

Malaysia Pickleball Association

Tournament Guidelines for Organisers

Tournament Banners/Social Media Notices (kindly refer to figure 1)

- All promotional materials (banners, social media posts, flyers, etc.) must prominently display the organizer's name and MPA/State Pickleball logo(s).
- Include the phrase "Supported by" above the MPA/State logos to acknowledge the endorsement.
- Ensure the logos are high-resolution and appropriately sized for visibility.
- Include essential tournament details such as date, location, registration deadlines, and contact information.

Tournament Director

- **A Tournament Director (TD)** must be appointed to oversee all aspects of the event. The TD is responsible for ensuring compliance with USA Pickleball rules, managing staff, resolving disputes, and ensuring the smooth operation of the tournament.

USA Pickleball Rulebook 2025

- The tournament must adhere to the USA Pickleball Rulebook 2025. All referees, players, and staff must know the latest rules and updates.
- Stand by a printed USA Pickleball Rulebook on the referee table.

Tournament Code of Conduct

- Provide all players with a copy of the Tournament Code of Conduct prior to the event.
- Ensure the Code of Conduct is prominently displayed at the venue in multiple locations (e.g., registration desk, player lounges, and spectator areas).
- The Code of Conduct should outline expectations for sportsmanship, behaviours, and consequences for violations.

Consent to Indemnify Form

- All players must complete and sign a Consent to Indemnify Form before participating.
- This form should include clauses regarding liability, injury waivers, and acknowledgment of tournament rules.

Venue Requirements

Ensure the venue is safe, well-maintained, and compliant with local regulations.

Provide players and spectators with adequate seating, hydration stations, and first aid facilities.

Verbal Warnings, Technical Warnings, Technical Fouls, Ejections and Expulsions

- Referee and Tournament Director Responsibilities
- Referees and the Tournament Director must be thoroughly trained in issuing verbal warnings, technical warnings, and technical fouls, ejections, and expulsion as outlined in Section 13G and 13M of the USA Pickleball Rulebook 2025.
- Ensure the tournament director and referees maintain professionalism and consistency when addressing rule violations.

Dispute Resolution

- Establish a clear process for resolving disputes, including appeals to the Tournament Director.
- Ensure all decisions are documented and communicated to the involved parties.

Safe Sport Code

The Safe Sport Code is a set of guidelines developed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS) to guide the creation of a safe sports environment with clear guidelines that define the jurisdiction of all parties in addressing disruptions and abuse in sports. The organizer is required to read and adhere to the code. A copy of the Safe Sport Code is to be provided to the participant.

Additional Recommendations**Player Communication**

Send a pre-tournament notification/email/meeting to all registered players/team managers, including the Code of Conduct, Consent to Indemnify Form, and a summary of key rules (Information/Fact Sheet).

Referee Training

Conduct a pre-tournament briefing for referees to review rules, protocols, and expectations.

Spectator Engagement

Encourage spectators to follow the Code of Conduct and respect players and officials.

Post-Tournament Feedback

Collect feedback from players, referees, and staff to improve future events.

Registration Fee Advisory

In the interest of promoting inclusivity and accessibility in the sport of pickleball, the Malaysia Pickleball Association (MPA) strongly advises all tournament organisers to cap participant registration fees at a maximum of RM200 per person. This recommendation aims to ensure wider participation from various community segments while maintaining affordability across all levels of competition. Any exception to this advisory must be submitted in writing and approved by MPA before the commencement of registration.

Rally Scoring Format

For matches utilizing the rally scoring format, all matches shall be played to 21 points.

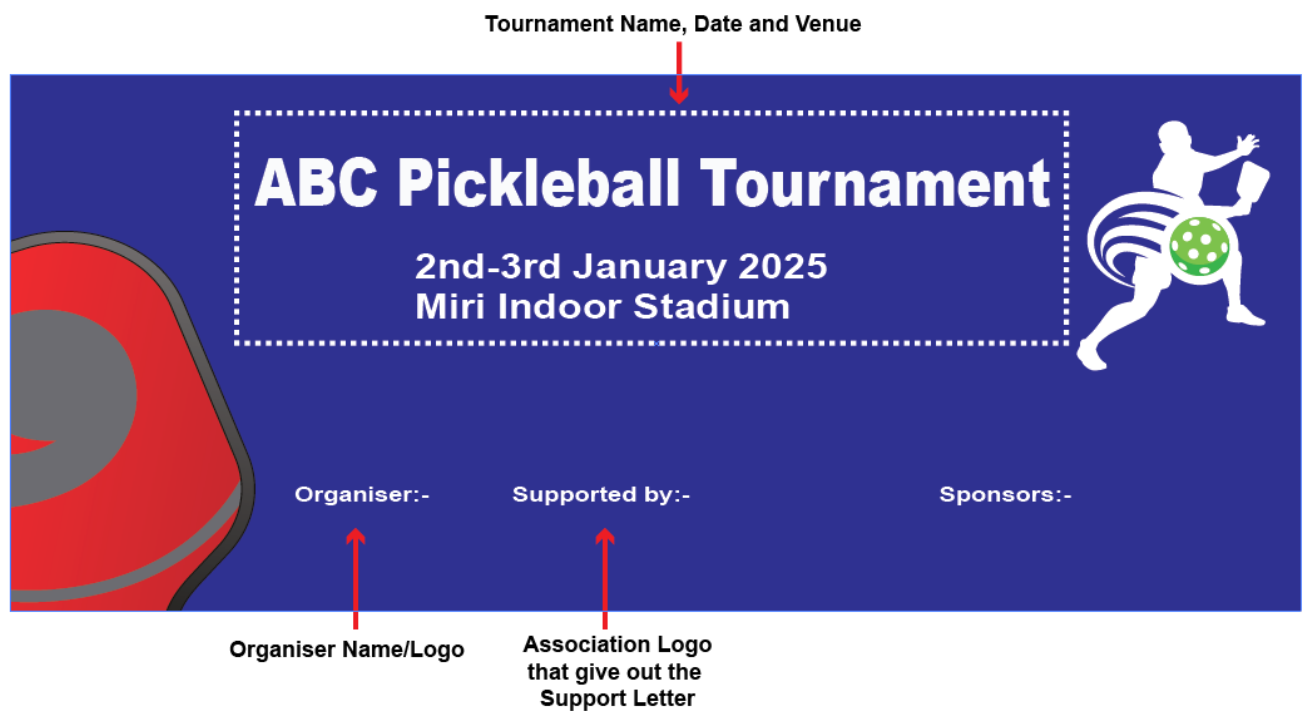


Figure 1. Banner/Poster Guidelines

Draft Template

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT CODE OF CONDUCT

[Tournament Name]

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The Tournament Organiser and its members are committed to fostering a respectful, safe, and inclusive environment for all participants, guests, and staff during the [Tournament Name] and related events. This Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for behavior and the consequences of violations.

2. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The [Organiser] is dedicated to maintaining a positive and welcoming atmosphere at all tournaments and championships. This includes promoting appropriate behavior, addressing misconduct, and ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all participants.

3. APPLICATION

This Code of Conduct applies to:

- All individuals participating in [Tournament Name] programs, activities, and events.
- Guests and visitors entering the [Organiser's] facility, regardless of whether they are players.

4. EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

4.1 Respect

All participants are expected to treat others with respect and dignity. This includes, but is not limited to:

Respect for Individuals

Treat fellow players, guests, visitors, and staff with courtesy and respect, regardless of physical characteristics, athletic ability, age, ancestry, colour, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, creed, disability, family status, economic or marital status, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

Appropriate Attire

Wear safe and appropriate clothing. Avoid attire with offensive logos, designs, or language.

Prohibition of Harassment

Harassment of any kind—verbal, physical, or emotional—is strictly prohibited.
Language and Behaviour: Avoid the use of profanity, inappropriate language, bullying, or intimidation.

Sportsmanship

Demonstrate ethical conduct, sportsmanship, and leadership at all times.
Acknowledge great plays and positively promote the sport.

Court Etiquette

- Clearly announce the score before serving to avoid disputes.
- Acknowledge opponents at the net after each game and promptly exit the court to keep the schedule on track.
- Line Calls: Make fair and accurate line calls. If in doubt, call the ball "in."
- Avoid giving unsolicited advice or instruction during gameplay.
- All players are expected to play to their best of their abilities, with sportsmanship, ethics and respect fellow players and official's decisions during the tournament.
- No influence of alcohol or substances, smoking, vaping, or other misdemeanours deemed unacceptable by the Tournament Director or Umpire.

4.2 Safety

Warm-Up and Preparation

- Perform a proper warm-up before playing to reduce the risk of injury. Stretch before and after matches.

Physical Limits

- Be mindful of your physical condition and avoid over-exertion during play.

Court Safety

- If a ball from another court enters your court, immediately stop play by announcing "ball on court." Resume play only after the ball is returned.

4.3 Loyalty

Public Conduct

Refrain from making negative comments about the sport of Pickleball, the Organizer, or its partners on public forums (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, X). Address concerns directly with the Organizer's representatives.

Feedback

Constructive feedback is encouraged. Members are welcome to share their thoughts and suggestions to help improve the tournament experience.

5. CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS (Verbal Warning, Technical Warning, Technical Fouls)

Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to:

First Offence

A verbal warning or technical warning will be issued by the Tournament Director or Referee.

Second Offence

A technical warning or technical foul will be issued by the Tournament Director or Referee.
A single point will be deducted from the offender or team

Game or Match Forfeit

The referee can impose a game or match forfeit based on a combination of Technical Warnings or Technical Fouls

Ejections and Expulsions

The Tournament Director may eject a player from the tournament for flagrant and particularly injurious behavior that, in the director's opinion, impacts the tournament's success and integrity.

Immediate Ban

Repeated violations may result in the offender or offending team being banned from the tournament and future tournaments organized by the organizer.

Investigation Fee

If the offender requests further investigation, the organising committee must be paid a fee of [RMXXX] before proceeding.

6. Safe Sport Code

The Safe Sport Code is a set of guidelines developed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS) to guide the creation of a safe sports environment with clear guidelines that define the jurisdiction of all parties in addressing disruptions and abuse in sports. The participant is required to read and adhere to the code. (please obtain the Safe Sport Code from the Organiser).

7. CONCLUSION

We appreciate your cooperation in upholding these standards of respect, safety, and sportsmanship. Together, we can ensure that "[Tournament Name]" remains a fun, safe, and positive environment for all participants.

On behalf of the Organising Committee

Tournament Director

****The Tournament Code of Conduct provided by the MPA is a template designed to serve as a guideline for organizers. Organizers are encouraged to review and adapt the document as necessary to ensure it aligns with the specific requirements, values, and context of their tournament. Any modifications should be made in consultation with relevant stakeholders (e.g.: The Organising Committee) to maintain fairness, inclusivity, and compliance with applicable regulations.)**