

Requirements for sanctioned tournaments

(As published on the Pickleball Canada website)

SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

A sanctioned tournament is one that, at the request of the Tournament Director, has been approved by Pickleball Canada as meeting defined international and Pickleball Canada (PCO) standards. To be "sanctioned" by Pickleball Canada, means that an event meets the required standards, is well organized, compliant and safe for the players, and complies with the current rules and regulations established by the governing bodies.

Why sanction a tournament

- Standardize the operation of pickleball tournaments across Canada.
- To challenge tournament organizers to deliver high quality events that showcase pickleball to Pickleball Canada members, the public and the media.
- To ensure that tournaments are conducted in a safe and developmentally appropriate manner in accordance with the long-term development plan approved by the Canadian Sport for Life Society and Pickleball Canada.
- To provide a fair and consistent competitive environment that affects the ranking of players in Canadian tournaments (CJTC).
- Ensure that there are sufficient opportunities for players across Canada to earn and advance their CJTC.
- To ensure the robustness of the Canadian Tournament Classification Program (CJTC).
- To ensure ranking and consistency across provinces and territories.
- Share responsibilities between PCO and the provinces/territories, where PCO sets the criteria/requirements, and the provinces/territories assist with execution and monitoring. This includes recruiting an affiliated club to work with an independent tournament director, where possible.

Benefits of a sanctioned tournament

For the tournament

- Posting of the tournament on the sanctioned tournament calendar on the Pickleball Canada website.
- Use of the Pickleball Canada sanctioned logo for tournament promotion.
- If needed, support from the PCO tournament chair
- [General liability insurance](#) for the event and [certificate of insurance](#) (provincial/territorial affiliations and their affiliated clubs only).
- Increased participation as the tournament is recognized as a high quality experience.
- Sponsorship benefit opportunities resulting from national OCP negotiations.
- Strengthen applications for grants and additional funding sources.
- Public recognition that your tournament supports Pickleball Canada as the governing body of Pickleball in Canada.

For the player

- Tournament experience with quality standards at all times.
- More matches with referees.
- Opportunity to earn and advance their CJTC as only sanctioned tournaments will have an impact on the player's ranking at Canadian tournaments.
- [Sports Accident Insurance for the player](#) as a member of Pickleball Canada and [accident claim report for the athlete](#)

Sanction criteria

In order for a tournament to be sanctioned, the tournament director must follow the application process and comply with all sanctioning requirements listed below. It is strongly recommended that sanctioned tournaments involve an affiliated club as the host or partner of the tournament.

Sanctioning criteria are defined in **Section 12 - Sanctioned Tournament Policies** [of the USA Pickleball Official Rules Book - International Edition](#) .

On the other hand,

- All players must be members of Pickleball Canada.
- The tournament must avoid dates already established for other sanctioned tournaments in that province/territory or conflict with a regional championship in the area.
- The Tournament Director (TD) must complete and submit a [Tournament Sanction Application](#) to Pickleball Canada at least 60 days prior to the scheduled event.
- The TD must include a letter of support from the appropriate provincial/territorial pickleball organization. Support can only be denied if there is a date conflict or concern as described in the right of refusal clause.

- The TD must follow all [official tournament rules](#).
- The TD must declare the make and model of the ball to be used. The ball must be on the [approved ball](#) list.
- The TD must ensure that the safety requirements outlined in the Tournament Director's Guide are met.
- The TD confirms that all government health and safety requirements and protocols will be implemented and enforced throughout the tournament.
- Once a provisional sanction has been granted, the sanction fee must be paid in order for the tournament to receive official sanctioning and be promoted to a sanctioned tournament. Be sure to indicate the tournament name on the e-transfer that is sent to treasurer@pickleballcanada.org.
- Do not open your registration until the tournament status is updated from "pending" to "sanctioned".
- The tournament must use a Pickleball Canada approved tournament management system. The TD must report, either automatically with the Pickleball Brackets tournament software or manually with other approved processes, the results to the [Pickleball Brackets ranking engine](#) (where the CJTC is registered).
- Within one week of the completion of a tournament, complete results must be reported to the [PCO Tournament Chair](#).
- A sanctioned tournament must have a minimum of 75 participants.
- The tournament is open to all players who meet the general requirements of any tournament, such as age or skill level. Entries may be limited by geographic locations such as city, county, region or province of residence.
- Wheelchair Players: In accordance with the requirements of the [Canadian Human Rights Act](#), Pickleball Canada will not discriminate against qualified persons with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. Rules for wheelchair players can be found in the USAPA Rule Book - International Edition.
- A TD who requests and receives a sanction agrees to meet and abide by all sanctioning requirements. If all sanctioning requirements are not met, consequences will be applied, up to and including disqualification of results in the CJTC rankings and prohibition of the host club or TD from any future sanctioning requests.

Pickleball Canada Right of Refusal

Pickleball Canada reserves the right to refuse to sanction tournaments and not list them on the Pickleball Canada website/calendar if the TD or organization requesting the sanction has not complied with all PCO policies, including the Pickleball Canada Code of Conduct policy, or has committed an infraction as defined in the Pickleball Canada Complaints & Discipline policy. This decision will be communicated to the applicant in writing and may be appealed. The appeal process will follow the complaint review process outlined in the Complaints and Discipline Policy.

Tournament levels and sanctioning fees

Level 1 - National Tournament - Reserved for Pickleball Canada National and Regional tournaments. All matches must be refereed. It is expected that Open and Senior Open events will be included.

Level 2 (\$100) - Provincial/Regional Tournaments - Reserved for Provincial/Territorial Championships with an average of at least 8 entries per event and Regional Qualifying Events. Large tournaments with over 250 entries may also apply for Level 2 status. All medal matches must be officiated by line judges whenever possible. It is expected that Open and Senior Open events will be included.

Level 3 (\$75) - Other Tournaments - Level 3 tournaments require a minimum of 100 participants. All medal matches must be officiated by line judges whenever possible.

Level 4 (\$50) - Small or new tournaments - The tournament must have at least 75 participants. Most new tournaments will be classified as Level 4 until the number of entries can be confirmed before or after the tournament ends. Medal matches should be refereed whenever possible.

Club member only tournaments cannot be sanctioned and do not affect the CJTC.

Fees are due when the tournament receives provisional sanctioning from the Pickleball Canada Tournament Chair. Once the fee is received, the tournament director will receive the sanctioning logos and official sanction and the tournament will be placed on the Pickleball Canada tournament calendar.

level	Description	Registration fees	Size/Number of events#.	Referees	Line Judges	CJTC weighting (when implemented)
1	PCO National Tournaments PCO Regional Tournaments	\$0	Open and Senior Open included in the number#.	Level 1 minimum for non-medal matches* Level 2 certified for medal matches*.	Matches with medals **	100%
2	Provincial and territorial championships and qualifying events Major tournaments - 250+ participants	\$100	Average of 8 entries/ event Open and Senior Open included in the number#.	Level 1 minimum for non-medal matches*. Level 2 certified for medal matches*.	Matches with medals **	100%
3	Other tournaments	\$75	Minimum registrations 100	Minimum level 2 for medal matches*.	Matches with medals **	80%
4	Small or new tournaments	\$50	Minimum registrations 75	Referees should be provided, if possible*.	Matches with medals **	70%

Note: * To the extent possible. Due to the limited supply of qualified personnel, the TD must fill gaps with the best personnel available.

** If local health restriction protocol permits, and if qualified personnel are available.

Number of events where possible. Contributes to the selection of provincial/territorial teams and development teams at the national level.

Approved events by age and skill

Determination of age

1. A player's age for the entire tournament year is determined by his or her age as of December 31 of the tournament year in question.
2. There are three main age groups:
 - Juniors: 18 and under,
 - Adults: 19 years of age and older (junior players may also play in this category); and
 - Seniors (50+).

Events classified by competence

1. A skill rated event is open to players of all ages, including Juniors, Adults and Seniors. A Senior event is open only to players over 50 years of age.
2. All participants in a sanctioned tournament must have a Canadian Tournament Player Ranking (CJTC)

Events by age

Juniors

- Boys and girls
- Single, double, mixed doubles
- 10 years and under, 12 years and under, 14 years and under, 18 years and under

Adults

- Men and women
- Single, Double, Mixed Double
- 19 years and older (19+), 35 years and older (35+)

Seniors

- Men and women
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- Single, Double, Mixed Double
- 50 years and older

Events by skill

- Men and women
- Single, Double, Mixed Double
- Open, Seniors
- 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0

Age/skills or skills/age combination

1. Combined age/skill tests consist of approved age groups divided by approved skill levels. It is a skill level within an age group
 1. The skill levels of each age group may be merged by the tournament director as needed. For example, 19 + 3.5 can be combined with 19 + 4.0. This would be a 19 +/ 4.0 event. When possible, it is recommended that TDs combine 3.0/3.5 and 4.0/4.5/ 5.0, but if there are not enough records to make this possible, they can be combined as needed.
 2. The 50+ events can be in 5, 10 or 15 year age brackets as needed (50+, 60+, 70+, 80+ or 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+).
 3. Any player or team in an age/skill tournament who requests to play at a skill level higher than their ranking, must be allowed to do so.
 4. Any player or team participating in an age/skill tournament requesting to play by age group must be allowed to do so. For example, a player or team with a 3.5 rating and with the youngest player 64 years of age may enter any skill level above 3.5 and any age group below 65 years of age and older.
 2. Combined proficiency/age tests consist of approved proficiency levels divided into approved age groups. These are age groups within the skill levels.
 1. The age levels of each skill group may be merged by the tournament director if necessary. For example, 2.5 19+ can be combined with 2.5 35+. This would be a 2.5 / 35+ event. When possible, we recommend that TDs combine 19+ and 35+; 50+ and 60+; 70+ and above. Note: if there are not enough entries to make this possible, they can be combined as needed
 2. Any player or team in a skill/age tournament who requests to play at a skill level higher than their ranking must be allowed to do so.
 3. Any player or team in a skill/age tournament that requests to play by age group must be allowed to do so. For example, a player or team with the youngest player 64 years of age and a 3.5 rating may enter an age group below 65 years of age and above and/or any skill level above 3.5.
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