



### Pickleball profiled at ATP and WTA 250

The HKCTA started profiling pickleball at two of the three "M" Marked events featured on the Hong Kong Tennis Season (HKTS). Beginning with the Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open in October 2024, Sofia Kenin, the 2020 Australian Open champion, and Sabrina Santamaria, former NCAA Division I doubles champion and Pac-12 Player of the Year, demoed the game during a night session at the Tournament Village together with Hong Kong Billie Jean King Cup team members Maggie Ng and Justine Leong. Emcee for the occasion was HKCTA Pickleball Association Committee Member and former Hong Kong No. 1, Venise Chan. The response from those courtside was tremendous, with many wanting to know where access was available.

Earlier in January, pickleball was profiled at an ATP event in town for the first time at the Bank of China Hong Kong Tennis Open 2025 where Karen Khachanov, Coleman Wong, and doubles specialists Skander Mansouri and Joran Vliegen, took to the court in front of curious onlookers at the Bank of China Hong Kong Tennis Open.



## Recognition from International and Regional Federations

As a fully affiliated member of the [Global Pickleball Federation](#) (GPF), the HKCTA Pickleball Association is recognized as the governing body of pickleball in Hong Kong responsible for the development, growth, and regulation of the sport, ensuring that best practices are in place.



Moreover, as a member of the [Asian Pickleball Association](#) (APA), the HKCTA Pickleball Association also is recognised as a legitimate regulatory body within the Asian pickleball community.



Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world and it is becoming more available to members of our affiliated clubs. As a service provider and an organisation devoted to delivering opportunities and support for athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers, the HKCTA has the infrastructure to promote and develop the sport in Hong Kong.

## Hong Kong Open Pickleball Championships 2024



The HKCTA has been actively working towards the development and inclusion of pickleball in Hong Kong. The HKCTA has been the organiser of the Hong Kong Open Pickleball Championships (HKOPC) since 2023, when it was held at Kowloon Tsai. In 2024, the HKOPC was held at Clearwater Bay Golf & Country Club from Sep 19-22. Fourteen events were contested in three Age Categories with a total of 349 matches being contested.

The PWR 700 event attracted notable competitors from over 14 countries/regions, including former world No. 1 Kyle Yates and other top players from Asia, such as India's Armaan Bhatia and Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Yu-Chien and Kao Pei-Chuan.

Roll of Honour

## 19+ Open

Men's Singles	Armaan Bhatia
Women's Singles	Hsieh Yu-Chieh
Men's Doubles	Armaan Bhatia/Harsh Mehta
Women's Doubles	Hsieh Yu-Chieh/Kao Pei-Chuan
Mixed Doubles	Joey Wild/Danni-Elle Townsend

## 35+ Open

Men's Singles	Monte Wong
Men's Doubles	Chan Chi Neng/Raymond Chang
Women's Doubles	Li Tian Yi/Linna Luo
Mixed Doubles	Chan Chi Neng/Li Tian Yi

## 50+ Open

Men's Singles	Li Ning
Women's Singles	Haj Wilcox
Men's Doubles	Asif Ismail/Rajan Khemlyani
Women's Doubles	Rita Ao/Wang Jing
Mixed Doubles	Sui Cheong/Wu Yun Ling

## Certifying Instructors

In June, the first-ever Pickleball PPR Level 1 Certification Workshop was held in Hong Kong. It was conducted by Professional Tennis Registry's (PTR) International Director Iñaki Balzola, who has taught over 600 certification courses in more than 100 countries.

In November, a second PPR Level 1 Certification instructor course was held at KT, this time conducted by Asif Ismail and Venise Chan. These workshops are an on-going effort to provide more opportunities to earn a recognised coaching certification that qualifies them to teach the sport. Candidates are judged on their skill, technical, and written assessments.



## Po Leung Kuk promo

Last April, a workshop was held at Po Leung Kuk to promote pickleball to youths and introducing pickleball to them, explaining to them the possible career possibilities with pickleball. Activation through community engagement fosters a supportive environment where people who have never had access to the sport can have the opportunity to experience and enjoy pickleball.



## HKCTA Invitational Inter-Club Championships 2024

The Hong Kong Country Club played host to the HKCTA Invitational Inter-Club Championships 2024, with 16 Teams (12 Intermediate & 4 Open) and over 80 players competing in this year's event. The Pickleball Association of Hong Kong, China captured the Intermediate event, while the Kowloon Cricket Club won the Open event.

### Roll of Honour

#### Intermediate

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pickleball Association of Hong Kong, China
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hong Kong Cricket Club
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hong Kong Country Club 3

#### Open

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kowloon Cricket Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hong Kong Country Club 1

## Pickleball Profiled at World-Asia Expo

Organized with Chubb to promote pickleball at the FWE Hong Kong 2024, the city's leading event in the fitness and wellness sectors. Held at the World-Asia Expo, a coaching session was conducted on 1 November 2024 for an assembly of KOLs with media presence. HKCTA also ran classes to participants on site for them to experience pickleball for the first time.



## Referee Trainee Course a first

The first-ever Pickleball Referee Trainee Course was held in Hong Kong in February this year, which was led by Ron Ponder, the Global Pickleball Federation's (GPF) Director of Officiating. Becoming a pickleball referee is a structured process that requires training, assessment, and ongoing education. By following the steps outlined by GPF, candidates can successfully embark on their journey to officiate matches at various levels.



## Pickleball League



The inaugural Pickleball League will begin on 2 May with teams competing in two divisions. Events include men's doubles, ladies' doubles, and mixed doubles.

## Plans for 2025

- Hong Kong Open Pickleball Championships
- HKCTA Invitational Inter-Club Championships
- HKCTA Pickleball League
- Local Tournaments
- Officiating and Coaches Courses
- Pickleball Classes
- Pickleball Fun Days

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