



PICKLEBALL NB TOURNAMENT FAQs

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1. How many participants should a tournament have? It all depends on the number of courts and time you have. Normally, it is recommended to calculate 6 teams per court per day (i.e., for 6 courts you would want to have a maximum of 36 teams). But it is up to you and how much you feel comfortable for the management of the schedule.

It is also highly recommended to take a little less team if its the first pickleball tournament. No matter how much tournament you organized in other sports, you will find that pickleball has its own particularities and its better to do one small at first to get the hand of it and adjust for the next ones.

2. What are the competition categories? Usually, a tournament is held on 2 days; Saturday for Men & Women Doubles and Sunday for Mixed Double. You can also add a Single event either at the end of the Sunday or add another day.

Levels? Usually, you would have 3.0 and under(recreational), 3.5 and 4.0. You can also add a 4.5 and Open event depending on the number of teams you can have. You can also choose to do 3.0 and under and 3.5 and above if you are restricted in the number of teams, courts and/or time.

Age? Your biggest issue will be where to do the cut-off. There are 2 types of players over 60-year-old; you have group A that does not want to play against the younger players, and you have group B that wants to get a challenge and play against the best player and the younger player.

You also have a new group that are between 50 and 60 that are on the same page. So, you basically must find a compromise. Please keep in mind that no matter how to do it, you can't make everyone happy. You just need to try to find the format that please the most players but also is the easiest for you to plan.

If you have 6 or more courts, you could do:

49 and under

50-59

60 and over

*You can also do 65 and over

If you have 6 or less court, you might want to consider one of the 2 options:

Option 1

-59 and under

-60 and above

Option 2

-54 and under

-55 and above

3. the schedule-how much time per match? A lot of things need to be considered. *Note that all the time listed below are approximative.

a) Game to 11 wins by 2 with 2 timeouts/team = 25 minutes

b) Games to 15 wins by 2 with 2 timeouts/team= 30 minutes

c) Game to 11 wins by 1 no timeouts

- Men Doubles= 15 to 17 minutes
- Women Doubles - 17 to 20 minutes
- 60 and over event= 18 to 25 minutes

d) 2 out of 3 wins by 2 with 2 time-outs/team=55 to 60 minutes

Best practices will recommend to always calculate all your games with the highest amount of time. That will give you a better view of the amount of team you can take, and it will give you a buffer. You will prefer to complete the tournament earlier than later than predicted.

When you do your schedule, try to make sure that every team in every event play round 1 before starting games in round number 2 (if you are doing a round robin format)

If a team has a bye in one of the rounds (for the round robin format), try to get that team to play in the first match of the next round. Some websites will give you some plans for the schedule, but they don't always take that into consideration. People will complain if they wait too long to play

Format? Usually, players prefer to have a round robin + playoffs. In the round robin you may want to do games of 11 win by 1 or games of 15 win by 1 to save some time.

For the events of 6 teams or less, you may want to do games of 15. It is also recommended that for events of 4 teams, you do a double round robin (each team play each other twice) and do games of 11 win by 1.

For the playoffs, there is multiple format available. Some tournaments will allow only the first 4 teams of each pool to go to playoff if there is a lot of teams (250 players or more). Most tournament allows all the team to go to playoffs. Depending on how much court and time you have, there is a few options available:

- a) Single elimination: you loose 1 game and you are out
- b) Double elimination (regular): You can loose 2 games before being out. If you loose 1 game, you fall in the loser's bracket and can comeback to play for Gold if you don't loose any other game
- c) Double elimination with consolation bracket: You can loose 2 games before being out but if you loose 1 game, you can only get the bronze medal, you can't comeback to play for Gold

Big events like the National Championship where you have 900 players and more will do only a Double elimination (2 ou of 3 matches in the winner's bracket and games to 15 in the loser bracket and the loser can comeback to play for Gold). Its not a usual format in the Maritimes but if you notify the player upon registration its another option.

4. **How many teams in each category?** If you are doing a round robin you will prefer to have a minimum of 4 teams and a maximum of 8 teams per pool. You will want to avoid 9 teams because it gives every team 8 games to play and its very time consuming.

After 8 teams, you may prefer to have even numbers to divide them in 2 pools or take 15 teams and divide them in 3 pools of 5.

5. **How do you manage registration?** There is some software that are available to help you in the organization of tournament. The recognized software by Pickleball Canada is Pickleball Brackets. It is very easy to use but will have some cost related to it.

You may also decide to take registration manually with the help of a form that you can create with an application like Google Form.

You can also ask the players to send you emails, text or other messages to register.

6. **How do you manage the payments?** There are many options to redeem the payments of the player. If you are using a software to manage the registration, you can set up the tournament that the players need to pay to confirm their registration.

You can also ask to receive Interact E-transfer by email or text or even take the payment on-site only. It depends on your need for the preparation of the tournament to cover the expenses.

7. **How to manage refund?** Each tournament director is responsible to manage their refund policy depending on their need and expenses, but each player should have a chance to get a refund in case they have to withdraw for injury or other personal reason. The tournament director can decide to keep an administration fee. A director can decide to give full refund, some refund or no refund but it is always at the discretion of the tournament director. Recommendation would be to refund at least 50% of the total cost the player paid. Information regarding refund should be explained to the players before they register whether the tournament director decide to allow refund or not.
8. **How to manage results?** If you use a software, all the results will have to be entered in the software and it will take care to calculate the results.

If you decide not to use a software, Pickleball NB has some cards available for the clubs for them to collect the results. There are 4 kits of reusable cards available around the province. Tournament Director may contact the following people to have more information or borrow a kit:

North: Gabriel Fournier
Moncton: Natasha Bourque
Saint John: Lisa Weir
Fredericton: Ruth Henry Dickinson

9. **Should I give out medals/trophy or money prize?** It is up to the tournament director to choose to give out medals/trophy or money prize. Again, no matter what you choose, you can't please everyone. Some players will prefer to have money prize while other will find very important for them to have a medal/trophy. First-time players will take great pride in winning a medal/trophy as a souvenir of their achievement as for other it will not be as important. Some tournaments will choose to give out gift certificate instead. It is up to the tournament director to decide what he/she prefers to do. When advertising the tournament, it is recommended that you specify what type of prize will be awarded and to which position (only 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd, and 3rd)
10. **Other helpful information?**
 - Pickleball NB offers a sponsorship of a maximum of 250\$. You must be an affiliated club with PBNB, and you may only redeem that amount once per year. A request must be made to the director of tournament to receive the sponsorship. A banner will be provided to you and must be display at the event.

- PBNB is not responsible to give training to tournament directors on the use of software like Pickleball Brackets. The tournament director must contact the company and ask to receive training by them.