

Format changes are at the discretion of the Event Director

Gainesville Indoor Pickleball Showcase Tournament Format - Please carefully read this information in its entirety

SATURDAY: Mens & Womens Doubles - Round Robin followed by a Single Elimination Playoff

SUNDAY: Mixed Doubles & Youth Doubles - Round Robin followed by a Single Elimination Playoff

GENERAL INFORMATION

- This event is not sanctioned
- Game ball: Onix Fuse Indoor Pickleball – Yellow
- Game Surface: Indoor Beynon Multipurpose PolyTurf Plus SP Courts with permanent lines and temporary nets. Beynon Multipurpose PolyTurf Plus SP Courts is a new surface that plays like wood for Basketball.
- Registration pricing (Fees include an athlete t-shirt):
 - **Early bird pricing** - \$65 + \$5 for additional event (cut off April 18)
 - **Regular registration** - \$75 + \$5 – (July 30 cut off)
 - **Late registration** - \$80 + \$5 – (August 6 cut off)
 - **REG CLOSE – AUGUST 6**

*Registration fee includes a NONREFUNDABLE \$10 donation that goes directly to ElderCare of Alachua County.
- Competitors must bring their own paddles. Pickleballs will be provided for matches.
- Rankings: 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 ****YOU MUST PLAY UP TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL PLAYER** (If you are a 3.0 but your partner is a 3.5, you must register for 3.5)
- Age groups within rankings: 9-13, 14-17, 18-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61 & Over. (The age group you will play in will be determined by the youngest player) ****DEPENDING ON REGISTRATION NUMBERS, AGE GROUPS MAY CHANGE****

GAME DAY INFO

- The tournament link is live and continuously updating as games finish – **THIS TOURNAMENT HAS A ROLLING SCHEDULE.** Check in NO LATER than 15 minutes prior to your first game start. We will not delay any games.
- You will receive text notifications when your game is ready to start with your match opponent and court assignment.** You must start that match within 5 minutes of being called to the court. If you are more than 5 minutes late to your scheduled game time, you will forfeit that game. YOU WILL RECEIVE TWO TEXTS, FIRST ONE SAYS BRACKET HAS STARTED, SECOND ONE WILL BE YOUR MATCH INFORMATION. IT WILL WAIT TO SEND YOUR MATCH INFORMATION UNTIL YOUR OPPONENT AND COURT IS AVAILABLE. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A TEXT UNTIL YOUR OPPONENT AND COURT IS READY.
- Scores - The winning team will submit the match score on the Pickleball Den website.** If neither team has a phone, one player from each team can come together to Emily's desk to report their score. **TO ENTER SCORE: CLICK HOME > WELCOME PAGE > ENTER SCORE**
- WHEN YOUR GAME IS FINISHED, YOUR BALL MUST STAY ON THE COURT YOU JUST PLAYED ON.**
- Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals will be awarded to the top 3 teams in each division. **To receive your medal, come to Emily's desk when your finals match is over to report your score and collect your medal.**

SCORING

- Round robin play will determine your seed for bracket play. Your seed is based on wins during round robin. Bracket play is single elimination and playing for medals.
- Round Robin games will be played to 11, win by 2
 - Teams will change sides of the court when the first team reaches 6 points
 - When you are done with round robin, you will receive a text saying "Bracket Complete", YOU ARE NOT DONE. This is the end of your round robin and is seeding you for your single elimination Championship Bracket. Everyone makes it to at least one game of the Championship bracket.
- The Championship Bracket is single elimination: Matches will be played to 15, win by 1
 - Teams will change sides of the court when the first team reaches 8 points
- Timeouts: 2 timeouts (1 minute each) per match
- Tie breakers for seeding is based on USA Pickleball Rules.

MATCH RULES

- The team with first choice will be selected randomly and will be included in the message you receive when your match begins.
- Confirm that you are playing the correct opponent when you enter your assigned court before your match begins.
- All questionable calls must be resolved in favor of the opponent. If you cannot resolve, please come find Emily.

- d. Served balls clearing the non-volley zone and landing on any service court line except the non-volley zone line are good.
- e. Balls in play landing on any side or backcourt line are good.
- f. Service Lets are discontinued. If the ball hits the net on the serve and lands in the correct service court, the ball remains in play and should be returned by the receiver.
- g. If your ball hits a floor plate and bounces odd, you can replay the ball.

ALL 2025 USA Pickleball Rules Apply

All 2025 USA Pickleball Rules apply to this tournament. Key points of the 2025 USA Pickleball rules are summarized below for your convenience. However, as a player, you are responsible for being familiar with the rules in their entirety.

- If your apparel color approximates the color of the ball, the Tournament Director may request you to change your apparel. Failure to comply with an apparel change request may result in the forfeit of your match. (Rules 2.G.1, 2.G.4) **FOR OUR TOURNAMENT THE FOLLOWING COLORS ARE NOT ALLOWED: ANY SHADE OF YELLOW or NEON GREEN (COLORS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR). YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WEAR THE TOURNAMENT T-SHIRT DURING PLAY, PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.**
- The server must use only one hand to release the ball to serve and must not spin the ball during its release. (Rule 4.A.5)
- If the server calls the wrong score, you can stop play to challenge the score before the return of serve. Otherwise, the correction will be made at the end of the rally. (Rule 4.K)
- If you stop play after the serve is made and the score was called correctly, this is a fault against you.
- If you stop play after the serve is returned, this is a fault against you.
- Players are responsible for calling all the lines on their end of the court. Please make all “out” calls loudly, clearly, and promptly, even if they are obvious. The Code of Ethics for Line Calling requires that you give the opponent the benefit of any doubt.
- The server must not hit the ball to serve until after the entire score has been called. Serving while the score is being called (live ball) will result in a fault. Serving before the score call begins (dead ball) will result in a replay.
- After the score is called, the server has 10 seconds to serve the ball. Failure to do so will result in a fault.
- Coaching - Communication of any information, including verbal, nonverbal, and electronic, from someone other than a player’s partner, that a player or team may act upon to gain an advantage or help them avoid a rules violation (Rule 3.A.3). Except during time-outs and in-between games, receiving coaching from anyone other than a partner is a violation (Rule 13.G.1.j)
- Only 1 ball allowed on the court
- For a volley serve, when the ball is hit:
 - a. The server’s arm must be moving in an upward arc.
 - b. The highest point of the paddle head must not be above the highest point of the server’s wrist.
 - c. The ball must not be above the server’s waist.
 - d. For a drop serve, the ball must be dropped from the hand or paddle, with no force added, from an unaided height. The ball cannot be tossed up or propelled downward, it has to be dropped.
- Catch or Carry Ball on the Paddle (7.L) Rule 7.L now makes catching or carrying the ball on the paddle a fault without having to determine that the catch or carry was deliberately done.
- Medical Time-Outs (10.B.2.c) A player is now allowed to use available standard time-outs after the 15-minute medical time-out has expired to allow more time before the player must retire from the match.

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USA PICKLEBALL SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDE

Pickleball was created to be a fun, competitive, and highly social sport. Since its inception, it has embodied an ethic of good sportsmanship that includes respect, fair play, and graciousness in winning and losing. The purpose of this guide is to encourage behaviors that reflect these foundational values. The Official Rules of Pickleball take precedence over this guide in any and all situations.

- 1. Treat all players, officials, volunteers, staff, and spectators with courtesy and respect.**
 - a. Introduce yourself to any players you do not know.
 - b. Never use foul language or obscene gestures. Never denigrate another person.
 - c. At the end of each game, meet the other players at the net to acknowledge them in a positive manner. In officiated matches, thank the referee.
 - d. Accommodate players with adaptive needs when possible.
- 2. Know the Official Rules of Pickleball, apply them fairly and cooperate in any situation that is not expressly covered by the rules.**
- 3. Practice good sportsmanship when making line calls.**
 - a. Respect your opponents' right to make all calls on their end of the court.
 - b. Call your own shot "out" if you see that it is out.
 - c. If you question an opponent's call, do so respectfully and do not argue.
 - d. If you defer a line call to your opponents, accept their call graciously.
 - e. Do not call a ball "out" unless you see it clearly and are certain it is out.
 - f. Promptly correct any wrong call your partner may make.
 - g. Resolve any uncertainty in favor of your opponents.
- 4. Call a fault on yourself or your partner as soon as the fault occurs, regardless of whether your opponents are aware of the fault.**
 - a. Watch your own and your partner's feet for service or NVZ foot faults
 - b. Accept your opponent's and partner's fault calls graciously.
 - c. Admit if the ball hits you or your paddle on the way out of bounds.
- 5. Claim a replay only if a hinder affects your team's ability to play the ball.**

- 6. In social play, rotate on and off courts fairly, courteously, and in accordance with local practice.**
 - a. Don't jump ahead of others who are waiting to play.
 - b. Don't invite someone else forward in line or rearrange paddles so they can move up to play with you; move yourself back instead.
 - c. Don't call a lower score or start a second game to avoid leaving the court.
 - d. Be prepared to play when it is your turn.
 - e. If you must cross over or behind an active court, wait until play is stopped and cross quickly in a single group to minimize disruption of that game.
- 7. Make safety a priority, while using common sense.**
 - a. If a ball strays onto your court, make eye contact with the correct person and roll or toss it back to them without disrupting play on other courts.
 - b. If your ball enters another court, immediately warn any players whose safety may be in jeopardy by loudly calling "ball" or some other warning. If the ball is rolling behind their court and does not present a danger to players, do not interrupt play but wait until play stops to retrieve it or ask for its return.
 - c. Never throw your paddle or strike the ball in anger or frustration.
- 8. As a stronger player in social play, be kind to other players.**
 - a. Avoid hitting excessively to a weaker player.
 - b. Do not slam the ball directly at other players.
- 9. Be considerate about playing up and playing down.**
 - a. Be willing to play sometimes with less-skilled players.
 - b. Do not demand to play with more skilled players; ask them nicely if you wish to play with them.
- 10. Be a respectful and supportive partner.**
 - a. Avoid criticism and negative non-verbal communications.
 - b. Provide coaching and advice only when requested.

Committee:

Jeff Conradi – District Ambassador

Robert David – Ambassador

Jean Dicesare - Ambassador

Brent Hall – District Ambassador

Linda Koetting - Ambassador

Craig Laughlin – *Pickleball Magazine* Columnist

Cindy Lawton – Ambassador

Steve Loranger – Ambassador

Scott Nicastro – Ambassador

Dick Osman – District Ambassador, Certified Referee, Chairman

Nancy Sutton – District Ambassador

Christine Wantuck – District Ambassador, Level 2 Referee



USA PICKLEBALL TRANSGENDER INCLUSION AND ELIGIBILITY POLICY

PURPOSE

USA Pickleball (“USAP”) supports diversity, inclusion and fairness in tournament, recreational and league pickleball. The purpose of this policy (“Policy”) is to provide transgender pickleball players a means to participate in pickleball events of their choice in an inclusive sports environment. USAP’s goal is to allow all players access to pickleball in a supportive and respectful environment.

This Policy is based on USAP’s belief that 1) recreational pickleball should incorporate an inclusive policy that focuses on allowing players to participate consistent with their gender identity and 2) tournament pickleball should balance inclusion with competitive equity for cis-gender players.

DEFINITIONS

Transgender describes an individual whose gender identity does not match that person’s gender at birth.

Gender Identity refers to one’s internal psychological identification as male or female, both, neither, or anywhere along the gender spectrum. In this Policy, a transgender female (MTF) refers to a transgender person whose birth gender was male at birth, but who identifies as female. A transgender male (FTM) refers to a transgender person whose birth gender was female at birth but who identifies as male.

Gender Transition refers to the process of developing and assuming a gender expression to match one’s gender identity, and may include changing one’s name, taking hormones, suppressing hormones, having surgery, and/or changing official government documents to reflect the new legal gender.

TRANSGENDER ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Participation in the sport has been clearly shown to enhance an individual’s mental and physical health. However, there are physiological advantages resulting from a transgender woman experiencing any part, or all, of male puberty. Specifically, strength, power, quickness and jumping ability are physical characteristics directly related to competitive success in Pickleball. The scientific literature is clear that these physical characteristics would, in general, be positively enhanced during male puberty. What is less clear in the literature is the extent to which these puberty-related physiological advantages can be eliminated, or at least mitigated, through surgery or prolonged hormonal therapy. Research in this area is ongoing. The following provisions seek to balance these competing concerns.

1. **Applicability of this Policy.** This Policy is applicable to all USAP-operated events and programs and to all transgender individuals who desire to play pickleball at the recreational level and/or compete in USAP-operated events. For USAP-sanctioned events that are not operated by USAP, please see the USAP Transgender Guidelines. Any references in this document to USAP programs, events, brackets or tournaments shall apply only to USAP-operated programs, events, brackets and tournaments.
2. **Eligibility.**
 - A. Pickleball Programs Not Restricted by Gender. Some of USAP's recreational programs are not restricted by gender. All pickleball players are eligible to participate in such programs, regardless of birth gender, gender identity, transgender status or other forms of gender expression in these recreational programs.
 - B. Pickleball Programs Restricted by Gender. Where pickleball programs, events, and brackets within events are restricted to male or female players only or one male and one female per each mixed doubles team, USAP establishes the following eligibility requirements for transgender players.
 - (i) *A transgender female (MTF player)* will be eligible to participate in all classifications of recreational pickleball, including league play, by providing the following documents satisfactory to USAP: (1) a letter from the player if an adult, or if a minor from the minor's parent or guardian, confirming the player's gender identity as female; or (2) written confirmation of gender identity from a health care provider, counselor, or other qualified professional not related to the player.
 - (ii) *A transgender female (MTF player)* will be eligible to participate in USAP-operated competitive pickleball events in the female category if the player provides the documentation described in both 2(B)(i)(1) and (2)(B)(2) above. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four (4) years,
 - (iii) *A transgender male (FTM player)* will be eligible to play recreational pickleball or competitive pickleball in USAP-operated events without any restrictions.
 - (iv) *Non-binary players.* Because of the variety of gender binary categories represented in the general population and therefore in sports, players who have a gender identity outside of male or female who wish to participate in pickleball may do so in one of the following ways: (1) participation in one of the categories of play not restricted by gender; (2) participation in the category of their birth gender, provided that they have not used a masculinizing agent if their birth gender was female; or (3) participation in a category that does not match their birth gender, following the above guidelines for transgender players.

- C. Eligibility Questions Not Addressed Above. In the event of any eligibility question with respect to a transgender player not addressed above, the issue will be referred to the Transgender Committee (the “Committee”) described below.
- D. Challenge to Eligibility. A Member of USAP may file a challenge to another Member’s eligibility under this Policy, including without limitation a challenge as to whether this Policy may apply to another Member (*e.g.* whether a participant in the female category is subject to the requirements of this Policy), by filing a formal Notice of Challenge addressed to the individual listed in Section 3.A. The Notice of Challenge shall include the name of the Member filing the challenge, the individual(s) who are the subject of the challenge, the grounds for the challenge and any evidence supporting the challenge. The Notice of Challenge must be signed and dated. The Notice of Challenge will be referred to the Committee for handling in accordance with the procedure set forth in Section 3.B below, provided that (i) all proceedings will be kept confidential, (ii) the person filing the challenge will not be kept apprised of the proceedings, and (iii) the Committee will be the sole body to handle the proceedings. The person filing the Notice of Challenge will not be allowed to participate in the Committee’s procedure unless, and then only to the extent, requested by the Committee.

3. **Review Process**

- A. Documentation Required. Document submissions pursuant to Section 2 hereof will be emailed to USAP’s Chief Operating Officer. All documents submitted will be subject to review by USAP and/or the Committee and may be subject to evaluation, investigation and decisions under this Policy by the Committee.
- B. Procedure.
 - (i) *Decisions by the Committee.* All evaluations, investigations and decisions under this Policy shall be the responsibility of the Committee consisting of: (1) a member of the USAP Board of Directors; (2) the USAP directors of either Recreational Programs or Competition and Tournaments, as appropriate; (3) the USAP Chief Executive Officer; (4) a USAP Regional Director selected by the Committee; and (5) USAP’s General Counsel. The Committee may request that the player provide any information which the Committee considers relevant, and the player shall comply with such request. The Committee may also conduct such investigations as it deems appropriate. Players must comply with all aspects of the eligibility determination process, or, at the discretion of the Committee, or the player will not be permitted to participate in USAP programs or events.
 - (ii) *Communication and Effect of Decision.* All decisions by the Committee shall be communicated to the player. If a player’s eligibility request is denied, the decision shall identify the reasons for such denial. In such case, the player shall have ten (10) days to present additional information before the decision becomes final. Final decisions by the Committee shall not be subject to appeal.

In the event a player is granted the right to participate in USAP-operated competition, whether for a designated period or for as long as they remain active in the sport, that player must represent only their newly affirmed gender. In no case will a player be permitted to compete in their previously identified (*e.g.*, birth) gender in a classification of pickleball restricted by gender without the permission of the Committee for at least four (4) years from the decision to grant the right to participate.

4. Violations of this Policy

Any person subject to the authority of USAP may be disciplined for a violation of this Policy. The investigation and initiation of disciplining action shall be the responsibility of the Committee. The Committee may initiate investigations on its own or based on a complaint by a third party. To avoid abuse and ensure confidentiality, a complaining party shall have no right to participate in, or be updated on the status of, any disciplining proceedings or investigation.

A. In Deciding to Investigate, Investigating or Taking Disciplinary Action, the Committee Shall, in General, Take the Following Steps:

- (i) The Committee will review a matter or a third-party complaint on its own initiative to determine whether the allegations meet the threshold criteria of a Policy violation;
- (ii) The player or other person or entity bound by the Policy who is the subject of a complaint or investigation will be advised of the nature of the matter by the Committee and at the Committee's discretion may be placed on suspension pending an investigation into the merits of the complaint;
- (iii) Investigations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, subject to the need to investigate and follow up accordingly;
- (iv) The investigation is administrative in nature, as opposed to a criminal investigation and other judicial actions. For example, neither a complainant nor the player or other person who is the subject of a complaint will have the right to confront the other party. This investigative function is part of USAP's internal justice system, which is based on its internal rules, not on federal or state laws;
- (v) After the Committee carefully evaluates the evidence, the complaint or selected allegations of the complaint may be dismissed as unfounded during any part of the process if the Committee finds: a) excessive delay in filing the complaint, b) the complaint is trivial, frivolous, or not made in good faith, c) the complaint is grossly illogical or improbable, d) the complaint has already been reviewed and decided, e) the complainant has a history of filing unfounded complaints, f) the player is no longer competing in events

and has declared an intention to remain out of competition, g) the player's identity cannot be determined, h) the complaint is about the Transgender Policy and not the eligibility of a player or person or entity, i) the complaint seeks money damages, alleges misconduct, or seeks a remedy other than a decision based on violation of the Transgender Policy, j) USAP lacks jurisdiction over the player, other person or entity, or the subject matter of the complaint;

- (vi) The player who is the subject of the investigation will be given the opportunity to state a defense to the allegations or justification either in writing or orally;
- (vii) Upon completion of its investigation the Committee will determine whether or not to take action against the player, other person or entity. The Committee will communicate its findings and decision to the player, person or entity under investigation including the consequences to be imposed if a violation of the Policy is found.

B. Decision. The decision of the Committee is final. Within five (5) days after the decision is communicated to the complainant, the player may request the Committee to reconsider its decision based on new relevant and material information that was not previously considered by the Committee. At its discretion, the Committee may then reopen the matter, investigate and consider the new evidence, and then render a new decision or affirm the decision already made and communicated to the player. The Committee's reconsidered decision is final.

C. Sanctions. The Committee may impose sanctions on the player when it has sustained or partially sustained one or more allegations against the player. Examples of sanctions are written warnings, period suspensions up to permanent suspensions with or without conditions, forfeiture of award(s) and titles awarded, and repayment of prize money. USAP will maintain a record of the Committee's decision for at least six (6) years.

5. Other Eligibility Requirements Not Affected

The application of this Policy shall not affect eligibility requirements or rules otherwise set out in USAP rules, policies, or procedures including anti-doping rules or other rules adopted in the future.

6. Name Change

In some cases, an adult player, or minor player's parents, may request that a player's name be changed in USAP registration records without changing the player's gender in the registration records. USAP may make the requested change, which change will not affect the player's eligibility in any classification restricted by gender.

7. Confidentiality

All player information provided to USAP under this Policy will be dealt with in strict confidence and applicable privacy laws. Such information will not be used for any purpose not contemplated in this Policy and will not be disclosed to any third party unless that disclosure is necessary for the effective application and enforcement of this Policy or is required by law. USAP shall not publicly comment on individual requests, applications, or decisions under this Policy except, in its discretion, it may do so in response to public comments attributed to the player or the player's representatives. Once a decision has been rendered by the Committee, USAP, at its discretion, may consult with the player on the best ways to publicly communicate about their eligibility.

8. Discrimination Prohibited

All USAP members, including its player members, have a right to participate in the activities of USAP without being subjected to harassment or discrimination regarding their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or transition to a different competition category. Any USAP member who engages in conduct which violates this right shall be subject to discipline.

Organizational members of USAP, including, but not limited to clubs and State or Regional Pickleball Organizations, are required to allow players to compete in the competition category for which that player is approved in connection with their USAP membership. Failure to do so will result in discipline of the organizational member and/or any individual member who directly caused the violation.

9. Player Agreement, Consent and Release

By requesting a competition category change, player represents and agrees that:

- A. All information submitted in connection with the request is accurate and complete to the best of their knowledge and that no relevant information has been intentionally withheld.
- B. The player will fully cooperate with and provide any additional information requested by the Committee.
- C. The player agrees that neither USAP nor any member of the Committee, or any USAP employees, directors, officers, agents, representatives, nor any or other persons involved in the administration of this Policy, shall be liable in any way in relation to acts done or omitted to be done in good faith in connection with the administration of this Policy.

10. Assistance With This Policy

USAP is committed to the inclusion of all players in the sport of pickleball subject to the eligibility requirements set forth in this Policy. Any person seeking information on the application of this Policy should send an email to cco@usapickleball.org.

11. Policy Amendments

This Policy may be modified by USAP from time to time, without notice as USAP accumulates experience from the application of this Policy, as sports policies evolve, and as new medical and expert information becomes available. This Policy, when modified, shall apply to all players notwithstanding their eligibility status prior to the Policy modification.