



### 1.0 Eligibility

1.1 This event is limited to participants who possess one of the following, proof of which will be required at check-in:

- 1.1.1 Valid Canadian passport or Nexus card
- 1.1.2 Secure Certificate of Indian Status
- 1.1.3 Permanent Resident Card
- 1.1.4 Canadian Birth Certificate
- 1.1.5 Canadian Citizenship Certificate
- 1.1.6 Canadian Citizenship Card

1.2 All participants of the Nationals must be current members of Pickleball Canada

### 2.0 Sanctioning & Rules

2.1 All non-team events will meet Pickleball Canada sanctioning standards and comply with all applicable policies and event requirements.

2.2 All non-team event matches shall be conducted in accordance with the USAP Rulebook – International Edition in effect at the time of competition.

### 3.0 Competition Format

3.1 The format, structure, and delivery of all competitions and events are determined solely by Pickleball Canada. Competition formats and event offerings may change annually based on host location, facility capacity, scheduling requirements, and operational needs of the event, but will operate within the guidelines set forth in the official rules of pickleball.

3.2 The maximum number of entries will be determined by court/time availability

#### 3.3 Seeding

- 3.3.1 All event seeding will be based on DUPR rating at the time of registration

#### 3.4 Competition Software

- 3.4.1 Pickleballtournaments.com is to be used as the official competition management software for the event, including registration, scheduling, draws, and results management.
- 3.4.2 All National Championships registration and competition information is to be provided in both official languages, English and French.



### 4.0 Events & Divisions

#### 4.1 Core Events

- 4.1.1 Open Division (4.5+): Gender Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Gender Singles
- 4.1.2 Senior Open (50+, 4.5+): Gender Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Gender Singles
- 4.1.3 Skill-by-age: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 categories

#### 4.2 Optional Events (if time/space allows)

- 4.3.1 Juniors, U18, U16, U14
- 4.3.2 Para Pickleball

### 5.0 Scheduling & Match Management

5.1 All match schedules, court assignments, and start times are determined by the Tournament Director and may be adjusted as required due to operational or scheduling considerations.

5.2 The Tournament Director reserves the right to modify match formats, scheduling, or court assignments when required due to delays, weather, facility issues, or other operational considerations.

5.3 Warm-up time will be provided as directed by the Tournament Director.

5.4 Players must be checked in and ready to play at least 30 minutes in advance of their scheduled matches. Events may start up to 30 minutes early without notice.

5.5 Players are responsible for monitoring match schedules and being prepared to play when called.

5.6 Players must report promptly to their assigned court when their match is called. Failure to report within five (5) minutes of the official match call may result in a loss of warmup time, further delay may result in a game or match default in accordance with the rules of pickleball.

5.7 A player or team failing to appear for a scheduled match will forfeit that match. Withdrawals must be communicated to the tournament desk, failure to do so will result in future matches being recorded as a forfeit.



### 6.0 Registration

6.1 All participants must complete registration through the official competition platform within the published registration period. Entry into events is not confirmed until full payment is received and eligibility requirements are satisfied.

6.2 Event entries may be limited based on court availability and scheduling capacity. Events may be closed once maximum capacity is reached, and a waitlist may be implemented where appropriate.

6.3 Players placed on a waitlist may be moved into events as space becomes available. Players promoted from the waitlist must complete payment within the timeframe communicated or risk forfeiting their spot.

6.4 Requests to change events or partners must be submitted to the Tournament Director and if possible, will be accommodated at their discretion.

6.5 Participants withdrawing prior to the event may be eligible for a refund in accordance with the event refund policy.

6.6 Pickleball Canada reserves the right to cancel, consolidate or alter events with insufficient entries or where scheduling limitations require adjustments.

6.7 Pre-registration privileges will be determined on an annual basis

### 7.0 Officiating

7.1 All matches will be officiated at the National Championships.

7.2 The Head Referee is appointed by Pickleball Canada's Executive Director and Tournament Director and will manage officiating operations onsite during the Championships. The Head Referee will report to the Tournament Director.

7.3 Final selection of referees to officiate at the National Championships is at the sole discretion of Pickleball Canada.

7.4 Individuals appointed to officiate at the Pickleball Canada National Championships may not participate as players in any event during the championship.



### **8.0 Player Conduct and Responsibilities**

8.1 All players must comply with Pickleball Canada's Code of Conduct and are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, fairness, and respect toward opponents, officials, volunteers, staff, and spectators at all times.

8.2 Harassment, discrimination, or abusive language will not be tolerated and will result in penalties or removal from the event or tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

### **9.0 Equipment and Uniforms**

9.1 The official tournament ball for the National Championships shall be designated by Pickleball Canada.

9.2 All paddles used in competition must appear on the current [USAP Approved Paddle List](#).

9.3 Tournament referees reserve the right to inspect equipment at any time to ensure compliance with competition standards. Equipment found to be non-compliant must be replaced before play continues.

9.4 Pickleball Canada reserves the right to determine ball change frequency, match ball supply, and any equipment adjustments required to maintain fair and consistent playing conditions.

9.5 The Tournament Director may require a player to change attire deemed inappropriate or unsafe.

### **10.0 Insurance and Waivers**

10.1 Completion of tournament registration constitutes acceptance of all Pickleball Canada rules, regulations, waivers, and applicable policies governing participation in sanctioned events.

### **11.0 Medical & Safety**

11.1 The Tournament Director may remove a player from play if a concussion is suspected, and clearance must be provided by qualified medical personnel in accordance with the Pickleball Canada Concussion Policy.

11.2 Qualified medical personnel or designated first aid services will be available on-site for the duration of the competition. An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) will also be accessible at the venue, with event staff informed of its location and emergency response procedures in place to ensure timely medical assistance if required.



### **12.0 Player Accessibility & Accommodations**

12.1 Players seeking an accommodation due to a disability must submit their request to Pickleball Canada no later than thirty (30) days prior to the start of competition, clearly outlining the accommodation required to enable participation and how it does not compromise safety, tournament integrity, or create an unfair competitive advantage.

12.2 All accommodation requests will be reviewed by Pickleball Canada in consultation with the Tournament Director and Head Referee.

12.3 Players requiring medically necessary assistive devices, including mobility aids, may keep such devices courtside, provided they do not interfere with play or create a safety hazard.

12.4 Approved accessibility accommodations shall be respected by all event referees for the duration of the event.

12.5 All participants and officials are expected to communicate respectfully and ensure athletes are not disadvantaged or publicly challenged regarding approved accessibility accommodations.

### **13.0 Tournament Authority & Event Decisions**

13.1 The Tournament Director (TD) holds overall authority for the operation and delivery of the Pickleball Canada National Championships and ensures competition is conducted safely and fairly in accordance with Pickleball Canada regulations and the USA Pickleball/GPF Rulebook.

13.2 The TD may delegate responsibilities to the Head Referee and other event officials; however, final decision-making authority remains with the TD.

13.3 In consultation with the Head Referee and medical personnel where applicable, the TD may modify schedules, rest periods, or court assignments when required due to operational or safety considerations.

13.4 The TD has authority to suspend, postpone, or cancel play due to unsafe conditions or circumstances affecting event operations or participant safety.

13.5 The TD, in consultation with medical personnel and the Head Referee where appropriate, retains final authority in determining whether a player may continue competition following injury or medical concern.



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13.6 The TD may impose disciplinary action for misconduct, rule violations, or unsafe or unsportsmanlike behaviour, including warnings, match penalties, match default, removal from competition areas, or disqualification from the event.

13.7 Decisions made by the Tournament Director in the interest of safety, fairness, and event operations are final.

### **14.0 Weather / Force Majeure / Facility Issues**

14.1 The Tournament Director retains final authority to suspend, delay, modify, or cancel play, and to adjust schedules, relocate matches, or modify competition formats whenever conditions or facility issues are considered unsafe or necessary to ensure participant safety and event continuity. Play may be suspended, delayed, or cancelled due to unsafe weather, air quality, or facility conditions at the discretion of the Tournament Director:

- a) including but not limited to extreme weather conditions, including lightning, heavy rain, high winds, or official weather warnings.
- b) Play may be delayed, suspended, relocated, or cancelled due to facility-related issues, including but not limited to court surface conditions, lighting failures, equipment malfunctions, or other venue-related concerns affecting safety or playability.

14.2 All requirements and protocols related to weather and air quality safety are outlined in the [Pickleball Canada Air Quality & Weather Safety Guidelines](#). Please refer to the provided link for full details.

### **15.0 Media, Photography & Broadcasting Rights**

15.1 All participants in the National Championships must consent during the registration process to being photographed, filmed, or recorded during the event.

15.2 Pickleball Canada reserves the right to use photographs, video, and other media captured during the event for promotional, broadcast, and communication purposes without further notice or compensation.

15.3 Pickleball Canada retains exclusive rights to broadcast, stream, or otherwise distribute event matches and related content. Unauthorized commercial broadcasting or streaming of matches is not permitted without prior approval from Pickleball Canada. This includes live streaming to social media while playing matches. If you would like to purchase the rights to streaming, please contact [info@pickleballcanada.org](mailto:info@pickleballcanada.org)



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15.4 Players, coaches, spectators or any other party intending to film or record matches for any reason must first obtain filming rights from Pickleball Canada and sign a waiver or agreement confirming compliance with established event filming and media guidelines.