



**Pickleball World Cup 2026**

**Hong Kong, China Representative Team**

**Selection Tournament**

**Rules and Regulations**

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## **A. General Provisions**

### **1. Tournament Name**

1.1 The Tournament shall be officially called the “Pickleball World Cup 2026 Hong Kong, China Representative Team Selection Tournament”. HKCTA Pickleball Association reserves the right to add the name of the Title Sponsor or to change the entire tournament name into the name of the Title Sponsor.

### **2. Governance and Responsibility**

2.1 The Tournament shall be wholly governed by HKCTA Pickleball Association, which may exercise its administrative and judiciary powers, and/or delegate HKCTA Pickleball Committee to response and perform the relevant tournament work.

2.2 All participants (including but not limited to the players, team officials, referees, tournament staff) shall comply the articles of these Rules and Regulations.

2.3 Unless otherwise stated, the current Rules and Regulations of HKCTA Pickleball Association in force at the time of the Tournament are binding for all parties participating and involving in the Tournament.

2.4 The HKCTA Pickleball Association, co-organizing parties, subventing organisation and sponsors of this Tournament will not be responsible for any damages or personal injuries arising from the Tournament.

## **B. Entries**

### **3. Eligibility Criteria**

3.1 The player shall meet at least one of the following requirements which is eligible to play for the Tournament:

3.1.1 has a valid HKSAR passport;

3.1.2 has a birth certificate showing the player was born in Hong Kong;

3.1.3 Proof of continuous legal resident in Hong Kong for a minimum of five years.

3.2 The player shall present personal identity document with photo, to our officials for purposes of checking identity.

#### 4. Age Group

4.1 The age group of the Tournament is as follow:

Category	Age Restriction	Event	Number of Quota
Open	No age restriction	Men's Doubles	24 teams
		Women's Doubles	24 teams
Senior	50+, born on or before 31 December 1976	Men's Doubles	24 teams
		Women's Doubles	24 teams
Master	60+, born on or before 31 December 1966	Men's Doubles	24 teams
		Women's Doubles	24 teams
Junior	U18, born on or after 1 January 2008	Men's Doubles	24 teams
		Women's Doubles	24 teams

4.2 Player is allowed to participate in one category ONLY. e.g. if a player's age is 61 years old, he /she is able to enter **either** Open or Senior or Master.

4.3 The HKCTA Pickleball Committee reserves the right to alter the number of participating teams in the Tournament.

#### 5. DUPR

5.1 There is no minimum or maximum DUPR required for players to participate in the Tournament. However, it is mandatory for players to have a registered DUPR account. A DUPR account can be created on <https://www.dupr.com/>. Results of the Tournament will be entered into DUPR.

5.2 Player is required to provide his/her DUPR ID for verification during registration.

#### 6. Registration

6.1 The participating teams shall submit the registration via the online registration platform. The online registration platform is <https://pickleball.com/>.

6.2 The enrollment period is from **8 May 2026 (6pm) to 19 May 2026 (6pm)**.

6.3 Registration acceptance will be based on team's average DUPR rating as of 19 May 2026. For the avoidance of doubt, the higher average DUPR rating of the team will be accepted for the participation.

6.4 Players are required to sign a tournament waiver during the registration.

6.5 The HKCTA Pickleball Committee reserves the right to accept or reject of any application.

7. Entry List and Entry Fee

7.1 The entry list will be uploaded on the HKCTA website on **22 May 2026**. It is team's responsibility to check the entry list to confirm the entry status.

7.2 The entry fee is HKD\$550 per team per event, i.e. the entry fee for each player is HKD\$275 (entry fee is not including the admin fee of online registration platform). The teams on entry list shall complete the payment via the online registration platform from **22 May 2026 (3pm) to 27 May 2026 (3pm)**.

7.3 If any team from the entry list does not complete the payment process during the payment period as described in Article 7.2, that team is deemed to withdraw from the Tournament, The HKCTA Pickleball Committee reserves the right to give the slot to the team which has next highest average DUPR rating in the waiting list.

7.4 No refunds will be made after the payment process is completed.

8. Withdrawal

8.1 All withdrawals should be reported to the HKCTA Pickleball Committee by emailing to us through [pickleball@tennishk.org](mailto:pickleball@tennishk.org) for at least 24 hours prior to the match.

### C. Venue and Match Schedule

#### 9. Venue

9.1 All matches will be played at Multi-Sports Court, “tmtpl commons” at tmtplaza. (Address: 4/F, tmtplaza, 1 Tuen Shun Street, Tuen Mun, N.T.)

#### 10. Time of Play

10.1 The time of play is as follow:

Date	Category	Event
6, 7, 13 June 2026	Open	Men’s Doubles
		Women’s Doubles
	Senior	Men’s Doubles
		Women’s Doubles
	Master	Men’s Doubles
		Women’s Doubles
27 June 2026	Junior	Men’s Doubles
		Women’s Doubles

#### 11. Playing Schedule

11.1 The HKCTA Pickleball Committee shall be responsible for drawing up the playing schedule of the Tournament and the participating teams shall play in all their matches according to the playing schedule. The HKCTA Pickleball Committee reserves the right to make changes to the playing schedule.

11.2 The playing schedule will be uploaded on the HKCTA website at least three (3) days prior to the commencement of the event. It is the teams’ responsibility to check their playing schedule.

11.3 No match reschedule request will be allowed by the participating teams.

#### 12. Inclement Weather

12.1 If any of the following circumstances occur two hours before the commencement of the first match on the day of the Tournament, all matches will be cancelled on that day without advance notice:

12.1.1 Black Rainstorm Warning is hoisted; or

12.1.2 Typhoon Signal number 8 or above is hoisted.

12.2 Except in the case described in Article 12.1, participating teams shall attend the match as scheduled unless it is informed by HKCTA Pickleball Committee that the match will not commence or delay.

### 13. Cancellation of Matches

13.1 If any match cannot be commenced due to force majeure or any reasons (including but not limited to the court is not fit for play, bad weather etc.) recognized by HKCTA Pickleball Committee, the following procedures can be made by the HKCTA Pickleball Committee according to the actual condition:

13.1.1 the match can be delayed until the HKCTA Pickleball Committee decides that the match can be commenced when the condition is suitable to play; or

13.1.2 the HKCTA Pickleball Committee can declare the match to be cancelled when the condition is not suitable to play.

### 14. Abandonment of Matches

14.1 For any match is stopped due to force majeure or any reasons (including but not limited to the court is not fit for play, bad weather etc.) recognized by HKCTA Pickleball Committee, the following procedures can be made by the HKCTA Pickleball Committee according to the actual condition:

14.1.1 the match can be stopped until the HKCTA Pickleball Committee decides that the match can be resumed when the condition is suitable to play; or

14.1.2 the HKCTA Pickleball Committee can declare the match to be abandoned when the condition is not suitable to play.

### 15. Incomplete Matches

15.1 For any match cannot be commenced or completed due to circumstances as described in Article 12, 13, 14 or any reasons recognized by HKCTA Pickleball Committee, the HKCTA Pickleball Committee reserves the right for the match reschedule. Participating teams will be further notified about reschedule arrangements after details confirmed.

### 16. Punctuality

16.1 Matches shall follow each other immediately in accordance with the announced order of play.

16.2 Matches shall be called and put in play on first available court basis.

16.3 Matches shall be called in accordance with the order of play. Players shall be ready to play when their matches are called. Any players not ready to play within ten (10) minutes after their match is called shall be defaulted unless the Head Referee in his sole discretion, after consideration of all relevant circumstance, elects not to declare a default.

## **D. Tournament Organization**

### **17. Format of Play**

- 17.1 The playing format of each event consists of two phases. The first phase is group stage, while the second phase is the knockout stage.
- 17.2 Group Stage: Twenty-four (24) teams will be divided evenly into eight (8) groups (Group A to Group H), and a single round robin format will be applied in each group. The top two teams of each group will be qualified to the knockout stage.
- 17.3 Knockout stage: Teams that qualify from the Group Stage shall play the knockout stage, and a single elimination format will be applied.
- 17.4 The HKCTA Pickleball Committee reserves the right to make changes to the format of play based on the number of participating teams or other special reasons if necessary.

### **18. Determination of Positions in Group Stage**

- 18.1 The ranking in each group shall be determined by USAP rules.

### **19. Representatives Qualification**

- 19.1 The winner of each event shall earn the right to be the representative for the Hong Kong, China team to participate in Pickleball World Cup 2026. For the avoidance of doubt, the two players of the winning team shall earn the right to be the representatives for the Hong Kong, China team to participate in Pickleball World Cup 2026.
- 19.2 Wild card will be reserved in each category for participating in Pickleball World Cup 2026, and it will be handled and decided by the HKCTA Pickleball Association. The wild card application will be released after the completion of each category of the Tournament. The quota of wild card is as follow:

Category	Quota for Wild Card
Open	1 wild card for Men
	1 wild card for Women
Senior	1 wild card for Men
	1 wild card for Women
Master	1 wild card for Men
	1 wild card for Women
Junior	1 wild card for Men
	1 wild card for Women

- 19.3 The HKCTA Pickleball Association reserves the right for the selection of player representatives for the Hong Kong, China team to participate in Pickleball World Cup 2026.

## **E. Technical Regulations**

### 20. Official Pickleball Rules

20.1 Unless otherwise stated in these Rule and Regulations, all Matches shall be played in accordance with USAP rules.

### 21. Rally Scoring System

21.1 Each game will be played using the Rally Scoring System at 15 points, where a difference of 2 points is needed to win. There is no freeze rule, meaning every point counts towards the score. Players will change ends when one of the teams reaches the score of 8 points.

### 22. Change of Side/Server

22.1 After each point, players will not change sides of the court. Player A will remain on the right side and Player B will remain on the left side throughout the game, regardless of the score. However, a team has the option to change sides during a timeout called by either team or a designated change of sides interval.

### 23. Timeouts

23.1 During the group stage and knockout stage each team has the right to request one timeout per game, maximum 1 minute each.

## **F. Equipment**

### 24. Official Ball

24.1 JOOLA HC-40 will be used in the tournament.

### 25. Paddles

25.1 Each player must verify their paddle is listed on the Approved Paddle list as follow:

<https://equipment.usapickleball.org/paddle-list/>

<https://upaa.unitedpickleball.com/approved-paddles/>

25.2 Players must ensure that any paddle they use is included in the approved list as described in Article 25.1. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in immediate default.

### 26. Dress Code

26.1 Players shall dress and present themselves for play in a professional manner. Clean and customarily acceptable pickleball attire shall be worn. Unacceptable attire such as apparel that matches the color of the ball or other inappropriate attire shall not be worn during a match (including the warm-up). Any players who violate this section may be ordered by the Official Head Referee to change his/her attire or equipment immediately. Failure of a player to comply with such order may result in immediate default.

## **G. Match Officials**

### 27. Officiating

27.1 The decision of the Official Head Referee, as appointed by the HKCTA Pickleball Committee is final in all matters pertaining to the Tournament.

## **H. Awards**

### 28. Medals

28.1 The medals will be awarded to the teams of Champions, Runners-up and 3rd place of each event.

## **I. Final Provisions**

### 29. Breaches of These Rules and Regulations

29.1 Any participant commits a breach any articles of these Rules and Regulations shall be considered a violation, and the matter will be referred to the HKCTA Pickleball Committee for appropriate action as deem fit at their absolute discretion.

### 30. Languages

30.1 In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English and Chinese version of these Rules and Regulations, the English version shall prevail.

### 31. Matters Not Provided For

31.1 Matters not provided for in these Rules and Regulations shall be decided by the HKCTA Pickleball Committee. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

### 32. Amendment and Interpretation of the Rules and Regulations

32.1 The HKCTA Pickleball Committee reserves the right to make amendments, additions, deletions and to interpret any articles in these Rules and Regulations.