



TOURNAMENT RULES

Updated as of: 20 July 2026

1. EVENT INFORMATION

Venue	OCBC Arena Hall 1 and 2
Dates	23 to 25 October 2026
Time* *Players are to report to the tournament venue 60 mins before their allocated match time	23 to 24 October 2026: 8am to 9pm 25 October 2026: 8am to 5.30pm
Categories	23 October 2026 – Group Stage: - Bank of Singapore Invitational Championship - Bank of Singapore Corporate Challenge 24 October 2026 – Group Stage: - Novice - Open 25 October 2026 – Knockout Stage: - All categories

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 2.1. The tournament is sanctioned and officiated by the Singapore Pickle-Ball Association (SPA). The tournament shall be governed in accordance with the General Rules and Regulations of the OCBC-Great Eastern Pickleball Open 2026 set out herein and the SPA Tournament Participant's Code of Ethics (*Appendix A*).
- 2.2. Unless otherwise stated, the tournament shall be adopting the latest edition of the USA Pickleball Official Rulebook (Link: <https://usapickleball.org/docs/rules/USAP-Official-Rulebook.pdf>).
- 2.3. The tournament is open to local and foreign players.
- 2.4. The tournament will use the **JOOLA HC-40 (Yellow)** outdoor ball.

- 2.5. Registration period is between 27 July 2026 to 5 October 2026. Teams are allowed to make a one-time replacement of each team member during this period. No further changes will be allowed once the registration period closes. Change requests are to be sent via email to enquiry@ocbcgreateasternpickleball.com.
- 2.6. The team's registration will be considered completed only when both the team leader and team member have completed the registration.

3. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- 3.1. The tournament is played in doubles format only. Teams may be formed in any gender combination (i.e. men's double, women's double, or mixed double) and may be playing against teams of any gender combination.
- 3.2. Teams will be randomly drawn into groups and will play two matches during the Group Stage. Top two (2) teams of each group will proceed to the Knockout Stage.
- 3.3. Group winners will be ranked in the following order to determine which team proceeds to the next round:
1. Number of matches won.
 2. Highest total score difference (TSD).
 3. Highest single match score difference (HSMD).
 4. Lowest single match point conceded (LSPC)
 5. 5-point tie-breaker match. (Where required, tie-breaker matches will be played after all matches in the respective category have been completed. Please refer to the indicative timings in Appendix B).

- 3.4. The Knockout Stage will progress as per the following:

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Round of 32</u>	<u>Round of 16</u>	<u>Quarter Finals</u>	<u>Semi Finals</u>	<u>Finals</u>
Bank of Singapore Invitational Championship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bank of Singapore Corporate Challenge		✓	✓	✓	✓
Novice (Public)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open (Public)		✓	✓	✓	✓

- 3.5. There shall be only one (1) time-out of 30 seconds per team per set.
- 3.6. Players are responsible for line calls throughout the tournament. From the Group Stage to the Quarter Finals, the matches will be managed by Singapore Pickle-ball

Association-appointed marshals to oversee the match proceedings, hinders, service and kitchen faults. The Semi-Finals onwards will be managed by Singapore Pickleball Association-appointed referees.

- 3.7. Tournament committee may at their sole discretion assign or add officials to oversee any match. This can be done before the match commences, and during the match.

4. MATCH PLAY AND SCORING SYSTEM

- 4.1. Before the start of each match, a coin toss will be conducted. The winner of the coin toss will decide the playing side or which team to serve first.
- 4.2. The tournament will adopt a rally scoring system, whereby the side that wins the rally will score a point as well as the right to serve. The first side that reaches the match point wins. Each side shall have only one serve before Side Out.
- 4.3. A point is awarded when the opposing team commits a fault – ball lands out of bounds, ball does not clear the net, player volleys in the kitchen, serving incorrectly and opponent fails to return the ball.
- 4.4. As long as the side holds serve, after scoring each point the server will alternate service from the right/even and left/odd sides of the court. There is no restriction on the position of the partners of the correct server and receiver as long as they are on their respective team's side of the net. They can be positioned on or off the court.
- 4.5. If the side's score is even (0, 2, 4 ...), the serve must be made from the right/even serving area and be received in the right/even service court by the opponent.
- 4.6. If the side's score is odd (1, 3, 5 ...), the serve must be made from the left/odd serving area and be received in the left/odd service court by the opponent.
- 4.7. The first team to reach the stated points below shall be the winner of the match

Matches	No. of Set(s)	Rally Scoring
Group Stage, Round of 32, Round of 16, Quarter Finals and Semi Finals	1 set	21 points (No deuce)
3 rd Place Playoff and Finals	Best of 3 sets	15 points (No deuce)

- 4.8. In matches with multiple sets, teams will switch sides at the end of every set.

5. CATEGORIES

5.1. Maximum capacities for each category are listed in the table below and will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

Category	Total Group	Total Team
Bank of Singapore Invitational Championship <i>Aged 13 and above</i>	8 groups	128 pairs
Bank of Singapore Corporate Challenge <i>Aged 18 and above</i>	16 groups	256 pairs
Novice (Public) <i>Aged 13 and above</i>	16 groups	256 pairs
Open (Public) <i>Aged 13 and above</i>	8 groups	128 pairs

5.2. Players must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for Bank of Singapore Corporate Challenge category:

5.2.1. Open to all employees of all companies.

5.2.2. Players will be required to produce satisfactory proof of employment on the day of the event during the check-in.

5.3. The Bank of Singapore Invitational Championship is a by-invite only category for clients of the OCBC Group.

5.4. Players must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for Novice category:

5.4.1. Less than 24 months of playing experience. (i.e. started playing on or after 27 July 2024)

5.4.2. Have not achieved top 3 finishes in any local / overseas pickleball tournament which are open to public and/or not kept within a private group, such as internal company-organised tournaments.

5.5. The Bank of Singapore Invitational Championship, Bank of Singapore Corporate Challenge and Open (Public) will consist of players of all skill level and experience.

5.6. Players that are found or reported to have contravened the rules will be disqualified from the tournament.

5.7. Teams/players who are found to have falsely declared their eligibility in any category will be removed from the tournament immediately. Subjected to competition proceedings, in situations when the tournament is ongoing, the scheduled matches of the disqualified team may be considered a walkover and the opponents will be

awarded the match, or the losing team from the match prior will progress instead. The prizes will only be fully issued to the winning teams after a one-week ratification period (ending on 1 November 2026) after the end of the prize presentation. No appeals or complaints on teams' eligibility after this date.

- 5.8. Subjected to the tournament proceedings, the organisers reserve the right to determine the suitable course of action and claw back prizes from teams under such circumstances.

6. APPROVED PADDLES

- 6.1. Any paddle bearing the USA Pickleball (USAP) or UPA-A approved paddle certification mark and currently listed in the respective approved paddle list shall be allowed for use. The use of any unapproved paddle is prohibited.
- 6.2. Counterfeit and paddles falsely bearing the USA Pickleball (USAP) and UPA-A Approved Paddle symbol shall not be allowed for use.
- 6.3. Regardless of the paddle design, paddles that do not have manufacturer or model names will be treated as unapproved, regardless if the paddle is marked with the logo.
- 6.4. Limited-edition or Co-branded paddles with different paddle graphics from the USAP or UPA-A Approved Paddle Listed Model shall be allowed subjected to the following,
- 6.4.1. The paddles are riding on model that is already listed on the USAP or UPA-A approved Paddle List and is launched by the Manufacturer of that specific model.
- 6.4.2. All technical specifications, such as dimensions, core and surface material etc, are identical to the approved model.
- 6.4.3. The only changes are cosmetic, such as graphics, colourway or additional logos.
- 6.4.4. The brand or manufacturer shall undertake that the limited-edition version is identical in construction to the originally approved model.
- 6.5. Players are advised to exercise diligence when making paddle purchases. Players may check for approved paddle listing on their official website:
USA Pickleball: <https://equipment.usapickleball.org/paddle-list/>.
UPA-A: <https://upaa.unitedpickleball.com/approved-paddles/>.
- 6.6. The use of any unapproved paddle in SPA sanctioned tournaments are strictly prohibited and will be subject to the applicable rules, unless otherwise stated as a concession in the specific Tournament's Rules and Regulations.

7. SCHEDULE

- 7.1. Please refer to Appendix B for tentative schedule. Schedule is subjected to changes following actual participations numbers and event day proceedings. Players are required to keep track of schedule updates and be prepared for any change in timings.
- 7.2. The allocated match time for each team during the Group Stage will be sent to the teams via email after the registration has closed. Please ensure to check both your inbox and spam folder regularly.
- 7.3. Players are required to report to the tournament venue to sign-in **60 minutes** before the allocated match time. A team will only be signed-in when both players are present.
- 7.4. Players are responsible to find out the match timings of the Knockout Stage, and adhere to the reporting time if they have progressed to the next stage. Information can be found on the event website.
- 7.5. Please be punctual and adhere to all administrative procedures to avoid any possibility of disqualification. Please refer to Appendix C for tournament flow.

8. PRIZES

- 8.1. The following table shows the prizes that will be given for each of the categories:

Category	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Bank of Singapore Invitational Championship	Trophy + Joola Paddle	Trophy + Joola Paddle	Trophy + Joola Paddle	Joola Paddle
Bank of Singapore Corporate Challenge	Trophy + Joola Paddle	Trophy + Joola Paddle	Trophy + Joola Paddle	Joola Paddle
Novice	\$900 Cash + Trophy + Hotel JEN Wellness Pass + Joola Paddle + Subaru Car Rental Credits	S\$600 Cash + Trophy + Joola Paddle	\$300 Cash + Trophy + Joola Paddle	Joola Paddle
Open	\$1,500 Cash + Trophy + Hotel JEN Wellness Pass + Joola Paddle + Subaru Car Rental Credits	\$1,000 Cash + Trophy + Joola Paddle	\$500 Cash + Trophy + Joola Paddle	Joola Paddle

- 8.2. All prize winners or nominated personnel must be present for the prize giving in neat attire (no singlet, slippers and sandals) to receive the prize. Failing which, the Organisers reserves the right not to award the medal, prize money, and trophy to the winner

9. **ADDITIONAL RULES**

- 9.1. The Organisers and Tournament Committee reserve the right to amend the rules and regulations or schedule the fixtures of the tournament as deemed fit. Players shall be informed before the competition, and such decisions shall be final
- 9.2. Falsified registrations shall be immediately deemed incomplete even if registration fees are paid. There shall be no refund and the slot shall be reopened for public registration again
- 9.3. Both team members must be present and report to the playing court **10 minutes** before the scheduled match time. For example, if an allocated match time is scheduled to start at 9.00am, both players must report to the playing court latest by 8.50am. A team reporting at 8.51am or later will be considered late.
- 9.4. Teams that are late may not be allowed to participate in the match and the match will be considered a Walkover. Walkover matches will be allocated a match score as follow:
- 9.4.1. Matches played to 21 points: 21 to 11 points
- 9.4.2. Matches played to 3 sets of 15 points: 2-0 set of 15 to 5 points per set
- 9.5. Players may be required to change inappropriate apparel and unapproved paddle, including clothing that closely matches the ball colour or displays offensive/unsuitable graphics or text, or paddles that do not comply with the tournament's equipment regulations. Players that do not adhere may not be allowed to continue with the match. Any player required to change apparel or replace equipment must comply with point 9.3 and return to the court before scheduled match time
- 9.6. Under any circumstances, the decisions of the tournament officials and organisers will be final and no appeals will be entertained
- 9.7. All players and spectators must adhere to the Restricted / Prohibited Items rules in Appendix D. Any person found carrying or using restricted or prohibited items may be required to remove or surrender such items. Failure to comply may result in denial of entry or removal from the venue

- 9.8. Smoking, vaping, and the consumption of alcoholic beverages are not permitted within the venue. Failure to comply may result in removal from the venue
- 9.9. All media or photographs taken in the Tournament will belong to the organisers and may be used for general publicity for the further promotion of the sport

Appendix A

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANT'S CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics follows the principles and guidelines set out by the Singapore Pickleball Association (updated: 9 Dec 2025)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Pickleball was created to be a fun, competitive, and highly social sport. It embodies an ethic of good sportsmanship that includes respect, fair play, and graciousness in winning and losing. We hope all players in Singapore will help promote these foundational values and maintain a positive environment for all
- 1.2. Ethics refers to the generally accepted norms of right or wrong behaviour, often based on universal values. Ethics is not about legality nor is it meant to be legalistic
- 1.3. Athletes during Tournament, due to the strong pressure to win, and exposure to the public, are potentially vulnerable to various forms of ethical issues and concerns
- 1.4. In order to maintain fair and reasonable standards of conduct by participants and players, to protect their respective rights, the rights of the public and the integrity and image of sport and that of pickleball, the Singapore Pickle-Ball Association has drawn up the Code of Ethics set out herein

2. RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL

- 2.1. Treat and respect everyone equally, regardless of race, language, religion, culture, gender or physical ability
- 2.2. Shall not use objectionable language directed at another person
- 2.3. Shall not use profanities of any sort (audible or visible) for any reason
- 2.4. Shall not argue aggressively with officiating team, opponents or spectators that disrupts in the flow of play
- 2.5. Shall not make taunts, threats or challenges of any nature toward or against any person
- 2.6. Shall not use ethnic, religious, racial, sexist or homophobic slurs

3. INTEGRITY IN ACTIONS AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- 3.1. Protects the image of Pickleball and Sports in general, such as avoiding making a scene in public view
- 3.2. Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others
- 3.3. Not disrupt the flow of play, e.g. taking time between rallies unnecessarily, repeatedly appealing line calls, challenging the referee's interpretation of a rule to lose the challenge subsequently, requesting for medical time out without a valid medical condition, etc
- 3.4. Not abuse the ball, purposely breaking or stepping on the ball

- 3.5. Shall not portray unsportsmanlike behaviour, such as making repeated questionable “OUT” calls that, are overruled by the Officiating Team
- 3.6. Always exhibiting “Best Effort”, that not deliberately playing down, defaulting, forfeiting or not giving best effort in matches, whether for their own benefit or otherwise

4. SAFETY

- 4.1. Consider the safety of other participants, spectators and general public in the same venue space
- 4.2. Shall not aggressively or recklessly throw a paddle, or striking a ball in frustration or anger, with negligent disregard of the consequences
- 4.3. Shall not strike any other person, damage or vandalise venue property and fixtures
- 4.4. Shall not get into fights, or cause injury to player, official or spectator at any time during the tournament
- 4.5. Shall not spit or cough on a person

5. PROHIBITIONS

- 5.1. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly not allowed in the venue

6. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CIVIC-MINDEDNESS

- 6.1. Dispose waste in proper manner and keep the tournament venue clean
- 6.2. Shall not damage or vandalise venue property and fixtures

Appendix B

Tournament Schedule (****IMPORTANT**** Schedule is subject to changes on event day. Players are required to keep track of schedule updates and be prepared for any change in timings)

Group Stage (Friday and Saturday)

Date	Time	Matches	Categories
Fri, 23 Oct	0800 – 1200	Group Stage	Bank of Singapore Invitational Championship
	1200 – 1230	Tie-Breaker Match	
	1230 – 2030	Group Stage	Bank of Singapore Corporate Challenge
	2030 – 2100	Tie-Breaker Match	
Sat, 24 Oct	0800 – 1600	Group Stage	Novice (Public)
	1600 – 1630	Tie-Breaker Match	
	1630 – 2030	Group Stage	Open (Public)
	2030 – 2100	Tie-Breaker Match	

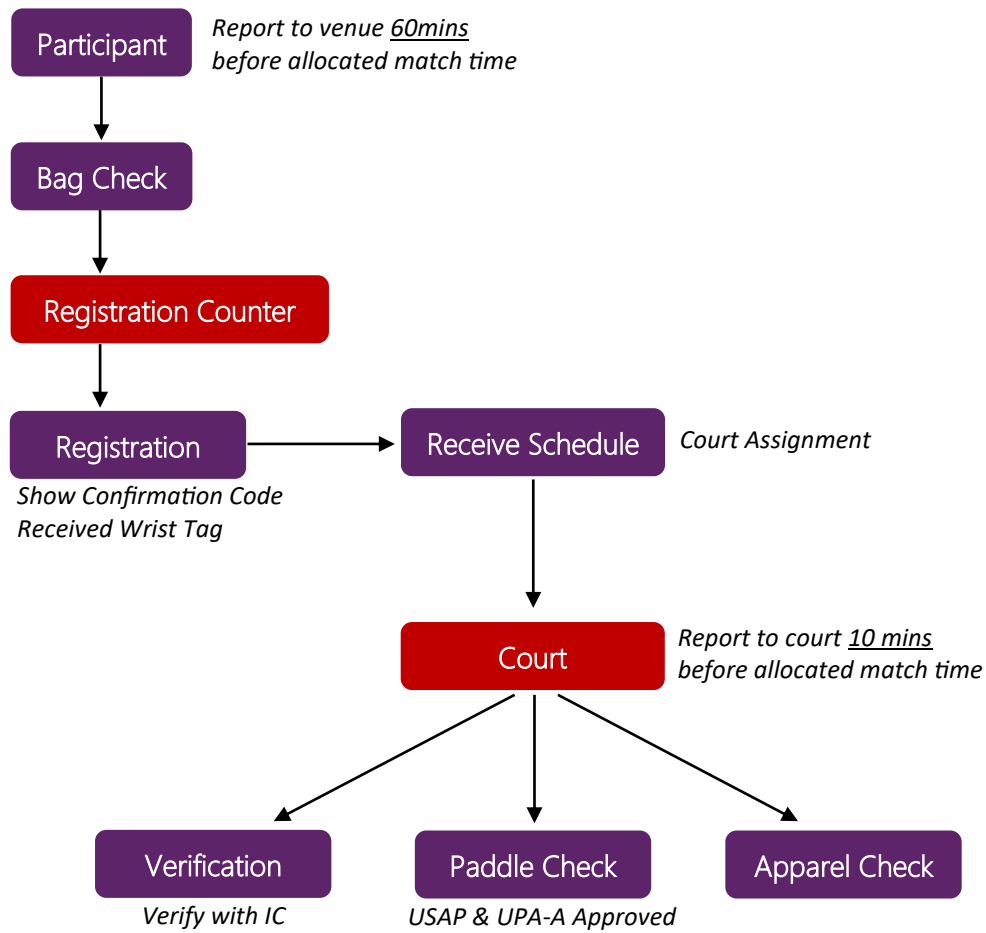
***Actual match times for each team will be sent via email to all teams.**

Knockout Stage (Sunday, 25 October)

Time	Matches	Categories	
0800 – 0830	Round of 32	Bank of Singapore Corporate Challenge	-
0845 – 0915	Round of 16		Bank of Singapore Invitational Championship
0930 – 1000	Quarter-Finals		
1015 – 1045	Semi-Finals		
1100 – 1145	Finals		
Prizes Presentation			
1300 – 1330	Round of 32	Novice (Public)	-
1345 – 1415	Round of 16		Open (Public)
1430 – 1500	Quarter-Finals		
1515 – 1545	Semi-Finals		
1600 – 1645	Finals		
Prizes Presentation			

Appendix C

Tournament Flow



Appendix D

Restricted / Prohibited Items

The following restricted/prohibited items are not permitted into the Venue:

1. Weapons, or resemblance of weapons, including but not limited to knives, firearms, blunt offensive objects/batons and those with sharp ends
2. Fireworks/flares
3. Laser pointers
4. Illegal substances including controlled, dangerous or illicit drugs
5. Electronic cigarette, vape, vape pens and any related device
6. Glassware or glass bottles
7. Cans or spray cans
8. Outside food and beverage including alcohol
9. Bicycles, skateboards, skates and scooters
10. Helmets of any types
11. Chairs or stools
12. Animals (other than trained assistance dogs)
13. Musical instruments and noise makers including but not limited to drums, whistles, vuvuzelas, air horns and loud hailers without the prior consent of the Organizer
14. Projectile items which are reasonably considered by the organizer as being able to cause injury, nuisance or offence to another person including balls, frisbees, rackets or similar objects
15. Banners or flags larger than 1m x 2m which have not been pre-approved for the Event
16. LED and fan boards larger than 42cm x 29.7cm (ie. A3 sized) which have not been pre-approved for the Event
17. Flag poles
18. Helium balloons or other inflatables
19. Glow / light sticks longer than 40cm which have not been pre-approved for the Event
20. Tripods, monopods and selfie sticks
21. Remote control cars, drones or unmanned aerial vehicles and
22. Other items as determined by the Organizer that may cause injury or public nuisance.