

2023 Maryland Senior Olympics Pickleball Tournament

May 18-20, 2022

Montgomery TennisPlex, Boyds, MD 20841

**** We have published brackets and schedules****

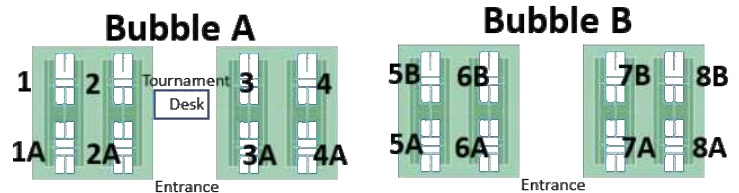
While we are very confident in our planning, the schedule is subject to change

The MDSO Tournament committee has dedicated themselves to a goal of accommodating as many athletes as possible while providing a quality experience for athletes and volunteers.

Although this is not a “Qualifying” year, we are expecting 500+ athletes from 10 different states to play over 900 matches. We will have access to 16 indoor courts in Bubbles 1 and 2 for all days and partial use to the outdoor courts. (Weather permitting)

Please see below layout of the courts:

- **Bubble A: Courts 1,1A,2,2A,3,3A,4,4A**
- **Bubble B: Courts 5A,5B,6A,6B,7A,7B,8A,8B**
- **Outdoor: Courts 1-8**
- Courts will be numbered, and poster boards will be at bubbles identifying bracket assignments.




Play Format:

- Day 1: May 18 Thursday: Men’s Doubles and Women’s Singles
- Day 2: May 19 Friday: Mixed Doubles
- Day 3: May 20 Saturday: Women’s Doubles and Men’s Singles
- **In case of rain or inclement weather:**
For outdoor events held on Thursday and Saturday, if weather prevents us from holding these events, they will be added to the indoor sessions at the end of that day (time permitting). All remaining events played that day (indoor and outdoor) will have their scoring adjusted to one game to 11 win by 1 for all matches, except for the Gold and Bronze matches which will be one game to 11 win by 2.
- By Age Bracket and Skill Level (D1 or D2) Tournament Director reserves the right to combine age brackets of skill levels. Medals will, however, be awarded by registered skill level and age bracket.
- Doubles:
 - Pool Play games will be 1 game to 15, win by 1. Gold and Bronze matches will be 1 game to 15 win by 2.
- Singles:
 - Pool Play games will be 1 game to 11, win by 1. Gold and Bronze medal matched will be 1 game to 11 win by 2.
- Round Robin play with pools. Top 2 teams in each pool will advance to a playoff.
- Tournament Director reserves the right to modify play.

SIGNIFICANT RULE CHANGES FOR 2023

Key points of the 2023 USA Pickleball rules are summarized below for your convenience. However, as a player, you are responsible for being familiar with the rules in their entirety.

- Please note there will be no referees, please resolve any issues at the lowest level:
 - Players
 - Court monitor
 - Bubble monitor
 - Tournament director
 - **Apparel (2.G.1/2.G.4)** Inappropriate apparel may now include apparel that approximates the color of the tournament ball. Section 1 encourages players to avoid wearing apparel that approximates the color of the ball. The Tournament Director retains the right to require an apparel change during a non-chargeable time-out. We will be using the Yellow Joola Primo ball. Please do not wear a yellow shirt that is similar in color. 
 - **Spin Serve (4.A.5)** Manipulating the ball to add spin during the release of the ball is not allowed. Some natural rotation of the ball when it is released is allowable, but the server must not impart manipulation or spin prior to striking the ball to serve. This applies to the volley serve and the drop serve.
 - **Replay or Fault on the Serve (4.A.6/4.A.9)** The referee has the authority to immediately stop play and order a replay if the referee is not certain that one more required elements of a serve have been met. The referee will call an immediate fault if a serve clearly violates one or more of the requirements. The intent is to induce players to adjust their serve so that it clearly and obviously meets all requirements.
 - **Player Questions about Correct Server, Receiver or Positions (4.B.8)** Player questions about correct server, receiver or position remain allowed before the serve is hit. A generic question by the server such as “Am I good?” is considered to encapsulate both the correct server question and the correct position question, and the referee will answer both questions. In non-officiated play, a player may ask the opponent the same questions and the opponent must respond with the appropriate information.
 - **Wrong Score Called (4.K)** 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.
 - **Equipment Time-Out (10.D)** Players are not required to use a regular time-out for equipment adjustments or changes necessary for fair and safe continuation of the match. The referee will call an equipment time-out of a reasonable duration.
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- Players may quickly hydrate and towel off between rallies within the pace of the game.
 - Players may only receive coaching from someone other than their partner during a time-out. This includes between games and during end changes.
 - Each team has two 1-minute (standard) time-outs per 15-point game
 - Time-outs for a game may be requested and used during the between game time-out before the game begins.
 - Any player may call a time-out before the server hits the ball to serve.

- In games to 15 points, teams have a 1-minute time-out to change ends of the court (at 8 points, respectively).
- Each player may request one medical time-out per match to address injuries and medical conditions. When a player requests a medical time-out, medical personnel (or the Tournament Director) will be summoned to assess whether the need is valid. If the request is deemed not valid, the requesting player will be charged a standard time-out (if available) and issued a technical warning. If the player has no remaining time-outs, a technical foul will be issued (resulting in a 1-point score adjustment).
- In accordance with the USA Pickleball Concussion Protocol, any player sustaining a head injury will not be permitted to resume play without a written release from a licensed health care professional.
- Players are expected to always exhibit good sportsmanship. Any action deemed by the referee to be unsportsmanlike will result in a technical warning or a technical foul against the offending player. A game will be forfeited if the player or team receives a combination of technical warnings and technical fouls equivalent to three technical warnings during a match. The match will be forfeited if the equivalent of four technical warnings is obtained.
- All athletes must sign in each day at the MSO Registration Tent and the tournament desk in Bubble A.
- As we are playing Round Robin play with pool format, all efforts are being made to keep you in an assigned, 4 court pod and/or bubble. We WILL **NOT** be texting you messages about court assignment. It is your or team responsibility to be available for court assignment. You have 10 minutes from notification by court monitor to be present to play. If you are playing doubles, both partners must be present to play.
- Each Bubble will have a Bubble Monitor and Court Monitors to maintain the pace of play.
- Warmups prior to each game will be no longer than 3 minutes.
- Please ensure that you stay properly hydrated. We will provide 1 bottle of water during your daily check in. Players are responsible for their food and beverages.
- We are planning to have an athletic trainer on site.
- There will be porta pottys on site in the front parking lot and between the bubbles.
- Players and spectators must bring chairs for their personal use as we only have sufficient chairs for athletes who are currently playing.