot Playing Conditions**

Players should take precautions against heat by hydrating before and during matches. Quick sips of water are allowed between points, but players must not delay the game. If hydration breaks cause delay, the referee may proceed with calling the score.

---

### **Hinders and Balls on Court**

If a stray ball enters the court and poses a safety concern, any player or referee may call “Ball.” The rally will then be stopped and replayed. Players should only call “Ball” if the interference directly affects play. Players are also asked not to retrieve balls from other courts until those rallies are finished.

---

### **Tournament Ball**

The official ball for the tournament is the **Franklin X40 Outdoor Optic Yellow**. Players should avoid wearing clothing that is the same color as the ball. If such a conflict occurs, the Head Referee may require the player to change attire.

---

### **Scoresheets**

At the end of every match, the winning team must sign and verify the scoresheet. This is critical to ensure accurate tournament results. Incorrectly verified scores may cause significant errors in scheduling and standings. Teams who withdraw before a match or game must notify tournament staff. A retirement during play allows players to keep points earned, while a withdrawal before a match will not. Matches forfeited for disciplinary or eligibility reasons will award zero points to the forfeiting team, while the opponents receive full points.

---

### **Pre-Match Referee Briefing**

Before play begins, referees will check each player’s paddle for approval, confirm the starting servers and ID bands, determine which team will serve first and which side of the court each team will begin on, and announce how much warm-up time remains before the official start of play.

---

By following these rules and expectations, all competitors will help ensure that the 2025 Myoflex® Canadian Nationals are conducted fairly, safely, and with the spirit of good sportsmanship.