Welcome

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Georgia Recreation and Park Association and Macon-Bibb County Parks and Recreation Department wish to extend a big welcome to all competitors to the 2021 GRPA State Pickleball Tournament. We are pleased to be holding this state event at the Tattnall Pickleball Center. Please see the layout of Tattnall Pickleball Center below.
Facility Amenities

The facility features 17 dedicated pickleball courts. The tournament desk and operations center will be under an awning at the back of the clubhouse. Picnic tables and seating is located throughout the facility. We will have practice courts available and posted for your convenience. All courts are reserved for tournament play but they will be open for recreational play once the tournament is finished for the day.

Tournament Format

The 2021 GRPA State Pickleball Tournament format will be round robin, and brackets will be formed based on player’s ages and skill levels to achieve a meaningful level of competition for each playing bracket. Each team will compete against every other team in a bracket. Core will be the tournament ball.

Tournament Schedule

- Friday, September 10, 2021. Men’s Singles and Women’s Doubles
  Check in starts at 3pm; Start of first games are at 4pm
- Saturday, September 11, 2021. Mixed Doubles
  Check in starts at 8am; Start of first games are at 9am
- Sunday, September 12, 2021. Women’s Singles and Men’s Doubles
  Check in starts at 8am; Start of first games are at 9am

PLEASE ARRIVE 45 MINUTES PRIOR TO MATCH

Rules of Play and Scoring

1. The competition:

   A. All matches will be round robin.
   B. Match format will be determined by the number of players and teams that are represented in a particular bracket.
      I. If only two teams are in a bracket, each team plays each opponent three times to 15 points, win by 1 point (state
tournament only – in district, both teams will advance to the next level without competing).

II. If three teams are in a bracket, each team plays each opponent three times to 11 points, win by 1 point.

III. If four teams are in a bracket, each team plays each opponent two times to 11 points, win by 1 point.

IV. If five teams are in a bracket, each team plays each opponent one time to 11 points, win by 1 point.

V. If there are six, seven, or eight teams in a bracket, each team plays each opponent to 11 points, win by 1 point.

VI. If there are more than eight teams in a bracket, the event will be split into two brackets of fewer than eight teams, subject to the formats listed above.

C. Any ties in points will be decided by head to head competition.

D. Age levels may be combined at the tournament director’s discretion depending on the number of participants in age and skill brackets. The state championship tournament director will have administrative flexibility in this matter.

2. Scoring (USAPA Rules):

A. Points are scored only by the serving team.

B. Games are normally played to 11 points, win by 2.

C. Tournament games may be to 11 or 15, win by 1.

D. When the serving team’s score is even (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10) the player who was the first server in the game for that team will be in the right-side court when serving or receiving; when odd (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) that player will be in the left-side court when serving or receiving.

E. Non-Volley Zone

I. The non-volley zone is the court area within 7 feet on both sides of the net.

II. Volleysing is prohibited within the non-volley zone. This rule prevents players from executing smashes from a position within the zone.

III. It is a fault if, when volleying a ball, the player steps on the non-volley zone, including the line and/or when the player’s momentum causes them or anything they are wearing or
carrying to touch the non-volley zone including the associated lines.

IV. It is a fault if, after volleying, a player is carried by momentum into or touches the non-volley zone, even if the volleyed ball is declared dead before this happens.

V. A player may legally be in the non-volley zone any time other than when volleying a ball.

VI. The non-volley zone is commonly referred to as “the kitchen.”

F. Line Calls
I. A ball contacting any line, except the non-volley zone line on a serve, is considered “in.”

II. A serve contacting the non-volley zone line is short and a fault.

G. Faults
I. A fault is any action that stops play because of a rule violation.

II. A fault by the receiving team results in a point for the serving team.

III. A fault by the serving team results in the server’s loss of serve or side out.

IV. A fault occurs when:
   a) A serve does not land within the confines of the receiving court.
   b) The ball is hit into the net on the serve or any return.
   c) The ball is volleyed before a bounce has occurred on each side.
   d) The ball is hit out of bounds.
   e) A ball is volleyed from the non-volley zone.
   f) A ball bounces twice before being struck by the receiver.
   g) A player, player’s clothing, or any part of a player’s paddle touches the net or the net post when the ball is in play.
   h) There is a violation of a service rule.

I. A ball in play strikes a player or anything the player is wearing or carrying.

J. A ball in play strikes any permanent object before bouncing on the court.
Player instructions

- The USAPA/IFP 2021 official tournament rulebook will apply, unless noted.
- This is an unsanctioned tournament and there will be no referees.
- One player from the serving team must call out the score before each serve.
- Players make all line calls. Calls are made by the team nearest to where the ball landed. The opposing team is not allowed to make a call unless asked.
- Changing sides – if both teams agree to stay on the same side they may. However, if one team chooses to change then we do as follows:
  - Games played to 11 will change when 1 team reaches 6.
  - Games played to 15 will change when 1 team reaches 8.
- A member of each team will report the final score to the desk.
- Event staff will have the same authority as a referee in the case of unsportsmanlike conduct by any player.

Awards

- Medals will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place winners, respectively, in each bracket.
- Award winners will be determined by the first and second most games won among the teams within their bracket.
- Special note – In those brackets where age and/or skill groups are combined, awards will be made according to the above stated criteria for each of the age and skill groups in the bracket. Even though a team may be playing in a group of mixed ages and/or skills, only the scores against the teams in their age and skill group will be counted towards age/skill awards determination.

Inclement Weather

Please note there is always the possibility of inclement weather. The tournament director may stop play at any time due to rain, lightning or other weather condition. Players must comply with these announcements. If this happens players must
report the score and serving/receiving formations to the tournament desk. Play will resume as soon as the tournament director declares the courts playable.

**Player Conduct**

GRPA and Macon Bibb Parks and Recreation event conduct policies require all participants to act in a civil manner and obey rules of ethics and sportsmanship. This is an unsanctioned tournament and games will not have a referee. However, the tournament director and event staff will have the authority to impose discipline in the case of unacceptable conduct by any player. Players that have been warned but persist in behaving in an unsportsmanlike manner will be penalized up to and including expulsion from the tournament.

**Host Hotel**

Hilton Garden Inn/Mercer University  
1220 Stadium Drive  
Macon, Georgia 31204

**Restaurants**

Beautiful downtown Macon is less than a mile away. Downtown Macon is home to many restaurants that range from fine dining to casual. Less than ½ mile away Mercer Village offers a few restaurants as well.
### Directions

#### Coming from I-75 N

Take exit 164 for US-41/GA-19/Forsyth St/Hardeman Ave toward Downtown.  
Turn right onto Monroe St.  
Continue onto Tattnall St  
Turn right onto Oglethorpe St.  
Turn left.  
Destination will be on the left.  

Tattnall Square Pickleball & Tennis Center, 1155 College St, Macon, GA 31201

#### Coming from I-75 S

Take exit 164 for US-41/GA-19/Hardeman Ave toward Forsyth St/Downtown  
Turn left onto GA-19 S/Forsyth St  
Turn right onto Monroe St.  
Continue onto Tattnall St.  
Turn right onto Oglethorpe St.  
Turn left.  
Destination will be on the left.  

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