

2026 TSO Pickleball Tourney Info

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION 2026

Dear Pickleball Players,

We are looking forward to a fantastic time of competition August 5-9, at the Chattanooga Convention Center (1 Carter Plaza, Chattanooga, TN 37402).

We have 813 players registered! With so many players competing in multiple events, the number of actual participations is 1,400.

Thank you in advance for reading this lengthy email, full of important information.

BRACKETS/FORMAT/TOURNEY OPERATION

This tournament will be administered through **Global Pickleball Network**. Every player is **REQUIRED to have an account (FREE)**.

Texts and e-mails regarding brackets, start times, tournament desk assignments and more will be communicated through this format.

Detailed brackets, broken into divisions with start times and format, are all currently posted on that website.

To view: [TSO Pickleball Brackets- Global Pickleball](#)

You will be asked to create an account if you do not have one. **

PLEASE TAKE NOTE, THE INDIVIDUAL RATINGS ON GLOBAL NETWORK ARE NOT WHAT WE USE- THEY ARE INACCURATE. WE USED THE RATING THAT YOU SUBMITTED WHEN REGISTERING

Speaking of ratings, we are receiving e-mails from players **investigating the ratings of opponents**. As mentioned on our website and most importantly on the registration page when logging in ratings, we ask and rely on players to submit honest

ratings. Ratings discovered online might be higher (for many reasons) than that person's actual skill level. We do not have the resources to investigate, study, or move players into other brackets. Thank you for your understanding.

**** CREATING A FREE GLOBAL PICKLEBALL ACCOUNT**

We are still missing hundreds of players from the system.

As mentioned above, all tournament operations will be conducted through this program.

Do not be in danger of forfeiting if a text cannot reach you with court and time assignments.

Click this link to [create an account](#).

Please ask your partner for help if this is hard for you. Also, make sure you have signed out of a spouse's account to add yours.

Thank you for your help. Players with an account do not need to take action.

DIVISIONS

Skill divisions:

Division I: 4.5/5.0

Division II: 4.0

Division III: 3.5

Division IV: 3.0

Division V: 2.5

CHANGES/ADDITIONS/ WITHDRAWALS

Unfortunately, it is too late to make any additions/adjustments/changes to ratings/divisions/events at this time. The brackets are ready to go.

WITHDRAWALS- if you find that you or your team needs to withdraw from the tourney, please e-mail both kelly@tnseniorolympics.com and christine@tnseniorolympics.com so that one of us can make that adjustment to your bracket. **INCLUDE name (s) , age group, event, and division.**

REPORTS

Information such as a master player list by division, tournament rules/guidelines, and other items will be posted in the next few days. Documents will be posted at the top of our page:

<http://www.tnseniorolympics.com/pickleball>

BALL

Tournament ball: Orange Indoor Onix (Official)

and Yellow Indoor Onix (for color blindness or if both players/ teams agree)

***Players Must Not Wear Yellow or Orange color attire.**

PADDLES

Although this is an unsanctioned tournament, Tennessee Senior Olympics follows the current USA Pickleball Official Rules. Players are responsible for using a paddle that appears as "Pass" on the current [USA Pickleball Approved Paddle List](#)

Tournament officials reserve the right to inspect any paddle at any time. Any paddle that is not approved, has been modified, or has been removed from the approved list may not be used in competition.

PLAYER CHECK-IN and GYM OPENING

Matches will start each morning at 8:00 am ET (with the exception of Wednesday, 8/5 when matches start at 1:00pm ET). Remember to check your start time as age group starts are staggered throughout the day.

The **playing hall will open** at 7:15 am each day (12:30 pm on Wednesday or when set-up has completed).

TOURNAMENT check-in will be held **INSIDE** the convention center exhibit hall (A/B/C/D) at **tournament desks**. Signs will be posted as to age and skill group tournament desk assignments, as well as texted to you. Please check-in 30 minutes prior to play.

All players will check-in each day of play at tournament desks for court assignments and other information.

Shirt Pick-up and ID check-in will be available at the convention center lobby **outside** of halls A/B/C/D **from 7am to 2:30 pm each day (exceptions- Wednesday 8/5 starting at 12:15 pm and Sunday 8/09 check-in will end at 1:00 pm)**.

As lines may be long, **please know that you can check-in at any time including after play**. This is a **one-time stop** during your stay.

Please bring proof of age.

June athletes- those of you who participated in Franklin in June may skip the initial shirt check-in outside the hall and go straight to your tournament desk. **However, June athletes are welcome to come purchase a pickleball shirt for \$15 to add to the state finals shirt you received in June.**

HOTELS/PARKING

If you are still in need of a hotel, please check this link although many cut-off dates have passed: [Hotel Info](#)

If staying in a downtown hotel, you may ride the electric shuttle for free. Please click this link to review the route:

[Hotel Shuttle Route](#)

If coming in from outside the area, you may park at the Chattanooga Convention Center garage. The parking garage can be accessed from Carter Street or Chestnut Street. After parking, follow signs and monitors into the Convention Center. We will be playing in Halls A/B/C/D.

Current parking rates in that garage are as follows:

0-1 Hours \$4.00

1-3 Hours \$8.00

3-5 Hours \$10.00

5-8 Hours \$15.00

Metered parking is also available on the street (free on Sunday) as well as other parking lots nearby. All have various costs. For those not parking at the garage, the best entrance to enter the Convention Center will be at Carter Street (look for TSO signs), although any door should work.

FOOD/CONCESSIONS

As **concession sales have been very low in the past** since most players are concentrating on competition, **concessions will NOT be offered**. The **TSO is responsible for any shortages** and as a non-profit we are not in a position to cover this. **In addition, the \$2500 cost of renting and filling water coolers is beyond our reach, so please bring a water bottle**. Water fountains and touchless water refill stations are available.

Players are **NOT** allowed to bring meals into the venue, per Chattanooga Convention Center rules.

Please click this link for food options close to the convention center and know

that you can ride the escalator up into the hotel to eat as well. The link also contains a Chattanooga special events calendar.

[Restaurant and Other Info](#)

SCOREKEEPING AND RULES

We are so fortunate that volunteers from BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and others will be coming to help with medals, scorecard running, and various tasks.

However, for simplicity we will not be providing scorekeepers for all 36 courts. Scorekeeping will be the responsibility of players.

Please call your score clearly when serving so that your opponents can hear. Players will call their own lines.

There will be a **help desk for questions regarding rules, brackets**, and other questions. This will be positioned inside the exhibit hall near the player entrance.

OPEN PLAY

The courts (36 total) will remain extremely busy throughout the tournament, however open play will be allowed at the end of each day from 6 :00-8:00 pm as courts become available.

Wednesday, 8/5; Thursday 8/6; Friday 8/7 and Saturday, 8/8 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm

This will be first come, first serve. If teams are waiting, we ask that after a game is complete, both teams rotate off to allow others to play. Teams can then get back in line.

Please also know that during tournament play although you might see open courts, it is not permissible to jump on to warm-up or play extra games. This

makes it confusing for the tournament staff to know which courts are free.

SAFE TESTING

Are you ready to take your pickleball performance to the next level? This year we again are excited to offer Sustained Athlete Fitness Exams (SAFE) tailored for athletes ages 50 and up. These quick, free, evidence-based screenings evaluate key indicators like balance, grip strength, joint mobility and muscular performance—helping you stay in the game longer, stronger, and safer.

Offered on Thursday, 8/6 and Friday, 8/7. First come; first serve.

Whether you are aiming for gold or just love the game, knowing your fitness baseline can help prevent injury, improve play, and guide your training. Let's keep you moving well—on and off the court!

SPECTATORS

Spectators are welcome, free of charge. Chairs will outline the perimeter of the outside courts to be used for viewing. You may also bring your own chair.

2027 NATIONAL QUALIFYING INFO - THE ROAD TO TULSA

The top **THREE places in EACH age group/division will qualify**. Only divisions 1-4 are eligible. Division 5 will not advance, but the TSO puts in extra effort to offer the 2.5 division as an encouragement to this skill level.

For those who qualify, registration information will be sent directly from the NSGA. Registration typically opens in early winter, and **FILLS IN 24 HOURS. Pay close attention to the registration launch (usually midnight ET) and stay up late to assure a spot.**

We are so excited about your participation! See you in Chattanooga.

TSO Staff

Christine Dewbre

Kelly Price

Traci Meador

Questions?

christine@tnseniorolympics.com

kelly@tnseniorolympics.com

615-200-8760 (leave a message)