

2025 TVPBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES & ETIQUETTE

The 2025 TVPBC Open Championship tournament will follow the rules for regular and tournament play as outlined in the [2025-USA-Pickleball-Rulebook.pdf](#). Click on that hyperlink to view the document. However, there are some additional guidelines during this tournament that are outlined in the guidelines and etiquette indicated below.

1. TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE: Players should register for the tournament at their appropriate skill level. Players are allowed to register and play one skill level higher during the tournament but are expected to not play at a lower skill level.
2. TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE: Players in a team must register together in one age group bracket. If players in a team are not in the same age group bracket for registration, then each player in the team must register in the age group bracket of the younger player.

NOTE: A player's age for registration and play in the tournament is based on his/her age on December 31st of the calendar year for the tournament. Pickleball Den calculates the player's age based on this policy.

3. TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE: Players should arrive 30 minutes prior to scheduled game to allow time for check-in and briefing.
 - a. A 5 digit code will be required and must be entered on your smartphone to properly check in. This code can be obtained at the computer tent.
 - b. A short briefing will be conducted in front of the computer tent 15 minutes prior to release of each bracket.
 - c. Failure to appear within 5 minutes of when their bracket is released and begins may result in a forfeit for that game.
4. TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE: When the teams arrive at their scheduled court for their scheduled match, they will be afforded a maximum of a 5-minute warm-up, if desired. If you are on a bye or have extended time between matches due to lack of a court or opponent, you are allowed to warm up on an empty court if one is available. However, you **MUST** vacate the court if players show up ready to play a tournament match.

2025 TVPBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES & ETIQUETTE

5. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: Each team will be afforded a 2-minute time-out during each game, if desired.
6. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: If a time-out is taken and players leave the court, all players should place their paddle on the court in the position they will be standing for the next point. The player to serve should also place the ball under his/her paddle. This will prevent any confusion as to who will be serving and where each player will be after returning from the time-out.
7. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: If a team calls the ball “out”, the call will stand. Players should not call a ball out “unless they can clearly see a space between the line and the ball as it hits the ground.”
8. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: If a team is indecisive or unsure whether a ball is “out”, then the ball will be considered “in”.
9. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: During the game, if the ball flies into an adjacent court, call out “BALL” loud enough to alert the adjacent court. If this happens in the middle of a rally in the adjacent court, play will stop and the service will be replayed. This is to prevent any possible injury due to a stray ball.
10. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: Prior to each game, Pickleball Den will randomly designate a team as “First Choice”. This means that designated team will have a choice of serving/receiving first or a choice of side of court. Once that choice is made, the remaining team will have the remaining choice.
 - d. For example, if the team designated as “First Choice” chooses to serve first, then the remaining team gets their choice of side of court to begin play.
10. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: During each game, players **will** switch sides when the first team to score six points has occurred.
11. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: We have designated each regular game to go to 11 win-by-1 point. Any Gold/Silver/Bronze games will be to 11 win-by-2 points. The exact format for play will be displayed in your bracket in Pickleball Den for your particular game.

2025 TVPBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES & ETIQUETTE

12. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: After each match, the winning team will immediately enter the scores in the Pickleball Den application on their smartphone.
 - e. The losing team will verbally confirm the accuracy of the scores before the scores are officially submitted.
 - f. Pickleball Den allows for a 5 minute “rest” delay before texting the player the next match and location. This delay may be longer if a court or opponent is unavailable at the time.

13. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: All players are expected to show up for their next match within 10 minutes of receiving the text detailing their next match. Failure to show up for your next match within this timeframe may result in a forfeit.

14. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: If a player experiences an injury during a tournament game/match, that player may take one (1) injury/medical time-out for a maximum of 15 minutes to determine whether that player can continue his/her game/match.
 - g. If the injured player is unable to continue the game/match within that time frame, then that team will forfeit the game/match.
 - h. REMEMBER, this is just a game and not worth a serious injury.

15. **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINE**: Forfeits will be handled in the following manner:
 - i. If a team forfeits a game prior to the game starting, then the score submitted will be 11-0 in favor of the opposing team.
 - j. If a team forfeits a game after the game begins, then the score submitted will be 11 for the opposing team and the existing score at the time of the forfeit for the forfeiting team.

16. **TOURNAMENT ETIQUETTE**: Depending on the number of teams in a bracket, some teams may experience a “bye” for a short period of time as Pickleball Den optimizes play. This “bye” is normally due to the lack of an available court or opponents. Please be patient in this regard as most “byes” will be less than 15 minutes.

17. **TOURNAMENT ETIQUETTE**: Players should make their own calls, respectfully resolve any disputes, and ignore any input from spectators. Spectators will be instructed to let the players play their game, make their own calls, and resolve any disputes.

2025 TVPBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES & ETIQUETTE

18. **TOURNAMENT ETIQUETTE:** There will be Court Monitors (identified with yellow hats or visors) floating around the courts to help with any Pickleball Den issues. If they are unable to resolve the issue, there will be someone at the Computer Tent that should be able to help. Please be respectful to these Court Monitors as they are there ***only*** to help with Pickleball Den issues and are ***not*** referees, enforcers, or judges.

NOTE: The Tournament Director (or his/her designee) will be the final authority for any disputes or enforcements during the tournament.