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Competition Regulations

1. Purpose, Scope & Definitions

1.1. Purpose

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

1.2. Scope

Applies to all fully sanctioned RTA Pro tournaments (RTA2000, RTA1000 and RTA500) but not to RTA Amateur Tournaments. For any disputes or unregulated matters, the latest official USA Pickleball rulebook applies.

1.3. Definitions

- **RTA Ranking:** 52-week points list of the RTA Pro 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).
- **Player Pool:** all individuals registered (including alternates) for the Pro tournament, regardless of the category.

2. Tournament Categories, Draw Sizes & Formats

2.1. Categories and Draw Sizes

- Categories will allow as many players as possible. Final draw sizes can be adjusted by RTA depending on registration flow and number of courts.
- **RTA2000:** Singles: 64 players, Gender Doubles: 64 teams, Mixed Doubles: 48 teams
- **RTA1000:** Singles: 48 players, Gender Doubles: 44 teams, Mixed Doubles: 32 teams
- **RTA500:** Singles: 64 players, Gender Doubles: 64 teams, Mixed Doubles: 48 teams
  Singles and Doubles could be played with Qualifiers in Single Elimination mode.

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2.2. Tournament Format and Schedule

- All tournaments are played in a Double Elimination format with no come-around, meaning 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
- Start times of each division will be published at least one week prior
- Matches will be played on a rolling schedule where possible

2.3. Match Formats

- **Winner Bracket:** Best-of-3 games to 11, win by 2, at 14:14, the next point decides the game, change sides after each game, and additionally in the third game after one side reaches 6 points
- **Loser Bracket:** Best-of-3 games to 7, win by 2, at 8:8, the next point decides the game, side changes after each game and in the third game after one side reaches 4 points.
- The last match of the loser's bracket for Bronze is played like a winner bracket match

2.4. Rules & Equipment

- Play follows the currently valid official Pickleball rules (USA Pickleball) combined with RTA modifications (see section 9)
- Paddles must be either USA Pickleball Approved or UPA-A certified
- 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
- Valid association membership is not required unless specifically requested by the event
- Players younger than 16 need approval from their legal guardian to enter

3.2. Categories & Pairings

- Singles (M/W), Doubles (M/W), Mixed Doubles
- Doubles/Mixed: Partnerships must be declared by the entry deadline
- Player changes in doubles are permitted before entry deadline
- If player/team disconnects and/or withdraws, the latest date & time of re-entry (singles) or reconnection (doubles) is valid for acceptance into the draw

RTA may reject, adjust, or reverse registrations, pairings, withdrawals, substitutions, or other actions that are considered abusive, manipulative, made in bad faith, or contrary to the sporting integrity of the tournament.

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).

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3.4. Deadlines

- Registration opens as early as possible
- T-42 (8:00 CET): Acceptance Cut-Off (AC see section 3.5)
- T-14 (8:00 CET): Withdrawal Deadline (WD)
- T-14 (8:00 CET): Entry Deadline (ED)
- T-10 (8:00 CET): Freeze Deadline (FD) / Seeding Cutoff
- T-7 (8:00 CET): Draw publication (DP)
- T-0 (8:00 CET): Tournament start (TS) / Commencement
- T+1: Updated rankings and upload to DUPR

Late entries before FD may be granted through RTA to complete teams or draws (e.g. injury).

In case a player is added to the player pool in such manner, player can compete in other events as well if draw size allows, subject to RTA approval.

No players can be added to the player pool after the Freeze Deadline.

3.5. Acceptance Cut-Off & Order

For all doubles divisions, a spot only is considered as taken when team partners are successfully connected on Tournated. This also applies if a team withdraws and re-enters, then the new entry date shall be considered.

3.5.1. RTA2000 & RTA1000

From registration opening until Acceptance Cut-Off, available spots will be filled according to the following order:

1. RTA 52-week points in specific category (aggregated for Doubles)
2. DUPR rating (aggregated in doubles categories)
3. If players or teams are tied after all applicable ranking and rating criteria, the earlier registration time in Singles or the earlier team connection time in Doubles/Mixed shall decide.
4. RTA reserves the right to fill up to two spots for global players without RTA points

In case there are remaining spots unfilled, those will be given on a first come first served basis, starting back from registration opening.

3.5.2. RTA500

From registration opening until Acceptance Cut-Off, available spots will be filled according to the following order:

1. The 8 top singles players and 8 top doubles players in the divisions RTA 52-week ranking may enter the tournament up until the Acceptance Cut-Off.
2. By earlier registration time in Singles or earlier team connection time in Doubles/Mixed.

After Acceptance Cut-Off it is also on a first come, first served basis.

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3.6. Entry Fees

RTA Category	€/Player
2000	70
1000	60
500	50

All fees and prizes are in € and include domestic VAT, Platform Fee and Stripe Fee

3.7. Refund Policy

- Payment and platform fees are non-refundable, regardless of time of notice
- 100% refund (excl. fees, see above) until Acceptance Cut-Off
- 50% refund (excl. fees, see above) until withdrawal deadline
- No refund from withdrawal deadline
- Players / Teams on the alternate list that did not get to play will receive a full refund (see above) after the tournament
- Except players that would've been granted a spot ultimately but chose not to play. In such cases, no refund shall be granted

3.8. Wild Cards (WC) from Amateur Events

- WC tournament held 1 – 4 weeks before the respective RTA Tournament – winning team/player receives WC for the respective category
- Wildcards are only granted to the winner of a draw with minimum of eight participants (singles) or teams (doubles)
- In Doubles, winner of the wild card must pair up to keep their wild card
- Transparent publication until Freeze Date (FD) if possible
- If the amateur event finished after the Freeze Date, the wildcards take the lowest seed

3.9. Alternates

3.9.1. General

- Anyone that didn't make it into the Main Draw or Qualification will be put on an alternate list.
- After FD, the seeding will not be adjusted, and new player or team will be filled into seeds from top to down, depending on earlier date & time of notification to tournament director
- Matchmaking of such teams or changes to player draw must be completed and published by 20:00 CET of the day prior the category is scheduled

3.9.2. Order on the alternate list:

- Doubles: Connected Teams over Individuals
- As described in section 4.1 Seeding. If still tied:
- Earlier Signup Date & Time (Singles) or Connection Date & Time (Doubles) shall decide

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3.9.3. Doubles

After entry deadline until FD:

- Player changes due to injury allowed upon request of the remaining player. Replacement must come from the alternate list, from other team with injury or the player pool.
- If none is available late entries may be granted through RTA. Late entry may also play in other events if draw size allows.

After FD:

- Replacement of team (no change in seeding) only from Alternate list of connected teams in order of alternate list.
- In case there are no remaining teams on the alternate list, individual players from the alternate list can be asked by and combined with the player in the draw
- Two teams can be merged into one in case one player of each team is not able to play. That team takes the higher of both seeds, 1 being the highest seed
  - If there are no more alternates available, the other team's withdrawal results in a walkover
- If no alternates or remaining single players (due to injury) are remaining, teams can be filled from the tournament player pool of other events upon request of the remaining player.
- Any new individual joining the draw must pay the entry fee as defined.

3.9.4. Singles

Alternates must come from the alternate list in order.

4. Seeding & Draws

4.1. Seeding

1. RTA 52 Week Points (event-specific Singles / Doubles aggregated) – irrelevant for RTA500 Exceptions, if it improves their seeding positions, 1 being the best, in order:
    1. Seed 2: DUPR rank in the draw 2nd or better
    2. Seed 3: DUPR rank in the draw 3rd or better
    3. Seed 6: DUPR rank in the draw 6th or better
    4. Seed 7: DUPR rank in the draw 7th or better
2. DUPR Rating: event-specific Singles or Doubles rating. Doubles ratings are aggregated for Gender Doubles and Mixed Doubles. DUPR Mixed Doubles and age ratings are not considered.
3. If players or teams are tied after all applicable ranking and rating criteria, the earlier registration time in Singles or the earlier team connection time in Doubles/Mixed shall decide.

4.2. Draw Procedure

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

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5. Rankings & Points Allocation

5.1. RTA Overall 52-Week Ranking

The RTA Overall 52-Week Ranking sums all points earned across all events and displays the total accumulated points.

5.2. 52-Week Ranking

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

5.3. Road-To-Arlberg 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 for the top eight players in each division. See latest "RTA Competition Regulations – RTA Finals".

5.4. Points Freeze

Seeding is based on the statistics outlined in 4.1 at the Freeze Date (FD).

If individuals are not matched at seeding Freeze, the RTA reserved the right to match players in such manner that best possible teams are built. See section 4.1 Seeding for reference.

5.5. Points per Placement

- A Bye does not count as a win
- A walkover, retirement or disqualification of opponent count as wins except both teams are unable to play for whatever reason
- Players who have not won a match receive no points
- Points from the achieved rounds remain, except cases described in section 8.1 and 10

5.5.1. RTA Finals (APC – Arlberg Pickleball Championship)

See latest edition of the "RTA – Competition Regulations – RTA Finals".

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5.5.2. RTA 2000 / 1000 / 500

Placement	2000 Points	1000 Points	500 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

5.6. Doubles / Mixed Points

- Points are awarded per player
- Team seeding is based on the sum of individual rankings (see section 4.1 Seeding)

6. Match Regulations

6.1. 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

6.2. Timeouts

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

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7. Tournament Organization

7.1. Prize Money Distribution

Paid in cash or via bank transfer within 14 days of tournament completion

Tournament Category	**500**				**1000**				**2000**			
Total Prize Money	**3000**				**6000**				**9000**			
		1.	2.	3.		1.	2.	3.		1.	2.	3.
Women's Singles	**375**	175	125	75	**750**	350	250	150	**1125**	525	375	225
Men's Singles	**375**	175	125	75	**750**	350	250	150	**1125**	525	375	225
Women's Doubles	**750**	350	250	150	**1500**	700	500	300	**2250**	1050	750	450
Men's Doubles	**750**	350	250	150	**1500**	700	500	300	**2250**	1050	750	450
Mixed Doubles	**750**	350	250	150	**1500**	700	500	300	**2250**	1050	750	450

* All prizes in EUR. Might be subject to taxes.

Prize money recipients are solely responsible for any taxes, declarations, social security obligations, or other reporting requirements arising from prize money received. Where required by applicable law, RTA or the tournament organizer may withhold taxes or request additional payment information before payment.

Prize money may be withheld/reduced if sanctions apply. Refer to section 8.1 Disciplinary Measures and Fines for further details.

7.2. Prize Money with low registration

- Less than 12 players/teams: 80%
- Less than 8 players/teams: no prize money

7.3. Higher Prize Money

Tournaments may increase the prize money due to sponsorship. The distribution shall remain the same as outlined in section 7.1 Prize Money Distribution.

7.4. Cancellation

- If a tournament is cancelled 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

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7.5. Media Rights

By participating, players grant RTA, the tournament organizer, and approved RTA media partners the right to record, photograph, livestream, publish, edit, and use their name, image, likeness, voice, match footage, and tournament results for editorial, promotional, commercial, livestream, social media, and archival purposes, without additional compensation.

Unauthorized livestreaming, commercial filming, sponsor ambush marketing, covering RTA logos, refusing reasonable winner photos/interviews, or external media stepping onto court without approval may be subject to disciplinary measures under section 8.1 Disciplinary Measures and Fines.

8. Officiating, Discipline & Appeals

Officiating and disciplinary matters shall be handled in accordance with the latest official USA Pickleball Rulebook, unless otherwise specified in these Regulations.

All referees must be neutral and free from any conflict of interest in the match they officiate.

Tournament Director decisions on scheduling, court assignment, and operational matters are final. Referee decisions on factual calls during matches are final unless the applicable rulebook allows a formal appeal. RTA decisions on entry, seeding, rankings, prize money, disciplinary measures, and interpretation of these regulations are final.

Unless urgent action is required, the player shall be informed of the alleged breach and given an opportunity to comment before a final sanction is imposed.

8.1. Disciplinary Measures and Fines

RTA may impose disciplinary measures for breaches of these Competition Regulations, the applicable official rulebook, the Player Commitments, or conduct contrary to the integrity, safety, reputation, or smooth operation of the tournament.

Sanctions may include, individually or combined:

- Warning
- Loss of points
- Loss or reduction of prize money may apply to the affected division or, in serious cases, to all divisions of the tournament.
- Disqualification from a division
- Suspension from upcoming divisions or events
- Fine up to EUR 2,000, refer to section 8.1 Disciplinary Measures and Fines.
- Exclusion from the tournament venue
- Referral to the relevant federation or association

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Fines may be applied for the following conduct:

Conduct	Possible fine
Failure to attend mandatory media obligations as finalist	EUR 100–300
Unsportsmanlike conduct, verbal abuse, intimidation, or repeated disrespect	EUR 250–1,000
Abuse of officials, staff, volunteers, opponents, spectators, or RTA representatives	EUR 500–1,500
Physical aggression or threat of violence	EUR 1,000–2,000 and possible suspension
Manipulation of registration, partner connection, withdrawals, ratings, rankings, or results	EUR 500–2,000
Intentional damage to venue, equipment, branding, or tournament property	Cost of repair/replacement plus fine up to EUR 2,000
Unauthorized commercial, betting, media, livestreaming, or sponsor activity	EUR 250–2,000
Serious breach of sporting integrity or behavior damaging the reputation of RTA	EUR 500–2,000

The amount of any fine shall be determined by RTA at its reasonable discretion, considering the seriousness of the breach, intent, prior conduct, impact on the tournament, damage caused, and whether the player cooperated in resolving the matter.

Fines must be paid within 14 days of written notice. RTA may offset unpaid fines against prize money, appearance fees, reimbursements, or other amounts owed to the player. RTA may refuse future entries until outstanding fines are paid.

In urgent cases, especially involving safety, abuse, manipulation, or disruption of the tournament, RTA may impose immediate provisional measures before issuing a final written decision.

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9. 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

10. Player Commitments

- All players commit to the full division schedule once signed up.
- All finalists must be available for reasonable official RTA media obligations, including interviews, winner photos, livestream content, and promotional content.
- Players must uphold the highest standards in fair play, respectful conduct and professional behavior on and off the court, including towards opponents, partners, officials, staff, volunteers, spectators, sponsors, media representatives and RTA representatives.
- Public statements, including on social media, that are abusive, threatening, discriminatory, defamatory, or seriously damaging to the integrity or reputation of the tournament, RTA, officials, staff, players, sponsors, or venues may be subject to disciplinary measures.

Failure to comply may result in:

- Loss of points
- Loss of prize money
- Suspension for upcoming divisions or events
- Fines, refer to section 8.1 Disciplinary Measures and Fines

11. Safety, Insurance & Liability

Players are responsible for any intentional or negligent damage caused to courts, nets, balls, paddles, barriers, venue facilities, branding, livestream equipment, or other tournament property. RTA or the tournament organizer may claim repair or replacement costs in addition to any disciplinary sanction under section 8.1 Disciplinary Measures and Fines.

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

12. Sporting Integrity Clause

RTA may take any reasonable action necessary to protect the integrity, fairness, safety, and smooth operation of the tournament.

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13. Final Provisions

- RTA has final authority to interpret and apply these Competition Regulations.
- These Competition Regulations may be amended by the RTA
- Jurisdiction: Zurich, Switzerland

RTA Pickleball Tour

Date	Signature
8/14/2026	Signed by: Magnus Stedile-Foradori BF99DCD09A494A2...
	Lemon Drop GmbH

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Version History

V2026.06	Aug 14, 2026	Section 3.7 Added no refund policy for players that could've played Section 4.1 Changed seeding structure with DUPR exceptions Fixed smaller typos and wording
V2026.05	May 19, 2026	Section 1 Purpose, Scope & Definitions refined Section 2 Tournament Categories refined Section 3 Entry & Registration refined Section 4 Seeding & Draws refined Section 5 Ranking & Points Allocation refined Section 7 (previous section 8) Tournament Organization refined Section 8 (previous section 7) Officiating, Discipline & Appeals refined Section 8.1 Disciplinary Measures and Fines added Section 10 Player Commitments refined Section 12 Sporting Integrity Clause added Section 13 Final Provisions refined
V2026.04	Jan 27, 2026	Section 3.4.2 Acceptance Cut-Off for RTA500 aligned with RTA1000/2000 Section 3.7 Shortened refund deadlines Section 4.5 Generally, players who have not won a match receive no points
V2026.03	Jan 07, 2026	Section 2.2 Tournament Format and Schedule refined Section 2.3 Match Format refined Section 3.4.1 & 3.5.1 Tournament start set to 8:00 CET Section 3.7 Refund Policy refined Section 4.3 Reference to "RTA Competition Regulations – RTA Finals" Section 4.5.1 Removed APC Point structure and added reference instead Section 9.1 Minimal Prize Money increased Section 9.3 Higher Prize Money added Various minor improvements
V2026.02	Dec 02, 2025	Section 2.1 Increased Draw Size in RTA1000 (WS & WD) Section 3.4 Deadlines refined Section 3.5 Added Cut-Off and defined seeding in Doubles/Mixed as sum of points Section 6.2 Defined seeding in Doubles/Mixed as sum of points Section 9.1 Added exact prize money distribution
V2026.01	Oct 02, 2025	Initial Version