

# Welcome to the 2021 Spalding County Senior Games Pickleball Tournament

We are so happy that the once-delayed 2021 Spalding County Senior Games Pickleball Tournament (DHS) will take place this coming weekend. The Spalding County Pickleball Association, Inc. (SCPA) is proud to be hosting our fifth year of this tournament and it is the largest yet with approximately 160 participants.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, our first priority is to ensure a safe environment for everyone, please keep the following in mind:

- The SCPA will be taking reasonable measures to minimize the potential transmission of the virus. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected each day, we will be disinfecting balls during the competition, hand sanitizer will be available, and we will frequently encourage social distancing. However, each person is responsible for their own behavior.
- **We are asking the following of all participants, visitors, and spectators:**
  - Please wear a face mask during daily check-in and off the court when socializing
  - Practice social distancing when not on the court; bring a chair to use when not playing to allow separation from others.
  - Wash your hands as frequently as possible.
  - Use hand sanitizer between matches.
  - We will not be setting out water coolers as we've done in the past. The water fountain and bottle filler will be in service, and we will provide ice upon request.

The following is intended to acquaint you with the format, rules, and other particulars of this tournament:

## SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, April 14th:

Men's and Women's Doubles (first session begins at 9:00 AM)

### Thursday, April 15th:

Mixed Doubles (first session begins at 9:00 am)

Because of social distancing, check-in may take longer than usual, so **please plan to check-in one hour (but no later than 45 minutes) before your scheduled start time.** The check-in desk will open at 8:00 AM each morning. In addition, if courts are available and everyone has checked in, **we may begin subsequent brackets earlier than scheduled.**

Court assignments will be posted on the Bracket Board (east side of the building) on the day of each event. Court assignments for the second session may change during the day, so listen for any court change announcements on the PA system.

The bracket sheets and playing schedules for all events are available by clicking on the following link:

[LINK](#)

## TOURNAMENT FORMAT

All matches will be Round Robin format, win by one point. The number of points needed to win depends on bracket size as follows:

- Three players/teams: Double Round Robin to 15 points
- Four players/teams: Double Round Robin to 11 points
- Five players/teams: Single Round Robin to 15 points
- Six players/teams: Single Round Robin to 15 points
- Seven and eight players/teams: Single Round Robin to 11 points
- NOTE: Brackets larger than eight players/teams will be divided into two pools, A and B and play will be as follows:
  - Each Pool will play to the winning score depending on the size of the Pool (see above).
  - The two first place teams will play a single game to 15 points, win by one, to determine the Gold and Silver medal winners.
  - The two second place teams will play a single game to 15 points, win by one, to determine the Bronze medal winner.

Tournament Ball: Onix Fuse G2 Yellow Outdoor Ball

## COURT MONITORS

Each bracket will be assigned a Court Monitor who will be responsible for the following:

- Explaining the specific format for that bracket
- Announcing individual match opponents and courts
- Determining which player/team will have the choice of serving, receiving, choosing a side, or deferring; teams may switch sides at 6 points for an 11-point match or at 8 points for a 15-point match; players/teams must agree whether or not to switch before play starts.
- Recording scores on the scoresheets (each singles player, or a representative from each doubles team must initial the score, which will be considered the final score of the match)
- Reporting all scores back to tournament operations when all matches are complete.

Court monitors are NOT referees and will not answer rule-based questions. Players are asked to resolve any dispute on the courts and play the point over if necessary. If resolution is not possible over a rule question the Court Monitor will ask for the Referee in Chief of the tournament to make a ruling.

## MEDAL AWARDS

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers respectively in each skill/age group, even if ages and/or skills are combined in the bracket. Winners will be determined in accordance with USA Pickleball rules as follows:

- **Primary Criterion:** the player/team that had the **most wins** in the bracket.
- **First Tiebreaker:** the player/team that won the **most head-to-head match(s)**.
- **Second Tiebreaker:** the player/team with the **highest point differential** of all matches played in the bracket.
- **Third Tiebreaker:** the player/team with the **highest head-to-head point differential**.
- **Fourth Tiebreaker:** the player/team with the **highest point differential against the next-highest team** (e.g., if two teams are tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>, use the point differential of each against the 1<sup>st</sup> place team).

## FOOD, BEVERAGES AND MORE

Our Concession Stand will be open all hours of the tournament:

- We will be selling a variety of food and beverage items including soft drinks, water, sports drinks, energy bars, candy, chips, etc.
- Near the noon hour we will be selling hamburgers and hot dogs.
- We will gladly provide ice to fill beverage containers of players and spectators.

## PRO SHOP

Visit our Pro Shop where we now offer a supply of items including:

- New and Demo paddles from most major pickleball manufacturers
- Several brands of pickleballs
- Limited supply of new men's and women's court shoes, shirts, caps, sunglasses, etc.
- Various Accessories: grips, overgrips, edge tape, gloves, and car seat protectors

See Lynn Lowry - Pro Shop Manager at Our Newly Expanded Pro Shop Tent (the Tent is used during all hours of a tournament; otherwise, the Pro Shop is on the west end of the building, window & side door accessible).

## RULES

In an effort to move matches along quickly and efficiently the following instructions are provided to tournament players. **It is your responsibility to read and understand the following instructions and rules of the tournament before reporting for play.**

1. The USA Pickleball 2021 Official Rule Book will govern play, unless superseded by any local rule described below.
2. You must check-in **no later than** 45 minutes before the scheduled start time on your day of play.
3. Called Matches
  - a) When your bracket is called, you must proceed immediately to your assigned courts.

- b) Failure to report within 10 minutes of when your match is called will result in a forfeit the first game and any subsequent game for which you fail to appear.
  - c) If everyone in your bracket has reported, we may start your bracket early.
4. **The only items players are allowed to take onto the courts are their paddle, a towel, and a drink container. Chairs, bags, roller bags, etc. are not permitted on the courts.**
  5. The first server MUST wear the wrist band provided by the tournament director.
  6. The Court Monitors do not provide instructions, other than to determine which team chooses to serve, side, receive or defer. The Court Monitors will NOT respond to rule-based questions or help resolve disputes.