



**Dear Leicestershire and Rutland County Pickleball Championship Player,**

Thank you for choosing to participate in the very first Annual County Championships for pickleball players across our two counties. Our vision for the tournament is to bring all players and clubs together from our two counties for the first time, creating a fantastic community that we can build on for future individual and team events. We will even have a trophy on the day for the best performing club over the 5 events! As pickleball players ourselves, the organising team behind the event have approached this with the player experience in mind, from the appointment of referees, court supervisors and the use of the RAQT app (more on that later).

**Event Partners:**

We are delighted to have [Head Pickleball](#) as our main sponsor. Head have supported us with the tournament ball- the Head Championship 26 and all of our nets.

We are also proud to have [Withers Sports](#) represented throughout the day. Many of you will know Withers in Leicester are the top supplier of racket sports equipment and clothing in the area, and will have some of their goods on display at the event.

Pickleball holiday packages to the desirable Rocha Brava resort in Portugal and epic Winterthur facility in Switzerland are now being offered by [SB Pickleball Escapes](#). It is such a pleasure to welcome Sam Basford and team to our big day too!

**Arrival & Admin:**

The event is being held at **Hinckley Leisure Centre, Argents Mead, Hinckley, LE10 1BZ**. Parking is free on site. If that car park is full, there are a number of other car parks nearby.

Arrive & register at least 15 minutes before your first game please. Make your way downstairs from main reception to our tournament room. This room will hold the admin desk, registration and some seating for players. The room will be on your left opposite the courts and will also have bananas, biscuits & squash available for players.

Morning matches start at 8am prompt, with courts available for warm up from 7.30am.



**AM 8am to 1pm     Men's Under 3.5 and Over 3.5 Doubles, Women's Under 3.5 Doubles**

**PM 1.30pm to 5.30pm     Mixed Doubles Under 3.5 and Mixed Doubles 3.5 and Over**

### **Tournament and Schedule:**

Games will be played over **8 courts** through the day. The Championship will follow the 2025 USA Pickleball Official Rulebook <https://usapickleball.org/docs/2025-USA-Pickleball-Rulebook.pdf>. Scoring is therefore via the **traditional side-out Scoring** method. Before each match, collect your scorecard from the admin desk. Each court will have a numbered clipboard with your scorecard on. After the match enter your score, have both teams sign for the score and return to the admin desk.

### **Referees**

Two EPF (European Pickleball Federation) qualified referees will be present at the venue. They will officiate the Semi-Finals and Finals. They may also attend random matches during the Round Robin stage. You may request a referee if you feel one is needed and if one is available. Have a rules question, then please don't hesitate to ask one of our great referees. Referees will be checking for paddles for cracks and foreign substances. They won't be checking paddles to see if on the USA paddle approved list, (most tournaments this is now the case) but is good practice to ensure your paddle is on the list at some point.

### **Key Rule Points**

- Round Robin Match Time. Each match must be completed within 20 minutes. Warm-up: Maximum of 2 minutes (within the 20-minute window), allowed if the schedule permits. Players must change ends at 6 points, and do so promptly.
- Time-Outs. Only the final, where 1 time-out per game (1 minute each) will be allowed
- Line Call Responsibilities: Players are responsible for line calls on their side of the court. The Code of Ethics for Line Calling requires giving the opponent the benefit of any doubt. Even in officiated matches, players (not referees) make line calls. In officiated matches players may appeal a line call and ask the referee whether they saw the ball. The referee will only overrule if they clearly saw the ball land. If not, the original call stands.



- Referees will call service foot faults, NVZ faults, and short serves.
- Calling the Score (with Referee present): The server must wait until the entire score has been announced before serving. Serving before the score is fully called is a fault. If the server strikes the ball before the score announcement begins, it is a replay.
- Pre-Match Briefing (with Referee present): Before play begins, the referee will confirm starting servers and use a fair method to determine which team serves first and on which end of the court

### **Format**

- Round Robin stages: Single game to 11, win by 1.
- Knockout stages up to and including quarter finals: Single game to 11, win by 1.
- Semi-Finals: Single game to 15, win by 2.
- Finals: Best of 3 games to 11, win by 2.
- There are no consolation matches, however we have organised the draw to maximise the number of teams making it through to the knockout rounds, and in doing so giving players as many matches as possible we can fit in during the day

### **RAQT**

We are delighted we are able to have use of the RAQT app before and during the day. All of the tournament information will be uploaded in the next day or so, ready for you to view schedule online and via the app. You will be sent a link individually to claim your RAQT account. You will be able to see the match scores in real time during the day, your next match and timings. It is via this app you will be able to see your start times and draw(s) so please ensure you download the app asap.

### **The Venue**

Hinckley Leisure Centre have given us excellent access to their facilities throughout the event.

- Upstairs near reception will have our stalls from Withers and SB Pickleball Escapes, and the restaurant area for food and drink. Please feel free to use this area when not playing or spectating. This area also has the better wifi signal to access the RAQT app.



- Downstairs has the 8 courts, tournament room, toilets and showers. Only players will be allowed in the court area, during the time of practicing or matches. Please store your bags either in the hallway or in the tournament room so as to not clutter the courts. If you wish to spectate when not playing, there are viewing areas upstairs on the ground or first floors.

Our sole objective is for you to have a brilliant time. We will do everything we can to make the day an enjoyable one for you. The organising team will have green tournament organiser t-shirts on so please see one of us if you have any questions.

If you have any questions before the weekend, please give us a shout using [info@leicsrutpickleballchamps.com](mailto:info@leicsrutpickleballchamps.com) or reply to this email.

We are really looking forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Cheers,

The County Champs Organising Team