



# TEXAS AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION

## *Pickleball*

STATE COMMISSIONER:

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*A non-profit organization established in 1925, incorporated and dedicated to develop and perpetuate interest in amateur sports and to further the spirit of sportsmanship in Texas.*

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**PLEASE READ ALL RULES –THERE ARE IMPORTANT ARTICLES PERTAINING TO AGE DETERMINATION DATES, REGISTRATION DEADLINE DATES AND FEES.**

## **ARTICLE 16      Pickleball**

16.1      GENERAL: Entrants must be amateurs under the rules of the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA). T.A.A.F. Pickleball tournaments will be played in strict accordance with the rules and regulations of the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) with the following T.A.A.F. points of emphasis:

.01      A Region will not be limited in the number of entries in the Adult or Junior Divisions. Participants are not required to play in a regional tournament to be eligible for the State Tournament.

.02      The State Commissioner has the discretion to place a player in the draw.

.03      ENTRY FEE:

a)      No entry will be accepted or be placed in the draw without attached fees or payment guarantee from the member city's T.A.A.F. representative. Failure to pay these fees may result in the T.A.A.F. participant being suspended until fees are paid.

b)      These fees are to be used by the city conducting each tournament to help defray expenses of the tournament

16.2      INDOOR STATE TOURNAMENT

a.)      LOCATION: Indoor State Tournament will be held at T.A.A.F. Winter Games of Texas

b.)      SANCTIONING: Tournament will be sanctioned and follow all guidelines based on USAPA's sanctioning requirements.

c.)      STATE TOURNAMENT ENTRY RESPONSIBILITY: State tournament entry is the responsibility of the individual participant.

d.)      EVENTS: Double Elimination. Men's Doubles, Men's Singles, Women's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.

e.)      DIVISIONS: Skill to Age. Skill: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0. Ages: Juniors, 19-34, 35-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85+. Skill levels based on USAPA's UTPR ratings.

f.)      AGE CLASSIFICATIONS: Age classification determination should be based on age December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current calendar year in accordance with the USAPA sanctioning requirements.

g.)      STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE: Schedule will be determined based on venue, available days, and

h.)      COMBINED OR DROPPED DIVISIONS: With the State Commissioner's approval, any division with three (3) entries or less may be combined with other age divisions within a skill level. The State host should attempt to notify the participant before the draw is made if their divisions have been combined or dropped. Draws will be posted to the tournament website by morning of event.

i.)      TOURNAMENT DRAW: The state commissioner shall approve the tournament draw before it is posted. Draws will be based on USAPA's UTPR Ratings.

16.3      OUTDOOR STATE TOURNAMENT

a.)      LOCATION: Location will bid on annually by any city or TAAF member.

b.)      SANCTIONING: Tournament will be sanctioned and follow all guidelines based on USAPA's sanctioning requirements.

- c.) STATE TOURNAMENT ENTRY RESPONSIBILITY: State tournament entry is the responsibility of the individual participant.
- d.) EVENTS: Double Elimination. Skill to Age. Men's Doubles, Men's Singles, Women's Doubles, Women's Singles, and Mixed Doubles. Ages: Juniors, 19-34, 35-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85+. If divisions are low in participation, the Tournament Director can combine age groups to complete enough teams to make a bracket(s). Awards may only be awarded to combined brackets.
- e.) STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE: Schedule will be determined based on venue, available days, and

#### 16.4 TEAM PICKLEBALL

##### .01 LEAGUES:

- a) TEAMS: Teams of four (4) players playing a total of 10 games per team. Team members must consist of two female players and two male players with a total USAPA rating or self-rating (based on IFP classifications) of 17.0 or less. Each team is allowed to add up to two (2) substitute players to their roster.
- b) DIVISIONS: teams in each division consisting of total rating (TR) in Division 1 (TR=15.0-17.0), Division 2 (TR=13.5-15.0), and Division 3 (TR=13.5 & below)
- c) FORMAT: Consists of five (5) rounds of two games equaling ten (10) games total per team (5 games each player). Each game to 11pts (win by 2) with max to 15pts (once you get to 14-14, next point wins).

TEAM #1		TEAM #2	
A	Female Player #1	A	Female Player #1
B	Female Player #2	B	Female Player #2
C	Male Player #1	C	Male Player #1
D	Male Player #2	D	Male Player #2

	TEAM #1			TEAM #2	
Round 1	A	D	vs.	A	D
	B	C	vs.	B	C
Round 2	A	C	vs.	B	D
	B	D	vs.	A	C
Round 3	A	B	vs.	A	B
	C	D	vs.	C	D
Round 4	A	D	vs.	B	C
	B	C	vs.	A	D
Round 5	A	C	vs.	A	C
	B	D	vs.	B	D

- d) Winner: Winner is declared by most games won. Tiebreakers: 1st) Lowest total number of points scored against 2nd) 7-point max tiebreaker of any two players from one team vs. two players from the other team. (Captain will choose their players).

##### .02 STATE TOURNAMENT

- a) LOCATION: Location will bid on annually by any city or TAAF member.
- b) VENUE: 6-12 courts indoor or outdoor
- c) STATE TOURNAMENT ENTRY RESPONSIBILITY: State tournament entry is the responsibility of the team coach.
- d) STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE: Schedule will be determined based on venue, available days, and available number of courts.
- e) EVENTS: 2 or 3 match guarantee consolation brackets.

## **ARTICLE 2 GENERAL PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

No player shall be eligible to play in any T.A.A.F. sport unless the player meets all of the following rules:

- 2.1 Must be an amateur in said sport and shall receive no pay to play for any team. An amateur is defined as "one who engages in sport for pleasure and for the physical, mental or social benefits, which he or she derives from that sport and to whom the sport is nothing more than an avocation."
- 2.2 Any player who has played professional sports shall be ineligible to participate in that sport for one (1) year after his last day as a member of a professional team. This rule shall not conflict with the AABC rules in baseball.

Note: The protesting individual(s) bear the entire burden of proof regarding a player's participation as a member of a professional team. The T.A.A.F. state commissioner has the final authority to accept or reject the protesting individual(s) proof.

- 2.3 Meets all team qualifications in MOP Article 4.
- 2.4 Does not play under an assumed name.
- 2.5 In order to compete in any T.A.A.F. play, a foreign player must reside in the state of Texas continuously for a minimum period of one (1) year prior to being eligible to play.

Exception: Men's and women's fast pitch foreign softball players' eligibility will be determined by the national governing body of softball. To be eligible to participate in T.A.A.F. softball, a copy of any document required to be on file by the NGB for softball must also be filed with the T.A.A.F. state office. The same filing deadline applies for the NGB and T.A.A.F.

- 2.6 An adult player may play on more than one team within a region, but must choose one team as his/her own prior to T.A.A.F. championship play.
  - .01 No player may be on more than one roster, in a T.A.A.F. division, during T.A.A.F. championship play (region and state tournaments).
  - .02 A player must be on the sports roster by the deadline state in the participant guide.
- 2.7 A player forced to transfer from one region to another by his employer may participate in the new region providing the player has been employed by the firm for at least one (1) full year prior to the transfer and the player remains employed by the same firm.
- 2.8 Individual sport participants must reside in the state of Texas.
- 2.9 The team or individual attempting to qualify for state competition must attempt to qualify through the regional qualifier of the region in which they are registered. No participant in an individual

sport or a team in team sports may attempt to qualify through more than one city, region or affiliate. Should any team or individual be discovered in violation of this rule, he/she/they shall be disqualified from that sport for that year.

- 2.10 Any region competition must take place within the established boundaries of the assigned region. If it becomes necessary to host a region competition outside of the designated boundary, prior written consent is required by the region in which the event is being held.

- 2.11 Player identification:

.01 A player must be prepared, at all times, to provide proof of identification. A driver's license or comparable identification, which includes a current photograph and signature, is acceptable.

.02 A player must be prepared, at all times, to provide proof of age when participating in T.A.A.F. sports categorized by age classifications or divisions. A driver's license or copy of a birth certificate from the Bureau of Vital Statistics is acceptable.

.03 A player failing to provide appropriate proof of age or identifications, when requested by a meet director, tournament director or state commissioner, may be declared ineligible and the team/player subject to disqualification.

- 2.12 All teams must wear like colored, non-duplicated numbered jerseys for regional and state tournaments.

- 2.13 All participants in adult team sports must have attained the age of sixteen (16) prior to the registration date for teams in that sport, unless specific sport regulations provide otherwise.

- 2.14 Age determination for youth sports

Sport	Age Determining Date
Basketball (Boy's & Girl's Winter)	September 1 of current school year
Basketball (Boy's & Girl's Summer)	September 1 of current calendar year
Boxing	Based on age as of the Games of Texas
Cheerleading	September 1 of current year
Flag Football – youth	September 1 of current year
Golf – youth	September 1 of current year
Gymnastics	January 1 of the year of competition
Inline Hockey	September 1 of current year
Kickball – Youth	September 1 of the current school year
Softball – Youth	December 31 of current year
Swimming – Summer	June 1 of current year
Swimming – Winter	Age as of the Winter Games of Texas swim meet
Tennis	Age as of Games of Texas dates
Track and Field	Based on year the athlete was born
Volleyball – Youth	September 1 of current school year

## ARTICLE 4 TEAM SPORT REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 Team Sports

- .01 Deadline for T.A.A.F. Registration:

Sport	Deadline
Basketball - Adult	One Business Day after the State Tournament Entry Deadline
Basketball - Winter - Youth/High School	January 15
Flag Football - 8 on 8	November 1

Flag Football - 4 on 4	March 1
Flag Football - Youth	November 1
Hockey - In-line	Register at State Tournament
Kickball	Register at State Tournament
Soccer	Register at State Tournament
Softball - Spring/Summer - Adult/Youth	June 1
Softball - Fall	Register at State Tournament
Volleyball - Adult	Register at State Tournament
Volleyball - Sand	Register at State Tournament
Volleyball - Youth	April 15

#### 4.2 Team Fees:

- .01 Member Cities and Affiliate Members will pay the following registration fees to T.A.A.F.:
- All Sport Fee: \$15 per team if all teams within that given sport are registered. (Example: Youth Basketball, Adult Flag Football.)
  - Unattached Sports Team Fee: \$25 per team if not all teams within a given sport are registered, those teams are considered unattached and will not be eligible for the lowest level of play in that sport if multiple levels of play are offered.

\*Region registration fees may be added to the state team registration fees up to \$2.00 per team

- .02 REGION MEMBERSHIP FEES:
- Regions that charge a fee in excess of the state fee may not exceed that fee by more than \$2.00 / team.
  - Regional membership fees may not exceed \$25.00
  - Any fee proposal exceeding the above limits must be approved by the executive board.
  - Any region charging a regional fee must provide the T.A.A.F. State Office proof that they have a federal tax identification number by January 2nd of the current year.
  - Regional fee schedule must be submitted to the T.A.A.F. State Office seven (7) days prior to the January 2005 board meeting and at the annual meeting in 2006 and thereafter.
- .03 Insurance may be purchased for an additional fee. Contact the T.A.A.F. state office for fees and enrollment information.
- .04 A late fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per team may be charged to any registration after the deadline date.

#### 4.3 Unattached Teams (adult and youth sports only):

The fee for an unattached team are fifty (\$50) per year. This fee allows the unattached team to participate in the highest division of adult and youth team sports

- .01 Teams playing in a T.A.A.F. league cannot register as an unattached team.

#### 4.4 Registration Requirements

- .01 Member Cities/Affiliate Members/Unattached Teams must furnish the following to the T.A.A.F. State Office by the registration deadline date:
- One (1) copy of the league registration form, including division codes

g. One (1) copy of the team registration form

h. All registration fees

An .02 Team registrations must be certified by the city where they compete, if a Member City. Affiliate Member will mail their registrations directly to the T.A.A.F. State Office.

#### 4.5 Team Roster Requirements

.01 To advance in T.A.A.F. championship play, each team will be required to submit a complete team roster as follows:

a. It must be written or typed on an approved T.A.A.F. team roster form. Exception: Softball rosters may be submitted on the official roster from the national organizations whose rules are governing the state tournament (i.e. ASA, USSSA)

b. Each individual listed on the roster must sign it in ink.

.02 Member Cities and Affiliate Members are required to submit team rosters for those teams advancing to championship play.

.03 It is recommended that all youth teams advancing to a state tournament have a minimum of one (1) T.A.A.F. approved national certified coach, to be listed on the team roster.

#### 4.6 Returning Teams

.01 All T.A.A.F. team champions (except youth basketball) shall be eligible to return to the state tournament as defending champions, provided they have not been reclassified and have the following minimum returning players:

SOFTBALL SLOW PITCH	10 PLAYERS
SOFTBALL FAST PITCH	9 PLAYERS
FLAG FOOTBALL	6 PLAYERS
BASKETBALL	4 PLAYERS
VOLLEYBALL	4 PLAYERS

#### 4.7 Region/State Tournament Participation

.01 Sport Penalty

a. Gymnastics only: Failure to register a gymnast with T.A.A.F. prior to competition will result in a fine of \$100 assessed to the gym for each unregistered gymnast

b. Gymnastics only: Failure to have a gymnast ranked by the January 1 deadline will result in a late fee of \$25.

.02 In order to be eligible to compete for state honors, each team must have:

a. Registered with T.A.A.F. by the deadline date.

b. Fulfilled all roster requirements as specified by the Member City, or, if an Affiliate or Unattached Team, by the Regional Director.

.03 To enter a regional tournament, the local T.A.A.F. Member City representative must certify the roster. The roster must be submitted to the regional tournament director (adult men's basketball and flag football only) prior to the deadline established by the region.



- .04 To enter a state tournament, the regional director must certify the roster, including if from another organization (i.e. ASA, USSSA). Note: this is NOT the regional tournament director. The roster must be submitted to the state tournament director prior to the state deadline.
- a. Affiliate and Unattached teams need to check with the T.A.A.F. state office for their requirements.
- .05 Each Member City will have the right to advance any team that has registered with T.A.A.F. in all team sports except the following sports/classifications:
- a. Men's 8 on 8 Flag Football
  - b. Youth Flag Football
  - c. Winter Youth Basketball
- .06 The state tournament director may or may not limit the number of teams that are accepted in the state tournament. The state tournament director must accept a minimum of 20 teams in each division of youth and adult basketball and youth or adult volleyball. The state tournament director must accept a minimum of 32 teams in each division of adult or youth flag football and adult or youth softball.
- a. In the Men's and Youth Flag Football State Tournaments and Girls Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments each Member City member will have the right to advance one (1) T.A.A.F. registered team to participate in the T.A.A.F. State Championship Tournament. The state tournament host city will have the authority to accept additional teams, if team registrations for the state tournament from the "automatic berths" do not fill the tournament.
  - b. The teams in the Winter Youth State Basketball Tournament must qualify through regional tournament. The Winter Boys and Girls State Basketball Commissioners will set the number of teams that qualify for the Winter Youth State Basketball Tournament. The State Commissioners and State Tournament Directors will determine the total number of teams accepted in the Boys and Girls Winter State Basketball Tournaments.
- .07 In a regional or state T.A.A.F. tournament, any team that fails to show up may be suspended from T.A.A.F. play for one year unless the team notifies their regional director and the state tournament director of their intent to be a no show. This notification must be made prior to the start of the tournament. This rule applies to every participant; all team members and all coaches, on the official team roster.