



2024 NC Senior Games State Finals Pickleball Tournament Details

October 18-21, 2024
Cary Tennis Park
2727 Louis Stephens Dr.

<https://www.townofcary.org/recreation-enjoyment/facilities/cary-tennis-park>

The State Finals Pickleball Tournament is expected to draw nearly 900 individuals with most people doing 2-3 events! This tournament is HUGE! We are so fortunate you are joining us, and we hope you have a great time! Specific scoring will be in place to help control the volume: **All** games will be 1 game to 15, win by 1. It may be necessary to make other format changes to accommodate growth. Thank you for your patience as we endeavor to have an exceptional tournament for everyone!

- Host hotels will be available on the [State Finals Information page](#) of the NCSG website.
- **Parking details** are available on page 5 of this document. There are three parking locations.
- Concessions are NOT available for purchase at the venue. However, many wonderful restaurants are near Cary Tennis Park. All food and beverages must be kept outside of the competition area. Only water bottles are permitted courtside.
- Only non-skid (non-marking) soled shoes are permitted.
- The Cary Tennis Park Indoor Pickleball courts will not be available for practice. There are outdoor Pickleball Courts at the Cary Tennis Park. Please go to <https://www.townofcary.org/recreation-enjoyment/sports/adult-sports/adult-pickleball> for details.
- Spectator Seating: Bleachers may be available, but Participants should provide their own seating if needed.
- Venue Details: Indoor tennis courts will be converted to pickleball courts. The indoor tennis facility has an open airflow system and outdoor acrylic court surface. The fans in the facility are automatically set to control humidity for the courts, they cannot be adjusted. Outdoor balls are used because of the tennis court playing surface and airflow throughout the building. If necessary, matches will also be played on converted outdoor Tennis courts.
- Volunteer Staffing: State Finals Pickleball is a huge event! It requires many volunteers for 3 shifts all three days. Please thank them for their time. If you are interested in volunteering for other age groups during the tournament, please let the Volunteer check-in staff know. Participants will keep their own score. Floaters may be available to help score on a court if needed.
- Line Judges will not be provided.
- Referees may be provided if needed for medal matches (subject to availability).
- Divisions: Participants/teams may be divided into skill divisions in each gender/age group based on the number of registered participants/teams. This varies from age group to age group in order to provide for a better tournament for all. Final decisions on divisions will be made after the cancellation deadline.
- Equipment: NCSG provides Onix Fuse g2 outdoor yellow balls. Participants must provide paddles that meet USA Pickleball Specifications.



Check-In and Forfeit time: All participants must check in with Photo ID **each day** at the check in area before their report time. Participants/teams should report to their bracket assigned court 5-10 minutes prior to their scheduled matches. Report times are listed on the Final Participant Schedule. Forfeit time is 15 minutes after the published report time, no exceptions. Due to the size and complexity of the State Finals Tournament, participants that have **not** checked in within 15 minutes of their scheduled report time are choosing to **forfeit the entire event, not just a single match! Please assume there will be traffic, parking and other delays...the tournament must go on as scheduled in fairness to all participants!** Scheduled report times are designed to keep the tournament on schedule. Court assignments will be posted throughout the day on brackets as the tournament progresses and courts become available.

National Qualifying: 2024 is a National Qualifying year for the 2025 National Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa. Go to www.nsga.com for more details.

Pickleball Preliminary Reporting Times
(The Pickleball Schedule with specific reporting times will be published by September 6, 2024.)

Friday, October 18 – Mixed Doubles

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| <u>50-54</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>70-74</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>55-59</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>75-79</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>60-64</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>80-84</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>65-69</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>85-89</u> | <u>TBD</u> |

Saturday, October 19 – Men's Doubles/Women's Singles

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|
| <u>Male Doubles</u> | <u>50-54</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Singles</u> | <u>50-54</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Doubles</u> | <u>55-59</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Singles</u> | <u>55-59</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Doubles</u> | <u>60-64</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Singles</u> | <u>60-64</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Doubles</u> | <u>65-69</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Singles</u> | <u>65-69</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Doubles</u> | <u>70-74</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Singles</u> | <u>70-74</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Doubles</u> | <u>75-79</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Singles</u> | <u>75-79</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Doubles</u> | <u>80-84</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Singles</u> | <u>80-84</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Doubles</u> | <u>85-89</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Singles</u> | <u>85-89</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Doubles</u> | <u>90-94</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Singles</u> | <u>90-94</u> | <u>TBD</u> |

Sunday, October 20 – Women's Doubles/Men's Singles

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|
| <u>Male Singles</u> | <u>50-54</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Doubles</u> | <u>50-54</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Singles</u> | <u>55-59</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Doubles</u> | <u>55-59</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Singles</u> | <u>60-64</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Doubles</u> | <u>60-64</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Singles</u> | <u>65-69</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Doubles</u> | <u>65-69</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Singles</u> | <u>70-74</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Doubles</u> | <u>70-74</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Singles</u> | <u>75-79</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Doubles</u> | <u>75-79</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Singles</u> | <u>80-84</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Doubles</u> | <u>80-84</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <u>Male Singles</u> | <u>85-89</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>Female Doubles</u> | <u>85-89</u> | <u>TBD</u> |

Monday, October 21 – TBD

Pickleball Rules & Tournament Format

Tournament Rules

- Tournament will follow Official (IFP) International Federation of Pickleball, unless otherwise specified in the NCSG Rules Book.
- Server must call score before serving.
- Ceiling and ceiling fixtures (ex. Ceiling, Lights, Fans, Flags, etc.) are considered "Out of Bounds".
- Each team will be allowed a 3-minute warm up prior to their match.
- Each team will be allotted two 1-minute time outs per game.
- Events may be cancelled, combined and restricted at the discretion of the tournament committee.
- During play, except from their partner, players may only receive coaching during time-outs and between games. Once play has begun, any communication between a player and any person not on the court, if determined by a volunteer to be coaching, shall result in a technical warning to the offending player or team. If the communication occurs a second time, it shall result in a technical foul and a point will be awarded to the opponent.
- Officiating decisions and/or rule interpretations during a match may be appealed to the State Finals Pickleball Event Management Team before the next serve. After appeal, decisions of the State Finals Pickleball Management Team are final. Excessive or unnecessary appeals that slow down a match will not be tolerated, and a Technical Foul may be issued. Eligibility appeals should be referred to NCSG Staff.
- The total score (all three numbers) must be called before striking the ball or it is a fault. One partner can call the score the whole game. That means a partner with low voice could allow partner to call score to better be heard. But it has to be the whole game, no back and forth.

Service/Side Selection and Rotation (from IFP rules book)

- 5.C.1 A coin flip or any other fair method will determine first choice of service or side. If the winner chooses to serve or receive, the loser picks starting side. If the winner chooses starting side, the loser chooses to serve or receive.
- 5.C.4. In games to 15, sides will be switched after the first team reaches a score of 8 points. Serve remains with the player holding serve.

Seeding Information: Participants are seeded based on last year's State Finals Pickleball Results within submitted skill ratings. Participants are responsible for submitting their skill rating. Participants that do not know their skill rating should review the Pickleball Rating Chart on the Pickleball page of the NCSG website. Previous years' State Finals results will not supersede ratings. The #1 seed is placed in Pool A, #2 seed in Pool B, #3 seed in Pool C, etc. If there are only two pools and 3 seeds, the #2 seed and #3 seed will be placed in Pool B. Seeded players/teams returning to an age group are seeded higher than seeded players/teams entering into a new age group since they are the returning champions from that age group. Participants/teams from the same Local Games are randomly split into different pools where possible. The results from Pool Play could place participants/teams from the same Local Games against each other in single elimination play. In these cases, pool play results are earned and thus take hierarchy over Local Games participation.

Tie Breakers: Adapted from Section 12 in the USA Pickleball Association Rules (International Federation of Pickleball).

- 12.C.3. Round Robin. All players or teams play each other. The winner is determined based on number of matches won. If two or more teams are tied: **First tie-breaker:** head-to-head matches won. **Second tie-breaker:** point differential of all games played. (Example: Team A won Match 1 11-8, 11-4, so they would have a point differential of +10. Team A then wins the second match 11-9, 2-11, 11-6. For this round, they would have a point differential of -2. This would give them a total for the day of +8.) **Third tie-breaker:** head-to-head point differential. **Fourth tie-breaker:** point differential against next-highest team. (Example: If the teams are tied for second, use point differentials against the first-place team.)
- 13.A.6 Pool Play. The participants/teams are divided into two or more pools. Each pool plays a round-robin to determine the top two qualifiers that get into a single-elimination playoff. Tie breaker rules from 12.C.3. above will apply.

Tournament Format

The maximum number of individuals in a pool for pool play is 4 and most of the time is 3 (unless there are only 5 people in an age group). We do this to maximize court usage. Increasing the size of pools or doing double elimination instead of our current format increases the number of courts required exponentially and the number of days needed for the tournament.

Numbers of players by age category is posted as participants register <https://www.ncseniorgames.org/registered-participants>.

For age categories/divisions with 5 players or less:

- Participants will play round robin with the results of the round robin determining winners.
- Each game will be 1 game played to 15, win by 1, no time limit.
- Participants will be assigned a court or set of courts to play out all of their round robin matches.
- Participants will keep their own score. Participants do not need to return to the check in area until after the round robin is complete and the designated Court Monitor has returned results to the Event Managers.
- Brackets may not be re-drawn even if there are no shows in pools.

Sample Round Robin Bracket for 5 in an age group. (Results recorded left to right)

| | A | B | C | D | E | Win | Loss |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|------|
| A Ann (1st) | | W | W | W | W | 4 | 0 |
| B Jill (3rd) | L | | L | W | W | 2 | 2 |
| C Amanda (2nd) | L | W | | L | W | 2 | 2 |
| D Helen | L | L | W | | L | 1 | 3 |
| E Wilma | L | L | L | W | | 1 | 3 |

Ann wins Gold because of best record.

Amanda wins Silver because second best record and won head to head game with Jill.

Jill wins Bronze because tied for second best record and lost head to head game with Amanda.

For age categories/divisions with 6 players or more:

- Participants will play pool play games consisting of 1 game to 15 for each game, win by 1, no time limit.
- Results of pool play will provide seeding for a single elimination tournament. Each game in single elimination play will be 1 game to 15 win by 1, **including medal matches.**
- Participants will be assigned a court or set of courts to play out all of their pool play matches.
- Participants will record the results on scoresheets. Participants do not need to return to the check in area until after the pool play is complete and all results are ready to be returned to the Event Managers.
- Brackets may not be re-drawn even if there are no shows in pools.

Sample pool play and single elimination for 6 in an age group. (Results recorded left to right)

In most cases the first and second place from each pool advance regardless of pool size.

| Pool A | A | B | C | Win | Loss |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----|------|
| A Ann (A#1) | | W | W | 2 | 0 |
| B Jill | L | | L | 0 | 2 |
| C Amanda (A#2) | L | W | | 1 | 1 |

| Pool B | A | B | C | Win | Loss |
|---------------|---|---|---|-----|------|
| A Angie (B#1) | | W | W | 2 | 0 |
| B Kate (B#2) | L | | W | 1 | 1 |
| C Sarah | L | L | | 0 | 2 |

Ann and Amanda advance from Pool A, Jill does not advance.

Angie and Kate advance from Pool B, Sarah does not advance. Single elimination bracket. (The winners of the first round games will play for Gold and Silver and the losers of the first round games will play for Bronze.) *Note: There will be larger single elimination brackets that will eliminate individuals/teams after one game in larger divisions.*



Cary Tennis Park Map

