



Competition Regulations

1. Purpose, Scope & Definitions

1.1. Purpose

These Competition Regulations govern participation, tournament procedures, scoring, and disciplines of the RTA Pickleball Tour (hereinafter “RTA”).

1.2. Scope

Applies to all fully sanctioned RTA tournaments (RTA2000, RTA1000 and RTA500) but not to RTA Amateur Tournaments.

1.3. Definitions

- **RTA Ranking:** 52-week points list of the RTA per category and overall
- **RTA Road:** Calendar-year ranking for qualification to the RTA Finals Event per category including the results from the previous year’s RTA Finals
- **DUPR:** External performance ratings; may serve as additional criteria (not replacing the RTA Ranking).

2. Tournament Categories, Draw Sizes & Formats

2.1. Categories and Draw Sizes:

- **RTA 2000 (2000 points):** all divisions: 32 teams
- **RTA 1000 (1000 points):** Women ´s Singles: 16 players; Men ´s Singles: 24 players; Women ´s Doubles: 16 teams; Men ´s Doubles: 24 teams; Mixed Doubles: 32 teams
- **RTA 500 (500 points):** all divisions: 32 teams

2.2. Tournament Format:

- All tournaments are played in a **Double Elimination format**. The Loser Bracket is played only up to 3rd place.
- All tournaments play Singles divisions on Friday, Gender Doubles on Saturday and Mixed Doubles on Sunday.

2.3. Match Formats:

- **Winner Bracket:** Best-of-3 games to 11, win by 2, change sides after the 1st and 2nd game, and in the third game after one side reaches 6 points.
- **Loser Bracket:** Best-of-3 games to 7, win by 2, golden point at 9, Side changes after each game and in the third game after one side reaches 4 points.
- Match format at the RTA Finals may be different.

2.4. Rules & Equipment:

- Play follows the currently valid **official Pickleball rules (USA Pickleball)** combined with RTA modifications (see section 10).
- For court requirements, please see the venue requirements
- All RTA tournaments in 2026 must use the official RTA ball

3. Entry & Registration

3.1. Eligibility

- RTA player registration with a verified profile on Tournated including identification.
- Valid association membership is not required unless specifically requested by the event.
- Players must be at least 14 years old as of the tournament start date.

3.2. Disciplines & Pairings

- Singles (M/F), Doubles (M/F), Mixed.
- Doubles/Mixed: Partnerships must be declared by the entry deadline; partner changes thereafter only in accordance with section 5.3.

3.3. Entry Channels

Online registration via the RTA portal (Tournated app or website). Written/email submissions are only allowed in case of system failure (timestamp decisive).

3.4. Deadlines

- Registration for 1000 and 2000 events: Phase 1 – from the release of the tour calendar
- Registration for 500 events: Phase 1 – T-112 (16 weeks)
- For all tournament categories:
 - Phase 2: T-56 (8 weeks)
 - Phase 3: T-28 (4 weeks)
 - Withdrawal Deadline: T-14 (18:00 CET)
 - Entry Deadline: T-14 (18:00 CET)
 - Freeze / Seeding Cutoff / WC Confirmation: T-10 (18:00 CET)
 - Draw publication: T-7 (18:00 CET)
 - Tournament start: T-0
 - Updated rankings: T+1

3.5. Acceptance Order

1. RTA 52 Week Ranking (event-specific: Singles / Doubles / Mixed)
2. RTA Year-To-Date (event-specific: Singles / Doubles / Mixed)
3. DUPR Ranking (event-specific: Singles / Doubles)
4. Wild Cards (see 5.1)
5. Tournament Director

3.6. Entry Fees

RTA Category €

2000	70
1000	60
500	50

3.7. Refund Policy

- Full refund if withdrawal occurs before the end of Phase 1.
- 50% refund until the end of Phase 2.
- 25% refund until withdrawal deadline.
- Platform fees are not refundable, regardless of time of notice
- All fees and prizes are in € and include domestic VAT, Platform Fee and Stripe Fee.

4. Rankings & Points Allocation

4.1. Overall Ranking

The Overall Ranking sums all points earned across all events and displays the total accumulated points.

4.2. 52-Week Ranking

Rankings are maintained separately for each discipline. Points drop out of the ranking after one year (calendar year).

4.3. RTA Year-To-Date Ranking

All points earned within a calendar year in the individual categories are summed. This ranking determines invitations to the **RTA Finals in St. Anton am Arlberg** at the end of each calendar year.

4.4. Points Freeze

Acceptance and seeding are based on the ranking at the Freeze Date (FD).

4.5. Points per Placement

- A Bye does not count as a win.
- Generally, players who have not won a match receive no points.

4.5.1. RTA Finals (APC – Arlberg Pickleball Championship)

Placement	Points
Winner	600
Finalist	400
3rd	300
4th	250
5th	100
6th	75
7th	25
8th	0

4.5.2. RTA 2000 / 1000 / 500

	2000	1000	500
Placement	Points	Points	Points
Winner	2000	1000	500
Finalist	1300	650	325
3rd	1000	500	250
4th	800	400	200
5th–6th	450	225	113
7th–8th	350	175	88
9th–12th	250	125	63
13th–16th	150	75	38
17th–24th	75	38	19
25th–32nd	0	0	0

4.6. Doubles / Mixed Points

- Points are awarded per player.
- Team seeding is based on the sum of individual rankings (see section 6).

4.7. Inactivity / Expiry

Points drop 52 weeks after allocation (“drop off”).

4.8. Special Cases

- Walkover before the first ball: no points awarded to the beneficiary in that round.
- Withdrawal after match start: points from the achieved round remain.

5. Wild Cards, Protected Ranking

5.1. Wild Cards (WC)

- Maximum per event: 2 WCs Singles / 2 WCs Doubles (2×2 = 4 total) / 2 WCs Mixed (2×2 = 4 total) – decided by RTA.
- Criteria (examples): emerging talents, comebacks, local heroes, media value, international diversity, RTA Amateur event winners.

5.2. WC Amateur Event Process

- WC Tournament held 2–4 weeks before the respective RTA Tournament – winning team/player receives WC for the respective discipline.
- WC Panel: Tournament Director by RTA.
- Transparent publication until Freeze Date (FD).

5.3. Partner Changes (Doubles / Mixed)

- Permitted until FD if the new partner meets entry criteria.
- After FD, only permitted for injury or force majeure and requires approval from the RTA Tournament Director.

6. Seeding & Draws

6.1. Seeding

1. RTA 52 Week Ranking (event-specific: Singles / Doubles / Mixed)
2. RTA Year-To-Date Ranking (event-specific: Singles / Doubles / Mixed)
3. DUPR Ranking (event-specific: Singles / Doubles)
4. Wild Cards (see 5.1)
5. Tournament Director

6.2. Doubles / Mixed Seeding

- Sum of the partners' individual rankings.
- If equal, same tiebreak as above.

6.3. Draw Procedure

- Conducted by the RTA in cooperation with the Tournament Director.
- Published no later than 7 days before tournament starts (T-7).

6.4. Byes

Awarded to highest seeded players if the draw size is not fully occupied.

7. Match Regulations

7.1. Call Time

- Players must report to the court 10 minutes before scheduled match time.
- If players are not at the court 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time, the match is forfeit

7.2. Timeouts

- Timeouts are generally 60 seconds
- Upper bracket: One timeout per game per player (singles) or team (doubles)
- Lower bracket: One timeout per match per player (singles) or team (doubles)
- Medical Timeouts according to USAPA Official Rulebook

8. Officiating, Discipline & Appeals

- According to latest official USA Pickleball Rulebook.
- Neutral referees must be on court for medal matches.

9. Tournament Organization

9.1. Prize Money Distribution

- Paid in cash or via bank transfer within 14 days of tournament completion.
- Receivers are responsible for complying with local tax laws.

9.2. Cancellation

- If a tournament is canceled prior to commencement:
 - 100% refund of entry fees (excl. platform and payment fees)
- If cancelled after commencement:
 - Points awarded for completed rounds
 - Prize money only paid for completed rounds

9.3. Media Rights

- All players grant the RTA and tournament organizers the right to use image, name, and match recordings for media, livestream, and promotional purposes.

9.4. Fair Play

- Players are asked to hold highest standards in fair play and mutual respect on and off the court.

10. Modifications to Official Rules

- RTA uses the current **USA Pickleball Rulebook** as a foundation.
- RTA reserves the right to introduce trial rules (e.g., no-let serve, shot-clock) with prior notice.

11. Player Commitments

- All players commit to the full division schedule once signed up. Failure to take part in all rounds, except health-related issues, may result in penalties, subject to RTA.
 - Loss of points
 - Loss of prize money
 - Suspension for upcoming divisions or events
- All medalists must attend the award ceremony.
- All finalists must be available for media content.
- Failure to comply may result in fines or point deductions.

12. Safety, Insurance & Liability

- Players participate at their own risk.
- Organizers provide first-aid kit on-site.
- Players are required to have valid health and accident insurance.
- Players arrive at the events fit to engage in high performance activities.
- The RTA assumes no liability for injuries, theft, or damages.

13. Final Provisions

- These Competition Regulations may be amended by the RTA
- Jurisdiction: Zurich, Switzerland.