



# Pickleball Australia Association

## **Tournament Sanctioning Policy**

Feb\_2024



## Contents

<a href="#">Document Brief and Purpose</a>	1
<a href="#">Principles</a>	1
<a href="#">Tournament Tiers</a>	1
<a href="#">Criteria for PAA Sanctioned and PAA Recognised Tournaments</a>	2
<a href="#">Further Tournament Options</a>	4
<a href="#">Gaining Recognition or Sanctioned Status</a>	4
<a href="#">Benefits of Sanctioning</a>	4
<a href="#">Officiating Expenses</a>	5

## Document Brief and Purpose

The Pickleball Association of Australia (PAA) aims to provide an effective method to implement a set of criteria for tournaments. This document affirms our belief in the value of competitive play and recognition of the sporting elite, while also ensuring avenues for competitive play for all skill levels. The outline clarifies the expected standards for hosting PAA recognised and PAA sanctioned tournaments. PAA encourages the organisation of tournaments by their affiliates.

The purpose of the guidelines are:

1. To provide affiliates with standards for all tournaments.
2. To assist the Australian pickleball community in hosting their own competitive events.
3. To establish fair guidelines for Australian player rankings and ratings.
4. To encourage and facilitate competitive events in Australia.
5. To maintain an equitable standard of competitive pickleball events.

## Principles

PAA recognises the following core principles for establishment of the tournament criteria guidelines.

- Tournaments are a central component for the development of pickleball as a recognised sport in Australia.
- Tournaments provide a venue for players of all skill levels to come together to celebrate the sport of pickleball and make new connections in the Australian pickleball player community.
- It is essential that support is provided to clubs and associations willing to take on the challenge of running a sanctioned tournament.
- There needs to be a clear set of guidelines and continuously improving guides to enable both effective support and efficient conduct of tournaments.
- To ensure players enjoy and benefit from involvement in a tournament through establishment and maintenance of a clear player rating and ranking system.

## Tournament Tiers:

Tier 1 – Recognised;

Tier 2 – Local/ Regional run event;

Tier 3 – State Event;

Tier 4 – National Event.

Hosts can request recognition of a Tier above their own and this will be considered.



## Criteria for PAA Sanctioned and PAA Recognised Tournaments

CRITERIA	SANCTIONED	RECOGNISED
<b>Equipment</b>		
Tournament Software	Pickleball Brackets (compulsory)	Pickleball Brackets (encouraged)
Paddles	USAPA approved	USAPA approved
Balls	Franklin supplied <i>unless not chosen by TD</i>	Appropriate for the venue's surface.
Court Markings	Painted and/or Tape. Line width +/-3mm IFP recommended	Painted, tape and/or chalk.
Rules	USAPA Rulebook – International Edition	USAPA Rulebook – International Edition
<b>Officials</b>		
Tournament Coordinator	Organises the tournament prior to the close of registration. (May also be the director)	
Tournament Director	Non-participant director*	Preferred non-participant or a team
Tournament Referee#	Non-participant referee^ Head Referees must have the following minimum PA referee accreditation status: o Tier 4 (National) – Level 3 o Tier 3 (State) – Level 3 o Prize Money Tournaments – Level 3 o Tier 2 (Regional) – Level 2 o Tier 1 (Recognised) – Level 2	Preferred non-participant
Referees#	Compulsory for finals (Tiers 2, 3 & 4) – Gold, Silver, Bronze matches. Encouraged for other events Referees to be at least Level 1 PA accredited.	Encouraged for finals to help build the pool of referees available
<b>Additional Services</b>		
First Aid	Non-playing First Aid and CPR Qualified Professional or Volunteer required. 1 for every 200 players on that day.	
<b>Participants</b>		
Number of participants	Minimum 50 participants Open to all PAA members	No minimum
Participant status	PAA membership <small>International Participants must get PAA International membership</small>	PAA membership
Participant Age	Age as at 31st December of the given year	Age as at 31st December of the given year
<b>Event Details</b>		
Event Awards	Gold, Silver and Bronze medals unless only 2 teams in a division	Gold Silver and Bronze medallions where applicable/ possible/ affordable
Minimum notice of event	Tier 2 – 2 months Tier 3 – 3 months Tier 4 – 6 months	1 month
Minimum number of games per event	2 min but encouraged where possible provide 3	No minimum requirement
Event formats & scoring	There are 4 tournament formats that may be used <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single Elimination with Consolation Bracket</li> <li>• Double Elimination</li> <li>• Triple Elimination</li> <li>• Round Robin</li> </ul> These can be used on their own or in combination.	



	<p>PA preferred formats are:</p> <p><b>Open Events – Double Elimination</b> Each match will be best of 3 games, first to 11, win by 2. Backdraw games will be first to 15, win by 2.</p> <p><b>All other events – Round Robin leading to single elimination.</b> Round Robin matches will be First to 15, win by 2, if there are 5 or less players/teams in the pool . First to 11, win by 2, if there are 6 or more players/teams in the pool. Semi finals will be first to 15, win by 2. Medal matches will be best of 3 games, first to 11, win by 2.</p>
<b>Competition Events</b>	The following is a general guide_ events can be collapsed by TD as required.
Divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para CoEd Doubles</li> <li>• Hybrid Para CoEd Doubles</li> <li>• Wheelchair Singles</li> <li>• Para-Standing Singles</li> <li>• Men’s Doubles</li> <li>• Women’s Doubles</li> <li>• Mixed Doubles</li> <li>• Men’s Singles</li> <li>• Women’s Singles</li> <li>• Men’s Skinny Singles</li> <li>• Women’s Skinny Singles</li> </ul>
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 and Under (Juniors) ^^</li> <li>• 19+</li> <li>• 35+</li> <li>• 50+</li> <li>• 60+</li> <li>• 70+</li> <li>• OPEN</li> </ul>
Skill Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OPEN</li> <li>• 4.0 +</li> <li>• 3.5 to 3.99</li> <li>• 3.0 to 3.49</li> <li>• 2.5 to 2.99</li> <li>• Under 2.5</li> </ul>
Combination Events	Combining ages and/ or skill levels is an acceptable approach for all tournaments. This affords flexibility for the tournament director when managing numbers.

\*There can be different directors on different days of the tournament but the director must not be playing in an event when they are running the tournament.

^There can be different head referees on different days of the tournament but a head referee must not be playing in an event when they are the head referee of the tournament.

#Refer to the Officiating Fees & Expenses exert (on page 5) from the PA Officiating Policy\_Feb 2024 with regards to expenses and stipends for referees.

^^ Junior events may be adjusted at the Tournament Director’s discretion to suit the needs of the competitors.



## Further Tournament Options

There are a number of other event divisions that will be considered for sanctioning / recognition. These include:

- Gender Neutral event – where the gender of doubles partners is not considered only consideration is skill level
- Inclusive event – Tournaments for people with a disability OR combined events where one partner is able bodied.
- Themed events – eg Combined Age =partners age adds to >95 years

## Gaining PA Sanctioned or Recognised Status

Clubs, state associations and affiliates wishing to hold a sanctioned or recognised tournament are required to complete the “Application for 2024 PA sanctioned or recognised tournament”. The application requires information which ensures the tournament coordinator is thoroughly prepared and that the PAA is clear that the criteria has been met and is able to support it when requested.

To apply to hold a PA sanctioned or recognised tournament in 2024, please email [tournaments@pickleballaus.org](mailto:tournaments@pickleballaus.org) for a form to be emailed to the tournament coordinator.

## Benefits of Sanctioning or Recognition

BENEFITS	SANCTIONED	RECOGNISED
Inclusion on PAA Annual Calendar and website	?	?
Advertising on PAA social media – sanctioned events will receive a higher profile than recognised events	?	?
Advertising via email, newsletters and other media options.	?	
Access to PAA Sponsorship opportunities	?	
Individual results in AR events credited to National ranking	?	
Individual results credited to PAA brackets rating (if PBB used)	?	?
Technical support from PAA	?	
Payment of tournament software setup costs	?	
Reduced PBB tournament fee per player	?	if PBB used
Provision and support with approved formats	?	
Registered players covered by PAA insurance policy	?	?
Access to PA accredited officials	?	
Franklin Balls supplied	?	
Connection with discounted tape supplier	?	?



#The following is an excerpt from the Pickleball Australia Officiating Policy \_Feb 2024

## REFEREE FEE & EXPENSES SCHEDULE for Sanctioned Tournaments

### Tournament Head Referee Expenses

Air/Transport Accommodation Meals	At Cost. Referees are expected to demonstrate discipline with respect to expenses incurred. By way of example (and not an exhaustive list); air flights are to be booked on a “discount economy” basis where available. Accommodation is expected to be of a moderate not extravagant standard.
Mileage	ATO Rate

### **Compensation for Time:**

\$150 per four (4) hours, or part thereof, bracket of time. By way of example, a 7-hour time commitment, compensation would be \$300.

### Referees Expenses

Interstate Travel Required	\$250 per day appointed
Regional Intrastate Travel Required	\$150 per day appointed
Within Same City Travel Required	\$50 per day appointed

### **Compensation for Time:**

\$100 per four (4) hours, or part thereof, bracket of time. By way of example, a 7-hour time commitment, compensation would be \$200.