

Junior

PPA

PICKLEBALL TOUR

2024 HANDBOOK

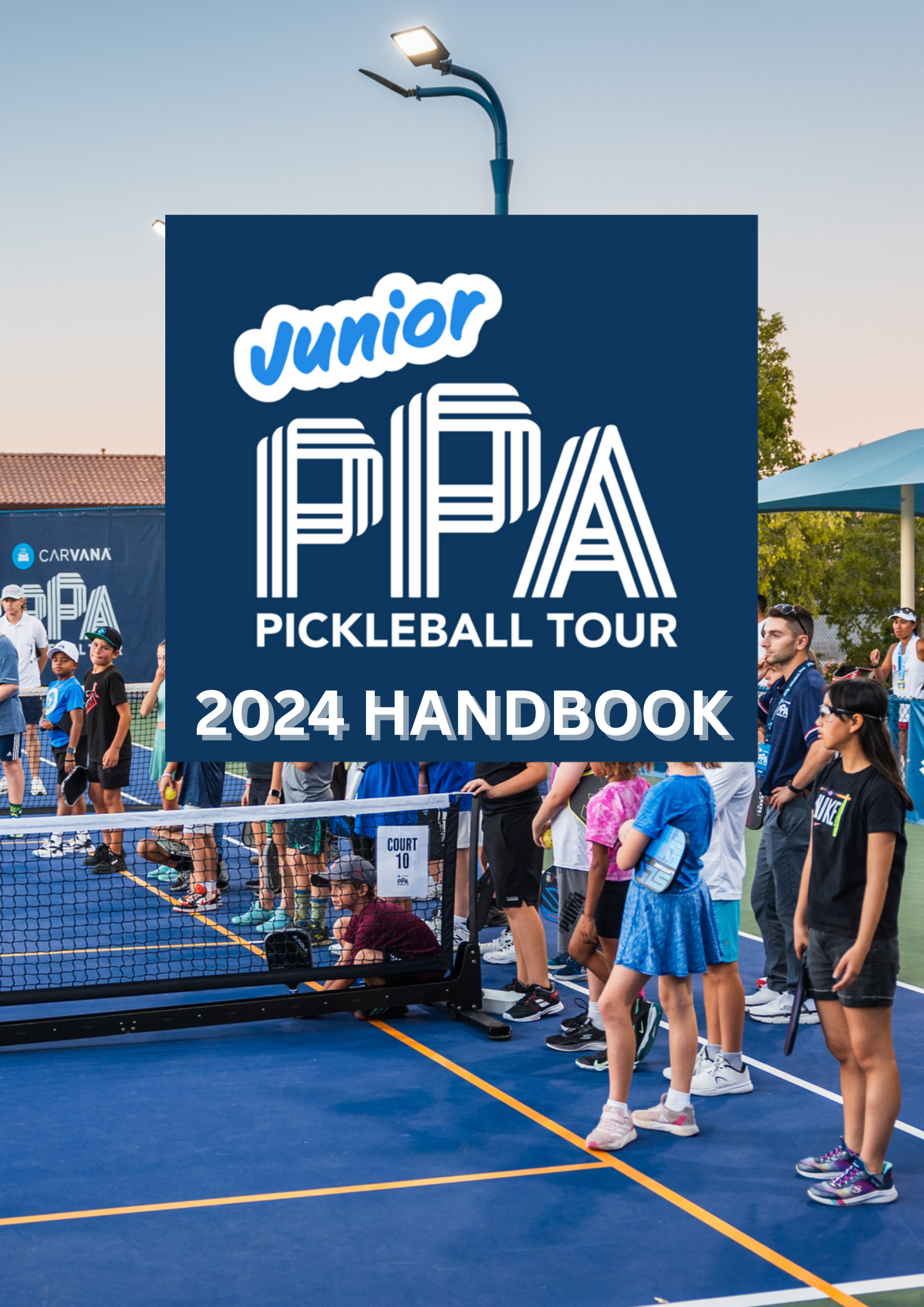




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JUNIOR PPA

Junior PPA is a campaign dedicated to fostering youth pickleball players through competition events, development opportunities, and social activity. Junior PPA offers a spotlight for youth athletes around the world to showcase their talents, develop physical and mental skills, and compete against other top juniors in the rising community of pickleball. Junior PPA events will transpire alongside certain stops of the Carvana PPA Tour, where the top professional pickleball players in the world play.



OUR MISSION

At Junior PPA, our mission is to promote, encourage, and advance youth pickleball by creating opportunities for athletes 16 years of age and under to compete, learn, and grow in a positive and fun environment. The Junior PPA's approach is intended to strengthen the skill set, health, and character of youth, as well as the culture of youth pickleball.



OUR VISION

We strive to be committed to youth development while encouraging continued participation in the community of pickleball. We hope to use our resources, platform, and passion to inspire the next generation of pickleball athletes.



JUNIOR PPA TOUR

Compete against the top junior pickleball players around the country in traditional competition events, where you will have the opportunity to showcase your talents, refine your skill set, and [#PlayWhereTheProsPlay](#).



COMPETITION EVENTS

DIVISIONS

- Boys Singles Age 8-12
- Girls Singles Age 8-12
- Boys Singles Age 13-14
- Girls Singles Age 13-14
- Boys Singles Age 15-16
- Girls Singles Age 15-16

- Boys Doubles Age 8-12
- Girls Doubles Age 8-12
- Boys Doubles Age 13-16
- Girls Doubles Age 13-16

- Mixed Doubles Age 8-12
- Mixed Doubles Age 13-16



FORMAT

- Bracket or Round Robin
 - Format will depend on number of registrants in each division.

*Divisions may be combined based on number of registrants.

*Organizers of event reserve right to alter match formats based on weather or scheduling delays.

BRACKET FORMAT

- Double Elimination
- 2/3 Games to 11 (Win by 2)
 - If goes to a 3rd game, switch sides at 6
- 1 Game to 15 for opportunity bracket
 - Switch sides at 8
- 2 timeouts per game

ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

- 1 Game to 15 (Win by 2)
- 2 timeouts per game
- Play each team/player in division
- Medalists: Determined by Player/Team with most matches won
 - Tiebreaker: Head-to-Head
 - 3-way Tiebreaker: Point Differential

REFEREES

All matches will be refereed at Junior PPA events as long as referee availability is sufficient.

OFFICIAL BALL

Vulcan VPro Flight Pickleball



POINTS

Points will be awarded at each Junior PPA event based on the elements in the table below.

Outcome	Points
Gold	500
Silver	250
Bronze	125
Participation	30

Points will be tracked to determine the best of the best across Junior PPA events each year. Players with the higher points will receive greater opportunities for exposure, recognition, and promotion.

RANKINGS

Junior PPA rankings will be updated on the PPA website at ppatour.com/junior-ppa-tour/



WEEKLY RUN OF SHOW (e.g.)

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY:

- Free Youth Clinic
- Pro Challenge
- Media Day

THURSDAY:

- Free Courtside Tickets to Championship Court
- Pro Meet & Greet
- Junior Development Q&A

FRIDAY:

- Boys & Girls Singles

SATURDAY:

- Boys & Girls Doubles

SUNDAY:

- Junior Mixed Doubles

JUNIOR PPA SERVES

In addition to competition events on the Junior PPA Tour, Junior PPA Serves will serve as a program focused on building opportunities centered around youth development and individual growth on and off the court. Junior PPA Serves embodies our mission of promoting, encouraging, and advancing the culture of youth pickleball.



CLINICS & EVENTS

Junior PPA players will be offered the opportunity to participate in exclusive events that maximize the Junior PPA experience at each tour stop.

These events and opportunities will be FREE of charge:

- Camps/Clinics
- Pro Challenge
- Q&A Sessions
- Pro Meet & Greets
- Championship Court Access
- School Visits
- Family Night



FREE YOUTH CLINICS

At certain tour stops, pros will be hosting youth clinics for those interested in learning from some of the best professionals on tour, free of charge.

PRO CHALLENGE

PPA has introduced “Pro Challenge” events, where amateur players and fans can sign up to compete in a series of challenges against professional players on Championship Court while learning strategic tips, earning prizes, and having fun.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT Q&A

Before event matches begin, professional players, staff members, or special guests on the PPA Tour may speak to the Junior PPA athletes to provide encouragement, motivation, perspective, or anything that they feel worth sharing to help inspire the future generation of pickleball. These opportunities will occur depending on availability throughout events.

SCHOOL VISITS

As part of the PPA's commitment to being an influential leader in the growth and development of youth pickleball, PPA staff members and professional players will be attending schools within communities at certain tour stops to educate the fundamentals and background of pickleball. Junior PPA athletes may have the opportunity to assist the pros or be involved during school visits.

CHAMPIONSHIP COURT ACCESS

Junior PPA players will have the opportunity to participate in activities on Championship Court. These opportunities may consist of volunteering as ball boys/girls, being recognized in front of the large crowds, watching the best matches free of charge, and even playing matches on Championship Court.



EDUCATION & CHARACTER BUILDING

Junior PPA players will be given access to online and in-person instruction to learn fundamentals, prepare for competition, construct the right mindset, and build character to grow on and off the court.

- Free Access to TopCourt Online Instruction
- Exclusive Pro Engagement Access
- Pro Tips & Direction

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Junior PPA is dedicated to promoting the physical, but also the mental well-being of youth athletes through one-of-a-kind opportunities.

Our goal is to accomplish the 5C's that promote youth development:

- Competence
- Confidence
- Connection
- Character
- Caring



REGISTRATION

ELIGIBILITY

Age: 16 and Under

*Age will be based on your pickleball age (the year that you turn).

Rating: Less than a 5.0 World Pickleball Rating (WPR)

Players must be age 16 & Under with less than a 5.0 WPR rating to participate in Junior PPA events.

COST

Registration Fee: \$25

Event Fee: \$5

REGISTRATION WINDOW

Registration will normally close a week before the event begins. Please make sure you are registered and paid ahead of the deadline. See **PAYMENT POLICY** for more information on payments.

PPA TOUR GROUNDS PASS

All registered Junior PPA players will receive a **FREE** Grounds Pass for the week of the event. The PPA Tour Grounds Pass is included in the registration fee.

Registration will come with one complimentary grounds pass for a parent or guardian age 18 or older to accompany them on the day that they play. To claim, a parent or guardian must be present when the player that they are accompanying checks in.

Juniors are encouraged to watch the best professional pickleball players in the world.

MEDIA RELEASE FORMS

If players are interested in gaining exposure and promotion through Junior PPA, we will be providing talent release forms at each event. These forms can be signed via email before the event or onsite at check-in.

COMMUNICATION

Updates and/or information leading up to the events will be communicated through email.

Registered players will receive a “Welcome Email” before the beginning of each tournament. Please ensure you read the entirety of the email as it will provide valuable information.

Make sure your Pickleball Brackets account is updated with the appropriate email address.





HOW TO REGISTER

STEP 1: REGISTER TO PLAY

Register at the link below and make sure to sign up before the registration deadline.

pickleballbrackets.com

STEP 2: PICK YOUR EVENT

Junior PPA will offer age-based events ranging from ages 8-16.

STEP 3: CHECK OUT

Please read and agree to terms of service to complete registration. Confirm payment and click submit to checkout.

RULES & REGULATIONS

PAYMENT POLICY

Players must be paid and have a registered and paid partner to be confirmed. Players not paid and without registered and paid partners will be moved to a waitlist if the division in which a spot is being held is filled with fully registered and paid teams.

PARTNER REPLACEMENT POLICY

After registration is closed, any registered player losing a partner must replace that partner with an already registered player. The replacement partner must fit the eligibility requirements. Players can choose to play up in age if desired. Replacements need to be known and communicated to the registration contact by 6pm the day before you are scheduled to play. Replacements can also be found on the players needing partners list.

REFUND POLICY

During registration you may choose to purchase the Registration and Weather Insurance Policy in the event you have to cancel out of the event after the Cancellation Deadline (Cancellation Deadline will be listed on each registration site). See the policy for specific coverage details. The insurance will also cover your event fee in the case your event is cancelled due to weather without a make-up day option.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If weather or any unforeseen circumstance occurs the PPA will do all it can to play matches. If brackets are in mid-play when a weather or unforeseen circumstance occurs, the situation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if the bracket may be finished or if winners may be determined.

COACHING POLICY

Coaching is allowed before matches, during timeouts, in between games, and after matches.

Coaching is NOT allowed in between points and during points.





PLAYER RULES

Junior PPA players will follow USA Pickleball standard rules.

For more information regarding the official rules, please visit usapickleball.org.

Junior PPA is committed to accepting, respecting, and understanding the integrity of the game by displaying sportsmanship, fairness, and honesty during competition.

BASIC RULES SUMMARY

The Serve

- The server's arm must be moving in an upward arc when the ball is struck.
- Paddle contact with the ball must be made above the waist level.
- The head of the paddle must not be above the highest part of the wrist at contact.
- A 'drop serve' is allowed, but also permitted in which case none of the elements above apply.
- At the time the ball is struck, the server's feet may not touch the court or outside the imaginary extension of the sideline or centerline and at least one foot must be behind the baseline on the playing surface or the ground behind the baseline.
- Only one serve attempt is allowed per server.

Let Serve

- "Let's" will be played upon occurrence. A "let serve" is when the ball hits part of the net on its way to landing in the legal confinement of the court.

Score Calling

- Players must call the correct score before serving.

Line Calls

- Players will make their own line calls.
- A ball contacting any part of any line, except the non-volley zone line on a serve, is considered “in.”
- A serve contacting the non-volley zone line is short and a fault.

Non-Volley Zone

- 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.
- It is a fault if, after volleying, a player is carried by momentum into or touches the non-volley zone, even if they volleyed ball is declared dead before this happens.
- A player may be legally be in the non-volley zone any time other than when volleying a call.
- The non-volley zone is commonly referred to as “the kitchen.”

PARENTS

EXPECTED ROLE

The expected role of parents is to manage, encourage, and support their youth athlete(s). Parents should strive to serve as a role model for their child. Parents should be willing to commit to providing their child with resources to participate in activities while supporting them every step of the way. Parents are expected to be respectful of PPA staff, officials, results, policies, and the integrity of the game.



PARENT PACKET

1. Manage your child's event registration
2. Encourage your child to participate, compete, and work hard to be the best version of themselves on and off the court
3. Communicate with your child to help empower confidence, enjoyment, and self-satisfaction
4. Support your child with the resources needed to participate, develop, and have fun
5. Serve as a role model for your child with positive support and feedback
6. Phrases such as "you can do this" or "I believe in you" can significantly raise your child's confidence, determination, and desire to compete
7. Praise effort and work ethic with phrases such as "great hustle" or "keep doing your best"
8. Be there for your child, physically
9. Respect all staff, officials, competition results, policies, and the integrity of the game
10. If there's a conflict that needs to be addressed to a PPA staff member, discuss it in a private manner without the child's presence

SPORTSMANSHIP

We define sportsmanship as the behavior of treating others with respect, fairness, and kindness, especially in a competition setting.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

- Honesty
- Respect toward all opponents, staff, and officials
- Appropriate behavior and language
- Tapping paddles with opponents at the end of each game
- No boasting
- No cheating
- Supportive phrases to opponents
- Follow all the rules
- Unselfishness
- Promote the integrity of the game

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns throughout your experience on the Junior PPA Tour.



STAY CONNECTED

INSTAGRAM

Follow @junior.ppa to stay up to date on announcements, events, opportunities, and more.

NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to our newsletter for announcements, upcoming events, updates, celebrations, and more!

WEBSITE

Check out ppatour.com/junior-ppa-tour/ for more information.



2024 SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Venue
Jan. 11-14	Palm Springs, CA	Mission Hills Country Club
Feb. 22-25	Mesa, AZ	Bell Bank Park
Mar. 14-17	Austin, TX	Hills of Lakeway
Apr. 1-7	North Carolina	Cary Tennis Park
Apr. 19-21	Los Angeles, CA	Los Cab Sports Village
Apr. 25-28	St. George, UT	Little Valley Pickleball Complex
May 16-19	Atlanta, GA	LifeTime Peachtree Corners
May 30-Jun. 2	Dallas, TX	Oasis Pickleball Club
Jun. 26-30	San Clemente, CA	LifeTime San Clemente
Aug. 8-11	Kansas City, KS	Elite Tennis Center
Sept. 11-15	Atlanta, GA	LifeTime Peachtree Corners
Oct. 10-13	Las Vegas, NV	Darling Tennis Center
Oct. 24-27	Daytona Beach, FL	Pictona at Holly Hill
Nov. 5-10	Dallas, TX	Brookhaven Country Club
Dec. 5-8	San Clemente, CA	LifeTime San Clemente