



CARVANA

Junior

PFA

PICKLEBALL TOUR

POWERED BY

proton

# 2026 HANDBOOK

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# WELCOME TO JUNIOR PPA!

Junior PPA is a campaign dedicated to fostering youth pickleball players through competition events, development opportunities, and social activity. Junior PPA offers a spotlight for youth athletes around the world to showcase their talents, develop physical and mental skills, and compete against other top juniors in the rising community of pickleball. Junior PPA events will transpire alongside certain stops of the Carvana PPA Tour, where the top professional pickleball players in the world play.





## OUR MISSION

At Junior PPA, our mission is to promote, encourage, and advance youth pickleball by creating opportunities for athletes 18 years of age and under to compete, learn, and grow in a positive and fun environment. The Junior PPA's approach is intended to strengthen the skill set, health, and character of youth, as well as the culture of youth pickleball.

## OUR VISION

We strive to be committed to youth development while encouraging continued participation in the community of pickleball. We hope to use our resources, platform, and passion to inspire the next generation of pickleball athletes.

# JUNIOR PPA TOUR

Compete against the top junior pickleball players around the country in traditional competition events, where you will have the opportunity to showcase your talents, refine your skill set, and #PlayWhereTheProsPlay.



# COMPETITION EVENTS

## DIVISIONS

- Boys Singles 18U
  - Boys Singles 16U
  - Boys Singles 14U
  - Boys Singles 12U
  - Girls Singles 18U
  - Girls Singles 16U
  - Girls Singles 14U
  - Girls Singles 12U
- 
- Boys Doubles 18U
  - Boys Doubles 16U
  - Boys Doubles 14U
  - Boys Doubles 12U
  - Girls Doubles 18U
  - Girls Doubles 16U
  - Girls Doubles 14U
  - Girls Doubles 12U
- 
- Junior Mixed Doubles 18U
  - Junior Mixed Doubles 16U
  - Junior Mixed Doubles 14U
  - Junior Mixed Doubles 12U

## REFEREES

Referees will be guaranteed for all medal matches and provided upon availability for all other matches. Players can always request referees before or even during matches if not initially assigned.

## OFFICIAL BALL

LT Pro 48



# FORMAT

## **Junior PPA Events with 7 Teams or more (7+ players for singles) will play the following format:**

Doubles Elimination with No Come-Around (i.e. if a team loses a match, the best they can do from there is win Bronze and cannot come around for a chance to win Gold).

- Main Draw: 2/3 games to 11, win by 2
- Back Draw: 1 game to 15, win by 2
- Bronze Medal Match: 2/3 games to 11, win by 2

## **Junior PPA events with less than 7 teams (less than 7 players for singles) will play the following format:**

Round Robin

3 teams: Double Round Robin, No Playoffs.

4 teams: Single Round Robin with Playoffs for top three teams.

5 teams: Single Round Robin with Playoffs for top three teams.

6 teams: Single Round Robin with Playoffs for top three teams.

7+ teams: Double Elimination with No Come-Around.

- Pool Play: 1 game to 15, win by 2
- Playoff Seeding Tiebreaker: Head-to-Head, Total Point Differential
- Gold Medal Match: 2/3 games to 11, win by 2

**\*Events may be combined or canceled if there are less than 4 teams in a division.** Tournament organizers possess the right to combine events and alter seedings to provide the best overall playing experience.

### **Bracket Seeding:**

1-2 seeds: Junior PPA ranking points

3+ seeds: DUPR rating

# POINTS & RANKINGS

## TOURNAMENT TIERS & POINT STRUCTURE

### GLOBAL TOURNAMENTS

- 2,000 points awarded to first-place winners
- Junior Pickleball World Championships (Dallas, TX)

#### Point Structure:

- 1st Place: 2,000
- 2nd Place: 1,600
- 3rd Place: 1,200
- 4th Place: 800
- 5th Place: 400
- 6th Place: 200
- Appearance: 100

### NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- 1,000 points awarded to first-place winners
- PPA Slams

#### Point Structure:

- 1st Place: 1,000
- 2nd Place: 800
- 3rd Place: 600
- 4th Place: 400
- 5th Place: 200
- 6th Place: 100
- Appearance: 50

## REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- 500 points awarded to first-place winners
- PPA Cups and Opens

### Point Structure:

- 1st Place: 500
- 2nd Place: 400
- 3rd Place: 300
- 4th Place: 200
- 5th Place: 100
- 6th Place: 50
- Appearance: 25

## POINT CALCULATIONS

- "Top 6"
- Top 6 results of each event count toward ranking points
- A player may play more than 6 Junior PPA events, but only the top 6 results count toward the total point calculations

## TRICKLE DOWN EFFECT

- Players playing up in age receive ranking points for the older age division and eligible divisions below.
- i.e., If an eligible 12U player competes in an 18U event, the player would receive ranking points for 18U, 16U, 14U, and 12U
- Players can be ranked in more than one age division.
- Players that qualify for the Junior PPA Finals in more than one age division must choose one of the qualified divisions.

## RANKINGS

- Grouped by Gender & Age per event
  - 3 events: Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - 4 age groups: 18U, 16U, 14U, 12U
  - 24 total ranking divisions
  - Junior PPA Rankings will be updated on the PPA website at [ppatour.com/junior-ppa-tour/](http://ppatour.com/junior-ppa-tour/)

# JUNIOR PPA FINALS

- Season-Ending Invitational Tournament
  - 50+ top ranked Juniors from around the world come together to compete for the ultimate prize and recognition.
- Qualification Only
  - Players qualify through Junior PPA Points accumulated throughout the season
  - Players can only choose partners based out of the pool of qualified players
- “Race to the Finals” storyline throughout the year
- Championships Broadcasted Live



# JUNIOR PPA SERVES

In addition to competition events on the Junior PPA Tour, Junior PPA Serves will serve as a program focused on building opportunities centered around youth development and individual growth on and off the court. Junior PPA Serves embodies our mission of promoting, encouraging, and advancing the culture of youth pickleball.



## CLINICS & EVENTS

Junior PPA players will be offered the opportunity to participate in exclusive events that maximize the Junior PPA experience. These events and opportunities include:

- Camps/Clinics
- Q&A Sessions
- School Visits
- Family Nights
- Parent/Child Tournament
- Championship Court Ball Kids
- Play with the Pros

## EDUCATION & CHARACTER BUILDING

Junior PPA players will be given access to online and in-person instruction to learn fundamentals, prepare for competition, construct the right mindset, and build character to grow on and off the court.

- Exclusive Pro Engagement Access
- Pro Tips & Direction

## DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Junior PPA is dedicated to promoting the physical, but also the mental well-being of youth athletes through one-of-a-kind opportunities. Our goal is to accomplish the 5C's that promote youth development:

- Competence
- Confidence
- Connection
- Character
- Caring



# REGISTRATION

## **COSTS:**

Registration Fee: \$75

Event Fee: \$30

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Ages 8-18
- 18U (must be 18 years old or under)
- <5.5 DUPR (must have less than a 5.5 DUPR rating)



## **REGISTRATION WINDOW**

Registration will normally close a week before the event begins. Please make sure you are registered, partnered up and paid ahead of the deadline. We will not allow any exceptions after the deadline. See payment policy for more information on payments.

## **PPA TOUR GROUNDS PASS**

All registered Junior PPA players will receive a FREE Grounds Pass for the week of the event. The PPA Tour Grounds Pass is included in the registration fee.

Registration will come with one complimentary grounds pass for a parent or guardian age 18 or older to accompany them on the day that they play. To claim, a parent or guardian must be present when the player that they are accompanying checks in.

Juniors are encouraged to watch the best professional pickleball players in the world.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Updates and/or Information leading up to the events will be communicated through email.

Registered players will receive a "Welcome Email" before the beginning of each tournament. Please ensure that a parent email is attached to the player's pickleball.com account.

Make sure that you are regularly checking your email and that your text notifications are turned on with the correct phone number listed on the player's pickleball.com account.

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

If players are interested in gaining exposure and promotion through Junior PPA, we will provide talent release forms for you. These forms can be signed via email before the event.

# HOW TO REGISTER



## STEP 1: REGISTER TO PLAY

Head to [pickleballtournaments.com](https://pickleballtournaments.com) and sign up before the registration deadline to secure your spot!

## STEP 2: CHOOSE YOUR TOURNAMENT

Navigate to the PPA Tour under the "Tours & Series" section. Browse and select the tournament you'd like to participate in.

## STEP 3: SELECT YOUR EVENT

Junior PPA will offer age-based events ranging from ages 8-18. Players are only allowed to participate in one event per day.

## STEP 4: CHECK OUT

Please read and agree to terms of service to complete registration. Confirm payment and click submit to checkout.

# RULES & REGULATIONS

## PAYMENT POLICY

Players must be paid and have a registered and paid partner to be confirmed. Players not paid and without registered and paid partners will be moved to a waitlist if the division in which a spot is being held is filled with fully registered and paid teams.

## REFUND POLICY

During registration you may chose to purchase the [Registration and Weather Insurance Policy](#) in the event you have to cancel out of the event after the cancellation deadline (Cancellation Deadline will be listed on each registration site). See the policy for specific coverage details. The insurance will cover your event fee in the case your event is cancelled due to weather without a make-up day option.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If weather or any unforeseen circumstance occurs the PPA will do all it can to play matches. If brackets are in mid-play when a weather or unforeseen circumstance occurs, the situation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if the bracket may be finished or if winners may be determined.

You are encouraged to purchase the [Registration and Weather Insurance when registering](#). Please see the Refund Policy.

## PARTNER REPLACEMENT POLICY

After registration is closed, any registered player losing a partner must replace that partner with an already registered player. The replacement partner must fit the eligibility requirements. Replacements need to be known and communicated to the registration contact by 5pm the day before you are scheduled to play. Replacements can also be found on the players needing partners list.

## ONE EVENT PER DAY POLICY

Players are allowed to play in one event per day. You will be asked to withdraw from one event if you are registered for two. If you have any questions, please reach out to us.

## COACHING POLICY

Coaching is allowed before matches, during timeouts, in between games, and after matches. Coaching is not allowed in between points and during points.

Parents, coaches, and spectators may not be physically on the court. If you intervene when not appropriate, your child will get penalized. You may be asked to leave the court if you are violating the Junior PPA Tour Code of Conduct.

## WITHDRAWAL POLICY

If you are unable to participate in the tournament or can no longer play, please inform the tournament organizers as soon as possible. It is also your responsibility to notify us and any partners right away, allowing enough time for them to find a replacement before the Partner replacement deadline (refer to the details above).



# JUNIOR PPA TOUR

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct outlines the manner of behavior that all participants, parents, guardians, and spectators should follow when playing in and/or attending any Junior PPA Event. It is intended to create and encourage a positive, respectful, and well-mannered environment that facilitates everyone's enjoyment of a competitive pickleball match.

### GENERAL CONDUCT

- Exhibit good sportsmanship at all times - be polite and respectful of players, staff, referees, and spectators.
- Follow the rules and regulations of the Junior PPA Tour Handbook.
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity in all actions.
- Be punctual and on time for matches. Be ready to play when scheduled.
- Accept the decisions of officials with grace and respect.
- Use appropriate language and avoid profanity, insults, offensive or vulgar language.
- Avoid displays or outburst of temper, frustration, or anger during a match (such as deliberately throwing or smashing a Player's paddle or other equipment, or aggressively hitting a ball into the crowd or out of play).
- Dress appropriately for the sport.
- Respect the facilities and equipment provided for the tour - do not engage in acts of vandalism or other actions intended to cause destruction, impairment, or damage to property.
- Be courteous whenever you win or lose. Maintain the spirit of good sportsmanship by treating others the way you would like to be treated.

## **PLAYER ON-COURT CONDUCT**

- Play fairly and within the spirit of the game. Play each match at a prompt, steady pace without stalling or delay.
- Do not engage in acts intended to distract (such as talking, stamping feet, waiving arms) or intimidate the opponent.
- Call lines promptly, honestly and accurately. Any ball that cannot be called out shall be considered in.
- Avoid discussing line calls with parents and spectators - they are not involved in the match.
- Tap paddles or shake hands with opponents before and after each match.
- Refrain from arguing with opponents, officials, parents, and spectators during a match.
- Take responsibility for personal belongings and equipment (such as water bottles, hats, towels, bags / backpacks) by keeping them from obstructing or interfering with the court and the playing area.
- Refrain from screeching, shouting, or any form of taunting during play.
- Disputes between players should be resolved calmly and fairly by the players - disputes that cannot be resolved by the players should then be brought to the attention of the match officials for resolution assistance.

## **VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE**

Any participant who witnesses a violation of this Code of Conduct should report it to a tour official as soon as possible. All reports will be handled confidentially and investigated thoroughly. There is a zero-tolerance policy for physical or verbal abuse.

**VIOLATIONS OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION, AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE EVENT OFFICIALS.**

# SPORTSMANSHIP

We define sportsmanship as the behavior of treating others with respect, fairness, and kindness, especially in a competition setting.

## PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

- Respect
  - Tapping Paddles
  - No Boasting/Taunting
- Fairness
  - Honesty (Line Calls, Faults, Scores)
  - Integrity
- Kindness
  - Positive Attitude (Body Language)
  - Supportive Language (No Profanity)

## SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Players with exceptional sportsmanship will be rewarded with an honorable Sportsmanship Award presented by Proton Sports at each tour stop.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Failure to meet sportsmanship standards and expectations can result in disciplinary action such as match forfeits, tournament removal, point deduction, and league suspension.

# PARENT PACKET



## EXPECTED ROLE

The expected role of parents and guardians is to manage, encourage, and support their youth athlete(s) on the Junior PPA Tour. Parents should strive to serve as a role model for their child and set a good example with sportsmanship. Parents are expected to be respectful of staff, officials, players, spectators, and policies while promoting the integrity of the game.

Failure to abide by parent expectations can result in discipline such as tournament removal, suspension, and potential bans for both the parent and their youth athlete(s).

## **PARENT ON-COURT EXPECTATIONS**

1) Inspire good sportsmanship by encouraging honesty, respect, and positivity before, during, and after each match. Praise effort and sportsmanship from all participants. The Junior PPA Tour rewards outstanding sportsmanship and enforces accountability for unsportsmanlike behavior that violates the Player and Parent Code of Conduct.

2) Do not become involved in the match. Be the best spectator that you can be without interfering with the match. Avoid shouting line calls, arguing with officials, taunting a player or spectator, making direct accusations of cheating, yelling, or other engaging behavior that interrupts play. You may be asked to leave the court and face additional disciplinary action if match interference violations persist.

3) Discourage cheating, boasting, or any form of intimidation. If your child happens to make a bad line call or deliberately taunts an opponent, please remind them of the importance of sportsmanship. Consistent actions of dishonesty or bullying can lead to penalizations ranging from match forfeits to suspension. If you feel that your child is being cheated or mistreated, please report to a staff member immediately without interfering with the match.

4) Empower confidence and self-satisfaction with phrases such as "good try" or "great hustle" during matches. Avoid phrases that provide guidance or other actions that can be perceived as coaching in between points. Coaching is only allowed in between timeouts and games during matches, as outlined in the Junior PPA Handbook.

5) Prioritize the physical and mental well-being of your child over the personal desire to win. There are more important values than winning on the Junior PPA Tour. Be humble in defeat, and support your child with love, affection, and positivity regardless of the result.

# WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER



**Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns throughout your experience on the Junior PPA Tour.**





# STAY CONNECTED

## INSTAGRAM

Follow @junior.ppa to stay up to date on announcements, events, opportunities, and more.

## NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to our newsletter for announcements, upcoming events, updates, celebrations, and more!

## WEBSITE

Check out [ppatour.com/junior-ppa-tour/](http://ppatour.com/junior-ppa-tour/) for more information.