Competition Regulations RTA Finals

1. Purpose, Scope & Definitions

1.1. Purpose

These Competition Regulations govern participation, tournament procedures, scoring, and disciplines of the RTA European Finals – Arlberg Pickleball Championship (hereinafter "APC").

1.2. Scope

Applies to the APC only. Not to the sanctioned RTA tournaments (RTA2000, RTA1000 and RTA500) and not to RTA Amateur Tournaments.

1.3. Definitions

- **RTA 52-week ranking:** points collected over last 52weeks in RTA pro events per category and overall
- **Road to Arlberg ranking:** calendar year ranking for qualification to the RTA Finals Event per category including the results from the previous year's RTA Finals
- **Note:** Only players with more than zero points are being listed in the rankings.
- **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

- Women's Singles: 8 players
- Men's Singles: 8 players
- Women's Doubles: 8 teams
- Men's Doubles: 8 teams
- Mixed Doubles: 8 teams

2.2. Tournament Format and Schedule

- Played in a Double Elimination. The Loser Bracket is played only up to the 3rd place
- Singles divisions on Friday, Gender Doubles on Saturday and Mixed Doubles on Sunday
- Start times of each division will be published at least one week prior
- Matches will be played on a rolling schedule

2.2.1. Match Formats (Double Elimination)

- All matches shall be Best-of-3 games to 11, win by 2, Golden Point at 14:14 is 15, change sides after each game, and additionally in the deciding game after one side reaches 6 points
- Except gold medal matches of doubles divisions are played Best-of-5

2.3. 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
- The official RTA tour ball will be used

3. Entry & Registration

3.1. Eligibility

- RTA player registration with a verified profile on Tournated including identification
- Player must have played the 5.0+ division in at least three RTA Pickleball Tour tournaments in the tour year.
- The RTA European Finals do not count
- Registration with no-show does not count
- Anyone might be invited to play all three divisions
- Valid association membership (license) is not required
- Players must be at least 14 years old as of the tournament start date

3.2. Invitation

- In Singles divisions the top eight eligible players will be invited, starting with #1 in the divisions Year-To-Date ranking. If there are two 8th (same number of points), the following invitation order will apply
    - the one who used less tournament points
    - the one who played more counting tournaments in the tour year (RTA European Finals do not count)
    - higher DUPR
- In Doubles divisions the top eight eligible players will be invited and asked to select a team partner, starting with #1 in the divisions Year-To-Date ranking. If there are two 8th (same number of points), the following invitation order will apply
    - the one who used less tournament points
    - the one who played more counting tournaments in the tour year (RTA European Finals do not count)
    - higher DUPR
- In case the team partner is also ranked within the top eight, the next in line will be invited and asked to select a team partner.
- Team partner must be ranked within the top 30 of eligible players in the division.
- Invitation for any division can be declined, even when other division invitations are accepted.
- You will personally be informed about your invitation once the RTA ranking is final.

3.3. Disciplines & Pairings

Singles (M/W), Doubles (M/W) and Mixed Doubles

3.4. Entry Channels

Players / Teams will be added to the RTA Platform / Tournament after accepted invitation.

3.5. Entry Fees

No entry fees will be charged to participants.

3.6. Refund Policy

None.

4. Rankings & Points Allocation

4.1. RTA Overall 52-Week Ranking

The ranking points earned at the APC will be added to the 52-week overall ranking, the Monday after the APC.

4.2. 52-Week Ranking

The ranking points earned at the APC will be added to the 52-week ranking, the Monday after the APC.

4.3. Road to Arlberg Ranking

APC ranking points will be added to the RTA next year's calendar year rankings on Monday after the APC. These points will be valid until the start of the APC the following year.

Each player can bring in personal points from RTA tournaments summed up to 8500 total tournament points. Per category, the best combination of results will be displayed on Tournated but finally determined after the last RTA event prior to the APC.

In case of tied player points, the player with less used tournament points will be ranked higher. In case of also equal tournament points, the player with more events played in this category will be chosen.In case this remains tied, DUPR rating will be used.

4.4. Points per Placement

- A Bye does not count as a win
- Places 5/6 and 7/8 are played out in an additional match
    - If one team chooses not to play, they will be considered the loser
    - In case neither team wants to play, they share the bonus points

4.4.1. 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. Doubles / Mixed Points

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

4.6. 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. Substitute Players

If an invited player withdraws from the RTA Finals after accepting the invitation and before the start of the event due to personal reasons, injury, or other valid causes, a substitute player may be appointed according to the rules below.

- From invitation acceptance until T-43 days before the event
  In Singles, the next eligible player shall be invited.
  In Doubles events, the remaining team partner may select the substitute player within the regulations of section 3.1
- From T-42 days before the event (six weeks before the tournament starts)
  The substitute shall be selected from the pool of already invited players who are not yet entered in the affected division. Selection is purely based on the highest Road to Arlberg calendar year points in the respective division, in descending order
- If no substitute is available under the above criteria
  A new eligible player may be invited only if the withdrawing player has cancelled participation in all divisions
- If none can be found or a player gets injured after start of their category, the round will result in a walkover

6. Seeding & Draws

6.1. Singles Seeding

1. Road to Arlberg ranking
    1. Player points
    2. Less tournament points used
    3. More singles events played
2. In case of a tie, event specific DUPR rating shall be applied

6.2. Doubles Seeding

1. Sum of the partners' individual points in respective category
2. In case of an equal sum, the highest individual value shall determine the higher seed
3. Sum of DUPR points

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)
- Draws will not be adjusted within the last 7 days before tournament starts. Withdrawals will result in a walkover if no replacement can be found.

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
- One timeout per game 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
- For other matches, referees are optional depending on availability or request

9. Tournament Organization

9.1. Prize Money Distribution

- Paid in cash right after completion of awards ceremony
- Recipients are responsible for complying with local tax laws

Category	APC			
Total Prize Money	**20000**	**50%**	**30%**	**20%**
		1. Place	**2. Place**	**3. Place**
WS	**2500**	1250	750	500
MS	**2500**	1250	750	500
WD	**5000**	2500	1500	1000
MD	**5000**	2500	1500	1000
MXD	**5000**	2500	1500	1000
		10000	**6000**	**4000**

9.2. Cancellation

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

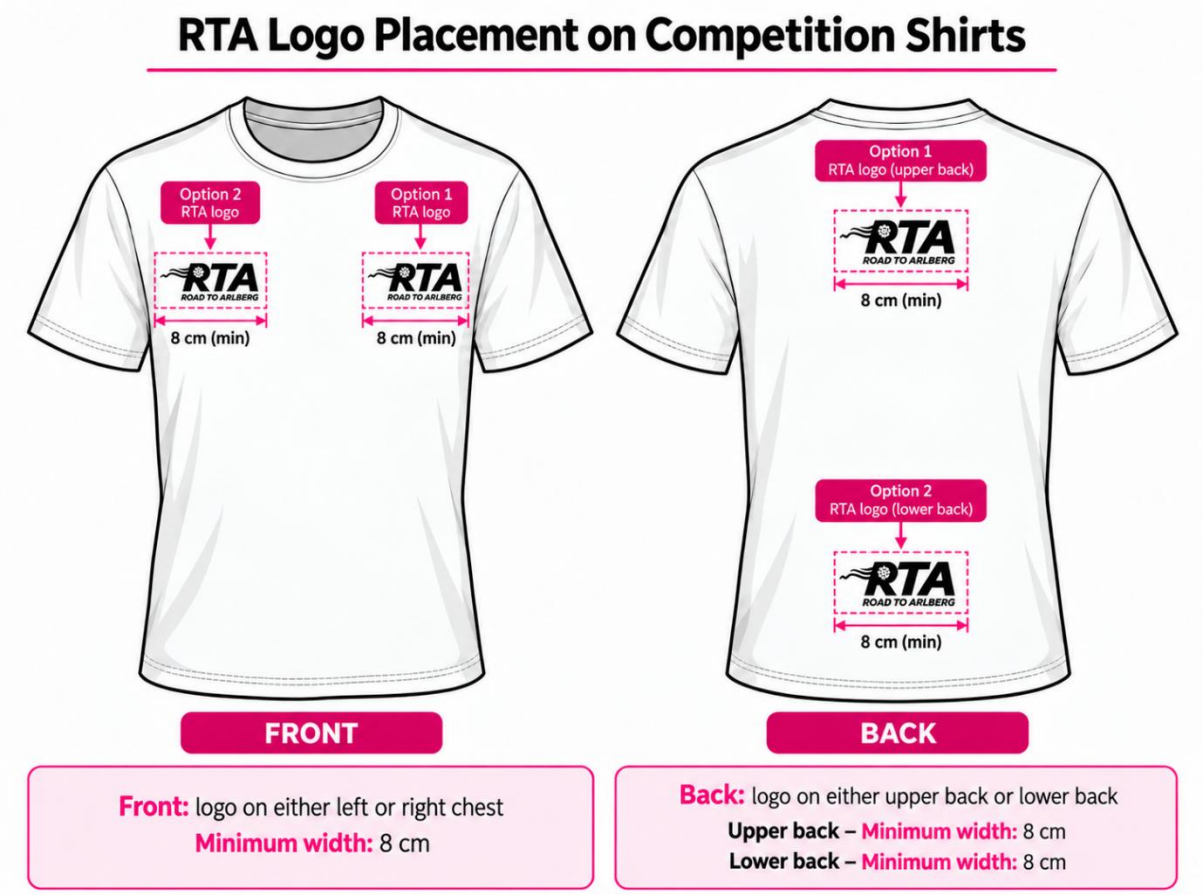
11. Player Commitments

- Invited players agree to take part in media events such as player selection, interviews and other content related initiatives leading up to the event
- 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 price money
    - Suspension for upcoming divisions or events
    - Fine of up to €2.000 (two thousand Euros)
- All medalists must attend the award ceremony
- All finalists must be available for media content
- Failure to comply may result in fines of up to €2.000 (two thousand Euros) and/or point deductions

11.1. Player Branding & Apparel Requirements

- Players must present themselves in professional sports attire while on court.
- Branding of other professional pickleball tours, leagues or competing tournament series is prohibited on court. This applies to clothing, textiles, accessories, bags, equipment and any other visibly displayed items. Manufacturer, club and personal sponsor branding remain permitted.
- All players must display the RTA logo on their playing t-shirt, top or equivalent upper-body competition apparel.
    - Minimum logo width: 8 cm
    - Permitted logo colors: white, black or RTA pink (#C41F73)
    - The logo must be positioned:
        - on the chest (left or right), and
        - on either the upper or lower back
    - Logo must be in full, not washed out or defect
- Each player must have a minimum of three compliant shirts or tops available during the event.
- Sweatpants and comparable sweat-style long trousers are prohibited when the ambient venue temperature exceeds 16°C.
- Doubles and Mixed Doubles partners are strongly encouraged to coordinate or match the colors of their playing apparel.
- Players are responsible for ensuring that their apparel complies with these requirements before entering the court.
- Logo Visibility: Both RTA logos (chest and back) must remain clearly visible and unobstructed throughout all matches, official interviews, media appearances and medal ceremonies, including official photographs. Players must wear compliant upper-body apparel during these activities. Additional clothing or accessories must not cover or obscure either logo.

Players who fail to comply must correct the violation immediately upon request by the RTA or Tournament Director. Failure or refusal to do so shall result in disqualification from the affected division.



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

RTA Pickleball Tour by Lemon Drop GmbH

Date

10/15/2026

Signature

Signed by:

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Version History

V2026.04	Oct 15, 2026	Section 4.3 Minor correction Section 11.1 Added Player Branding & Apparel Requirements
V2026.03	Aug 21, 2026	Section 2.2.1 All played to 11 points, finals Bo5 Section 3.2 Invitation order clarified in singles and doubles if there are two 8th places
V2026.02	Jan 27, 2026	Section 4.4 Removed “Generally, players who have not won a match receive no points”
V2026.01	Jan 06, 2026	Initial Version