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OFFICIAL MOBILITY PARTNER OF USA PICKLEBALL

USA Pickleball 2026 Numotion Wheelchair National Championships Player Instructions

(Players: These instructions are emailed in advance to preserve your warm-up time.)

Please read this important information in its entirety.

All Current 2026 USA Pickleball Rules Apply:

<https://usapickleball.org/docs/rules/USAP-Official-Rulebook.pdf>

Participants: It is your responsibility to have read this document as well as the **Player Code of Conduct** posted on the registration page of the tournament.

Environment: This event is being held in an indoor facility. Check your phone texts for all court assignments. All matches are scheduled to have a USA Pickleball official on court. You will meet your official on your assigned court when texted. There are two levels in this facility which are fully assessable from stairs or an elevator.

Amateur Paddle Confirmation: USA Pickleball is committed to fair play for all participants at every skill level, not just professional athletes. At all USA Pickleball–managed National Championship events, every match is scheduled to be officiated by a tested, verified, and credentialed USA Pickleball referee. All players are expected to be able to confirm that their paddle make and model is listed on the USA Pickleball website. The referee will ask each player for proof. A screen shot or live view on your cell phone is acceptable. If your paddle cannot be confirmed it may not be played and will be held by the Head Referee until play has concluded for the tournament. If you have any questions please see the Head Referee or a member of the officiating team at the venue. Players are always required to verify that their paddles appear on the USA Pickleball Approved Paddle List, available at: <https://equipment.usapickleball.org/paddle-list/>.

Schedule: Brackets will be posted the day of play. Remember that brackets are subject to change until each event starts. Please review the schedule each evening prior to your event. If any start time changes happen to your bracket, we will notify you by email.

Warm up: The first matches of the day are scheduled to begin promptly at 8:00 AM. Players are expected to have their warmup completed prior to that time. You will receive a text message when your bracket has started. The next text message will be your court

assignment. **Please report to your court, regardless of the text instructions. You will meet your referee and opponents on court.** For later starting times, you will have up to 10 minutes to warm up for your first match of the day. After your first match of the day, you have up to **8 minutes** following the court assignment text to get to your assigned court and warm up before your next match begins. If you are NOT on court in the allotted time, we will make a second and **FINAL** announcement over the PA system for you to report to the court. The first game in your match is forfeited if you are not on court ready to play in ten minutes from the original text. The entire match (2 out of 3 games to 11) will be forfeited if you are not on court ready to play in 15 minutes. The match is also forfeited if not on the court and ready to play for matches that are 1 game to 15. Avoid forfeits by being on time! After your first match you will have 4 minutes warm up time on court before your next match.

Starting server bands: Starting server bands will be provided by your referee and must be displayed by each starting server so that it is visible by opponents and the referee - no exceptions.

Water Bottles and Bags: Players are permitted to have towels and water or sports drink bottles on the court. Bags and other extraneous items including back up paddles and camera tripods, are not allowed on the courts.

Referees and Rules: All matches are scheduled to be officiated. There is a possibility that some matches may be started by a USAP Official depending on the number of referees available. Referee assignments in this case will be random for round robin bracket play; however, all pre-medal and medal matches will be officiated. **When you get a text message assigning you to a court, promptly proceed to the court. However, please observe proper court etiquette. Do not cross another court while a match is underway.** The referees will use an abbreviated pre-match briefing to:

1. Confirm player paddles
2. Remind players of their line call responsibilities
3. Explain valid hinders or court abnormalities
4. Ensure that the starting server bands are visible
5. Use a fair method of selecting serve, receive or end of court choice
6. Inform players of the remaining warm-up time available
7. Answer any rule or player instruction questions (see below)

Unless you do not have a referee for your match, referees are responsible for promptly returning a player signed score sheet to the tournament desk at the conclusion of each match. If you do not have a referee, winners please return all materials -basket, balls, scoresheet, to tournament operations. **Winners must verify the scores with the staff person taking your basket.**

Player Instructions

1. Paddles will be visually inspected. Officials will ask players for verification of paddles.
2. If the wrong score is called, the referee or any player may stop play before the return of serve to correct the score. It is a fault to stop play after the return of serve to identify or ask for a score correction. It is a fault to stop play to identify or ask for a score correction when the score was correctly called.
3. Players are responsible for calling all the lines on their end of the court. Please make all "out" calls promptly, loud and clear, even if they are obvious. Any player may appeal a line call to the referee at the end of a rally and before the next score is called. The referee will only make a ruling if they clearly see the ball, otherwise the original player call stands.
4. Referees will check to make sure that all players are ready, or should be ready, before calling the score. After the score is called, the serving team has 10 seconds to serve the ball. Failure to do so results in a service fault. The referee will use an arm cue to signal when the player may serve without a fault. When the referee's arm is lowered the player may serve.
5. The referee will confirm and correct, if necessary, that all players are in the correct position and the correct server has the ball before calling the score. If the referee or a player stops a rally in progress to correctly identify a player/position error, the rally shall be replayed.
6. If a player stops a rally and incorrectly identifies a player/position error, it is a fault on the player who stopped the rally. If the referee stops a rally in progress and incorrectly identifies a player/position error, the rally shall be replayed.
7. If a player/position error is identified after the rally has concluded the result of the rally shall stand.
8. The referee will monitor all serves for compliance to the USA Pickleball service rules.
9. HINDERS and BALLS ON COURT: Unless there is a SAFETY ISSUE, the referee will not automatically stop play due to a possible ball inside the playing area. Players may call "hinder" or "ball on court" the moment they are distracted by a ball/player/object in their playing area. Hinders, deemed to be valid by the referee, including those created or called by adjacent court players, will result in a replay. **Please do not call "Ball" for another court.**

10. Each team has two 1-minute timeouts per 11-point or 15-point game and three timeouts in games to 21. If a team has any remaining time-outs, any player on that team may call a time-out before the next serve occurs.
11. There is a maximum of a 2-minute break between games.
12. In games to 15 or 21, and in the third game of a 2-out-of-3 match, and the fifth game of a 3-out-of-5 match, teams have 1 minute to change ends of the court at the appropriate score. This is a referee time-out, and players may quickly hydrate, talk with their partner, and receive coaching from others, during the changing of ends.
13. Please exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Unsportsmanlike behavior, in all of its forms, will not be tolerated. Issues such as profanity, paddle throws, disrespectful or disparaging comments directed toward opponents, spectators, or the referees will be swiftly dealt with. The Tournament Director or their designee may, at their discretion, immediately remove any player or spectator from the tournament for any behavior, on or off the court, deemed to be unsportsmanlike or disrespectful to any person or persons.
14. Any action deemed by the referee to be unsportsmanlike will result in a technical warning (TW) or a technical foul (TF). A TW plus a TF will result in a game forfeit. Two technical fouls will result in a match forfeit. Profanity is prohibited. Depending upon the severity, a Verbal Warning (VW) may be issued, but only once per match. Additional profanity warrants a TW or TF.
15. Any action that results in the presence of blood is an automatic referee timeout at the end of the rally. Play will resume after any needed medical attention and clean-up of the blood.
16. USA Pickleball Concussion Protocol will be followed in the event of a player sustaining a head injury or displaying any signs or symptoms of a concussion. In accordance with the USA Pickleball Concussion Protocol, such a player must be immediately removed from play and not permitted to return until a written release from a licensed healthcare professional is provided to the tournament director. To view USA Pickleball's Concussion Protocol, follow this link or copy and paste this URL to your browser: <https://usapickleball.org/concussion/>
17. Requests for medical timeouts are granted by the referee. The referee will summon medical personnel or the TD to assess if the medical need is valid. If medical personnel (or the TD) determine that the request is NOT valid, the player or team will be charged a timeout, if available, and issued a technical warning. If a standard time-out is not available, a technical foul will be issued.
18. **Players may request the Head Referee/Tournament Director to the court to challenge a referee's decision or ruling.** The loss of a challenge will result in a technical warning and loss of 1 time-out. If there are no time outs remaining a Technical Foul will be assessed. In certain situations, this may result in a match forfeit.

19. If you have any questions, please ask the referee or the Head Referee before the start of your match.

USA Pickleball thanks you for playing and for taking the time to read the contents of this letter.

USA Pickleball Competition Team

