

# SCOTTISH OPEN PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

## 1. Key Information

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### 1.1 Competition Schedule

WEDNESDAY 27 May	THURSDAY 28 May	FRIDAY 29 May	SATURDAY 30 May	SUNDAY 31 May
50+ Men's Doubles	50+ Mixed Doubles	15+ Men's Singles	15+ Men's Doubles (3.5 and above)	15+ Mixed Doubles
50+ Women's Doubles	60+ Mixed Doubles	15+ Women's Singles	15+ Women's Doubles (3.5 and above)	
60+ Men's Doubles	Wheelchair Doubles	50+ Men's Singles	Youth Doubles	
60+ Women's Doubles		50+ Women's Singles		
		Youth Singles		
		15+ Men's Doubles (up to 3.49)		
		15+ Women's Doubles (up to 3.49)		

### 1.2 Venue transport and parking

The competition venue is Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, EH7 6AE. More information about the venue can be found in section 3 *Venue Information*.

Players and spectators are actively encouraged to use public transport. The bus service to Meadowbank is excellent with numerous buses passing Meadowbank from the city centre and from further east on their way to the city centre.

Car parking at the venue is **limited and expensive** so please try to buddy up with others if arriving by car. Meadowbank Sports Centre car park is free for under 3 hours as long as you register your number plate on the touch screen in reception. Thereafter the charges are very hefty!

There is free parking on many of the roads around the venue at weekends and on a few side roads on weekdays. Please check signs before parking.

### 1.3 Medical services

The venue staff will provide first aid cover. This is an emergency service only.

The nearest hospital to Meadowbank with an Accident & Emergency department is the **Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh** at 51 Little France Crescent, Edinburgh, EH16 4SA. Telephone no: 0131 536 1000

Pickleball Scotland are not liable for any personal injury that players and spectators may suffer as a result of attending the championship. You take part at your own risk.

### 1.4 Outstanding payments

If you have any payments that you need to make e.g. entry fees, t-shirt etc., please visit the Information desk on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor upon first arrival to make payment. We can accept cash and cards. Please note that entry fees must be paid prior to the competition start.

## 2. Competition Information

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### 2.1 Event Organisation

Position	Name
Tournament Director	Louise Harrison
Head Referees	Maureen McCadden (Wed to Sat) Bernadette Snijders Blok (Sun)
Info & Registration	Steph Robertson
Social Media & Event Broadcasting	Adriana Orlandi & Sandy McGhie
Court Marshall Team Leaders	John Macrae
Medal Ceremonies	Sandra Macrae

### 2.2 Volunteers

As with most pickleball events, everyone you meet is a volunteer. They are there to help you and to help make the competition run smoothly. Some volunteers give their time because they love pickleball and others because they love volunteering at sports events and meeting lots of interesting people.

Our volunteers will wear red t-shirts in the venue to be easily identifiable to you.

### 2.3 Competition draw

The Championships' draw will be published in the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> May and the schedule will be published on 24<sup>th</sup> May. These will be published on [Tournament Software](#).

Please note that the draw is subject to change should there be late withdrawals.

## 2.4 Competition format and regulations

### COMPETITION FORMAT

#### **60+ Women's Doubles Open and Youth Doubles ONLY:**

One round robin group. Top 2 from the group progress to the final and the 3rd/4th place in the group progress to a bronze medal playoff match.

#### **Wheelchair Doubles**

To be run in American Tournament format with everyone partnering at least 5 other players. Top 3 points scorers will be awarded medals.

#### **All other events:**

A number of round robin groups, top 2 from each round robin group progress into knock-out stages.

### MATCH SCORING

#### **Round Robins: (\*see important notes below)**

- 1 game to 11 win by 1
- Change ends at 6
- No time outs

#### **Last 16, Quarter Finals & Semi Finals:**

- 1 game to 11 win by 1
- Change ends at 6
- No time outs

#### **Medal Matches:**

- 1 game to 15 win by 1
- Change ends at 8
- 1 time out, per singles player or team

### \*RANKING ORDER WITHIN THE ROUND ROBIN STAGES

Please ensure you read this information about how the ranking order is determined in round robin matches. This is final and non-negotiable.

- Positions will be decided by the number of match points won as follows: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a loss in a complete game, 0 points for a loss in any game not completed (e.g. walkover/ withdrawn / disqualified).
- If 2 or more players/pairs win the same number of match points, the order will be decided by points difference.
- If points difference remains the same between 2 players/pairs, then the order will be decided by head-to-head result between the 2 players/pairs.
- If 3 or more players/pairs are still equal, order will be decided by drawing lots.

## RULES & REGULATIONS

The competition will be held in accordance with the USA Pickleball Official Tournament Rulebook and The Pickleball Scotland Open 2026 Regulations.

**Tournament Ball** - Head Red 26 Indoor Ball.

**Players should avoid red/orange/pink apparel as you may be asked to change.**

### Scoresheet

At the end of the match, both players/pairs must return to the court marshal and provide the court marshal with the score and sign/initial the scoresheet.

If your match has a referee, the referee will ask the players to sign and then return the scoresheet to the court marshal.

Please ensure you keep an eye on the schedule and particularly on the status of matches on the court of your upcoming match, in case your match is earlier than scheduled.

### Withdrawal

In the event of a withdrawal, no change of partner can be made once the pair have started their first match.

## PLAY WITH PICKLEBALL SCOTLAND VALUES:

- **Be Safe:** warm up before you get to the court; only 1 min of warm up on court; stop play and replay a point if ball rolls onto your court – pick it up and find out where it should be returned to; hydrate; first aid provided by centre staff; do not play with a damaged paddle.
- **Have Fun:** even though it is a serious tournament, remember to have fun! Keep it light
- **Be Generous:** with line calls; thank opponents for the game; appreciate your partner's shots and opponent's shots
- **Game on:** practice is over it is game time!
- **Efforts are successes:** taking part means that everyone is a winner, although only 3 medals per event will be awarded.

## 2.5 Players Briefing

Please read all of the information below to ensure you are ready for the 2026 Scottish Open

### USA Pickleball 2026 Rules Apply

Players are responsible for being familiar with the **USAP 2026 Official Rulebook**.

### Registration

Registration is on the 3rd floor and is open from 7:30am.

**All players must register at least 30 minutes before their first event each day.**

### Practice Courts

Courts will be available for practice/warm up:

- Tuesday 26th May: 7:30pm - 9:30pm
- Wednesday 27th May - Saturday 30th May: 7:30am - 8:15am
- Sunday 31st May: 7:30am - 7:55am

Final checks before matches begin:

- Wednesday- Saturday: 8:20am
- Sunday: 8:00am

### Paddles

Players are responsible for verifying that their paddle is on the USA Approved Paddle List.

If there is a referee on court and they do not recognise your paddle, you may be asked by the referee to show your paddle listed on the [Approved Paddle List](#). Check your paddle is on the list before your match.

### Items Allowed on Court

Players can bring towels, water, or sports drink bottles (no glass containers) onto the court. No open liquid containers are allowed. Bags are not allowed.

### Schedule of play

The schedule of play can be accessed by scanning the QR codes around the venue.

Please check this regularly as it can be subject to change and will need to be checked for court numbers for knock out matches.

Please note that the schedule of matches shows the order of matches to be played as 'followed by –' we will show indicated start times for each match but please start the following match as soon as possible after the previous one finishes.

**Please stay close to your court to enable the matches to run without delay**

## Warm Up

The first matches of the day will commence promptly at:

- Wednesday - Saturday: 8:30am
- Sunday: 8.00am

Please check your events! Players are expected to register and complete their warm-up before this time.

Please report to your court ready to start your match. You will have **1 minute to warm up** on court and start play. **Players who are late to court will not be allowed any warm-up time.**

**Players who are not on court within 5 minutes of the starting time will forfeit the match.**

## Injury During Play

If a player is injured during play and requires off-court treatment, unfortunately they will be withdrawn from the event. If the player remains on-court and is unable to continue within five minutes, then they will be withdrawn from the event.

## Hydration

Players may quickly hydrate and towel off between rallies during the game, provided there is no delay.

## Serving

Starting server bands will be provided and must be worn by the starting server for each doubles match. The server band should be clearly visible to your opponent and referee, if present.

**Refusal to wear the starting server band will result in a match forfeit.**

The server must call the score before striking the ball to serve. The score should be called as 2 numbers in singles and 3 numbers in doubles i.e. 0-0-1, if first server, or 0-0-2, if second, or starting server. It should be loud enough so that their opponents can hear it.

If your match has a referee, the referee will call the score. The referee will raise their arm to indicate they are ready to call the score. They will call the score in full then lower their arm. When the referees arm is at their side they have finished calling the score and the server has 10 seconds to serve the ball. Failing to do so results in a fault.

**The server should not strike the ball to serve until the entire score is announced.** Serving before the score is fully called results in a fault. If the server strikes the ball before the score has begun to be announced, it is considered a replay as the ball is not yet live.

If there is a referee on court, players may ask the referee who the correct server or receiver is, whether they are in the correct position or to confirm the called score but **MUST** only do so before the serve has been made.

### **Incorrect score called**

If an incorrect score is announced, the referee or any player may stop play before the serve is returned and the ball becomes dead, to correct the score.

Stopping play after the serve has been returned, to identify or request a score correction is a fault. Furthermore, it is also a fault to stop play to identify or request a score correction when the score has been correctly called.

### **Service Motion**

The referee will pay close attention that each player's service motion complies with USA Pickleball requirements. The ball release must also be visible to the opponent and the referee.

### **Volley Serve - When the servers paddle strikes the ball to serve:**

The Paddle must be **clearly** moving in an upward arc

The Paddle head must **clearly** not be above the highest part of the server's wrist joint

The ball must **clearly** be no higher than the server's waist.

### **Drop Serve**

The ball must be dropped from a natural height and must not be propelled in any direction.

### **Line Calls**

**If there is a referee on court, the referee will call service foot faults, NVZ foot faults and short serves.**

Players are responsible for calling all lines on their side of the court, including the centre line on serve.

**Please make your "out" calls promptly, loudly and clearly and hold any hand signals (if used) so your opponents and referee if on court, can hear and see them.**

**Spectators MUST NOT be consulted on line calls or coach players between rallies. The player/team may be assessed a verbal warning, or if it continues a Technical Warning**

**Referee Appeals:** You may ask the referee, if on court, to rule on any line call. **The referee will only rule if they clearly saw the ball land.** Otherwise, the original call will stand.

The Code of Ethics for Line Calling requires that the opponent receive the benefit of any doubt.

### **Hinders and Balls on Court:**

Players may call "hinder" or "ball on court" if they are distracted by a ball, player, or object entering their playing area.

If there is a referee on court and the referee deems if it is not a safety concern, they will not automatically stop play for a possible ball in the playing area that does not affect play.

Valid hinders, as determined by the referee, including those created or called by players on adjacent courts, will require a replay.

## Time Outs

**Medal matches only.** Each player or team will have **1 Standard Time Out**

Players must clearly indicate their intent to both the referee and their opponents. This may be done verbally (“Time-out”), by using the universal “T” hand signal, or both. The referee will acknowledge the time-out by announcing, for example, “Time-out, receivers 7-5-1, one minute,” while moving to the centre of the net.

### Calling the Head Referee or Tournament Director to your court

Players who request to meet with the Head Referee or Tournament Director to contest a player or referee’s decision will receive a standard timeout, if available, together with a technical warning if the decision is upheld. A technical foul will be assessed if no timeout is available, resulting in a one-point adjustment.

If the player then rescinds the request, before the Head Referee or Tournament Director arrive on court, the team will be assessed a standard time-out. (**Note: Standard Time Outs are available in medal matches only**). If no standard time-outs are available, a technical foul (loss of a point) will be assessed for delay of game.

### Good Sportsmanship

Players are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Any actions considered unsportsmanlike by a referee will result in a verbal warning, a technical warning, or a technical foul. A match will be forfeited if a player or team receives both a technical warning and a technical foul or fails to comply with established rules.

### Pre-Match Briefing - Matches with referees only

Before play begins for each match, the referee will hold a briefing with all players to:

- Inspect player paddles for compliance with paddle specifications.
- Notify players of any approved rule modifications, court abnormalities and non-standard court conditions that could be potential safety issues.
- Identify starting servers and ensure visibility of the starting server identification.
- Use a fair method for players to choose service and ends to start the match.

If your match is the first time you have ever had a referee, please notify the referee of that fact.

You may confirm the match format with the referee during the pre-match briefing and ask any questions you have, but otherwise, they will only cover the four items above.

## 2.6 Results distribution and schedules of play

Match results will be published on Tournament Software as soon as the scores are received by Match Control. These can be viewed via [Tournament Software](#) or by scanning the QR code round the venue.

## 2.7 Video recording and streaming

You can video matches with prior consent of those players to be videoed. With players’ permission we plan to stream many matches via our social media. Please email The Tournament Director by **23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026** at [events@pickleballscotland.org](mailto:events@pickleballscotland.org) if you do NOT give permission for filming or photography. There is an area of no filming/photography (clearly marked “No Photography/filming) in Hall One’s spectators gallery above court 5.

## 2.8 Medal ceremonies

Medal ceremonies will take place shortly after the final match of each event in the foyer of the third floor. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded. Please stay close-by after your last match if you are involved in the medal ceremony.

# 3. Venue Information

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## 3.1 Championship Info

The Information desk, which is on the 3rd floor, is the main point of information for players. Raffle tickets for some great prizes will be on sale here. Cash and cards are accepted.

## 3.2 Finding your way around the venue

- All floors can be accessed via the stairs or lifts
- On the second floor, you will find the changing rooms and both playing halls
- Courts 1 to 8 are in Hall 1 (junkers flooring) and courts 9 to 12 are in Hall 2 (lineal rubber synthetic flooring).
- Lockers are opposite the changing rooms and take a £1 coin
- Toilets are on all floors
- On the 3rd floor, you will find viewing galleries for both halls
- Water fountains are situated on all floors, including one right outside Hall 1

Please do not go in to the sports halls to view matches

## 3.3 Café Refresh

The centre café on the ground floor will be open each day. Opening hours are from 0900 each weekday till 1900 and from 0830 at the weekends till 1700. You can purchase a selection of hot and cold food and snacks. **We strongly advise players to bring their own snacks and drinks during the day just in case you have limited time between games.**

## 3.4 Sponsors stands

On the second floor, there are a number of sponsor stands:

- **HEAD** – supplies of paddles, shoes and accessories
- **Pickleball Escapes** - Discover an exclusive collection of handpicked premium destinations where pickleball meets paradise. Play in 5-star surroundings.
- **PSO Travel** – Experience Pickleball, Tennis and Padel like never before. More than holidays. A community.

### 3.5 Venue evacuation and emergency procedures

If the fire alarm alert sounds at the Meadowbank Sports Centre please leave the building by the nearest available exit.

1. On hearing the alarm, leave the building and proceed to the Assembly Point using the nearest available exit to leave.
2. Do not use the lifts (except designated fire evacuation lifts for the evacuation of disabled persons only).
3. Do not stop to collect any personal belongings.
4. Take persons you are responsible for with you and to their respective Assembly Point.
5. Do not re-enter the building until instructed that it is safe to do so by Assistant Manager / Duty Officer.

### 3.6 Smoking regulations

Smoking and vaping is not permitted inside the venue buildings.

## 4 Thank You

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### Our wonderful volunteers, sponsors and donors

Pickleball Scotland simply could not hope to organise an event such as this, were it not for the kindness of friends, pickleball family, volunteers, businesses and organisations who have generously donated to us their time, money and expertise. We cannot begin to thank individual people because we don't have enough room!

**We thank you sincerely**

